

CHAPTER 1

Rhythm: Meter; Rhythmic Motive

Review of C and C

In some pieces, C is used as the time signature instead of $\frac{4}{4}$.

It is often called *common time* since $\frac{4}{4}$ is used in many pieces.

The C is used to represent $\frac{2}{2}$.

It is often called *cut time* since the vertical line “cuts” both of the 4s in $\frac{4}{4}$ time in half.

In C , what kind of note would get one count: *quarter note* ____ *half note* ____?

March, from Anna Magdalena Bach's Notebook, meas. 1-3, p. 6

Meter

METER means *to measure*.

The time signature tells the meter of each piece.

Below are some time signatures presented in previous volumes:

$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{8}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$

A time signature can be described as:

$\frac{3}{4}$ shows that there are three quarter notes in each measure.

$\frac{4}{8}$ shows that there are four eighth notes in each measure.

Another way to describe a time signature is:

The top number tells you how many beats are in each measure.

The bottom number tells you what kind of a note gets one beat.

Another way to express meter

If the time signature is $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{2}{2}$, there are two beats in each measure.

Another way to express this is: $\frac{2}{4}$ is **duple meter**, and $\frac{2}{2}$ is **duple meter**.

If the time signature is $\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{8}$, there are four beats in each measure.

Another way to express this is: $\frac{4}{4}$ is **quadruple meter**, and $\frac{4}{8}$ is **quadruple meter**.

$\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ have three beats in the measure;

do these time signatures show ____ duple ____ or triple meter?

In $\frac{6}{8}$, the eighth notes are called “small beats” and the dotted quarters or their equivalent are called “big beats”.

two big
beats in
each
measure

Review: there are two groups of small beats in each measure of the *Irish Washer Woman*: the two big beats are sensed more strongly than the individual small beats. Therefore, the two big beats make $\frac{6}{8}$ a **duple meter**.