

## Lesson 6. Swing 8th Notes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

Swing 8th notes are found in some popular music including ragtime, swing, boogie, jazz, rock, show tunes and contemporary pop music. In printed music, swing 8th notes **look the same** as straight (classical style) 8th notes. Although they look the same, swing 8ths are **performed differently** than straight 8ths. Straight 8th notes are all of **equal length**, shown as notes with *stems up* in the treble staff below (“As Written”).

In swing style, the **rhythm of each pair of 8th notes is uneven**. The first note of the pair is held longer than the 2nd note, producing a swinging or rocking rhythm. To show this uneven rhythm, the 8th notes with *stems down* in the treble staff below are **unevenly spaced** (“As Played”).

\*The rhythm of swing 8th notes is compared to 8th note *triplet* groups with red arrows. The *first two notes of each triplet are tied* to match the longer length of the 1st swing 8th note. The 2nd (shorter) swing 8th note lines up with the last note of each triplet. Numbers for the *main counts* are printed in red.

The diagram shows two staves of music in 4/4 time. The top staff, labeled 'As Written (straight 8ths)', shows four measures of music with straight 8th notes, all with stems up. The bottom staff, labeled 'As Played (swing 8ths)', shows the same four measures but with the 8th notes having stems down. Red arrows point from the 'As Written' staff to the 'As Played' staff, indicating the comparison. Below the bottom staff, red numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed under each measure. Red brackets labeled '3' are placed under the first two notes of each measure in the bottom staff, indicating that the first two notes of each pair are tied together to match the length of the first swing 8th note.

**DIRECTIONS:** One staff has swing 8th notes spread apart to align them with 8th note triplets in the other staff. Write the numbers of the *main counts* below each measure (see Lesson 5). Draw an arrow connecting the 2nd swing 8th note to the 3rd note of the triplet. Also do the Keyboard Assignment (see below).

The diagram shows two staves of music in 4/4 time. The top staff, labeled '(sample)', shows four measures of music with straight 8th notes, all with stems up. The bottom staff, labeled '(sample)', shows the same four measures but with the 8th notes having stems down. Red arrows point from the 'As Written' staff to the 'As Played' staff, indicating the comparison. Below the bottom staff, red numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed under each measure. Red brackets labeled '3' are placed under the first two notes of each measure in the bottom staff, indicating that the first two notes of each pair are tied together to match the length of the first swing 8th note.

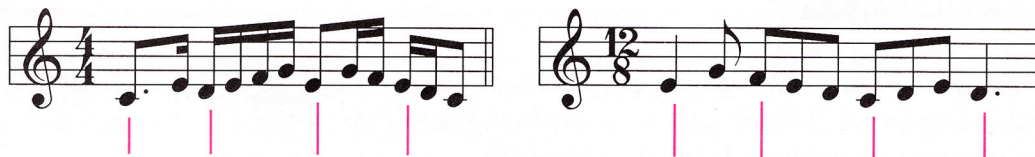
**KEYBOARD ASSIGNMENT:** After completing the written work, play the notes in each line, hands together. Notice that one hand is playing *swing* 8th notes, while the other hand is playing 8th note triplets.

\***TEACHERS NOTE:** Sometimes, the instruction “swing style” accompanies the tempo mark. There may be notated instruction such as  $\text{♩} = \text{♩♩♩}$ . When there is no indication at all, the use of swing 8th notes is up to the individual.

## Lesson 22. Main Counts in Crowded Measures

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

Measures crowded with many 16th notes or triplets can be played more easily when you find the *main counts*. In 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 time, the main counts are the *numbered counts*. The main counts in 6/8, 9/8 and 12/8 time are **1, 4, 7 and 10** (see Lesson 15). The main counts are indicated with *red lines* in these sample measures.



**DIRECTIONS:** Draw a vertical line under each note or rest where each *main count* occurs. Some of the measures contain *triplets*. Watch for changes of time signature. Also do the Keyboard Assignment (see below).



**KEYBOARD ASSIGNMENT:** After completing the written work, play all notes at the keyboard three times a day. You may also count aloud as you play.