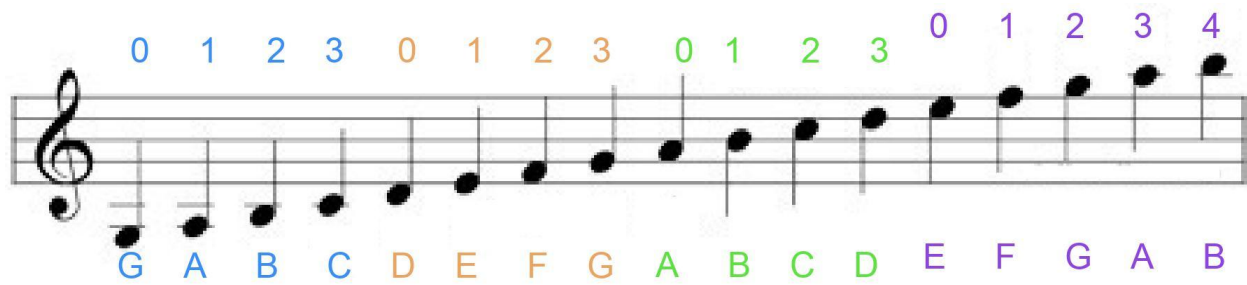


Colour Code

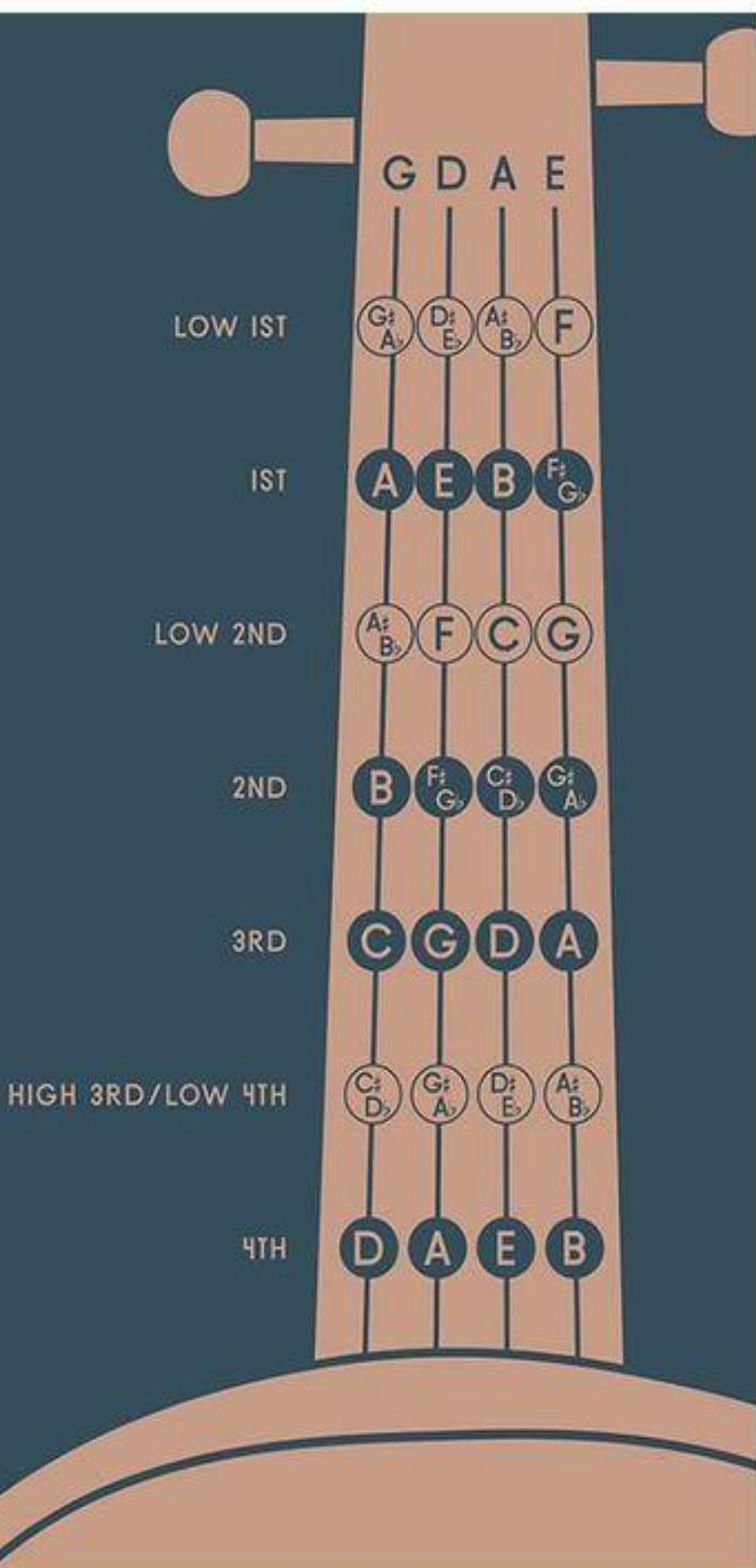
PURPLE	Play these notes on the E string
GREEN	Play these notes on the A string
ORANGE	Play these notes on the D string
BLUE	Play these notes on the G string

0 = open string; 1 = 1st finger; 2 = 2nd finger; 3 = 3rd finger; 4 = 4th finger



Fingerboard Chart

VIOLIN FINGERING CHART



Violin care

How to take care of your Violin and Bow

1. Tighten your violin bow before playing by gently turning the tension screw. Avoid making the bow hairs too taut --- the separation between the bow stick and hair should be about the width of a pencil.
2. Whenever you handle your violin bow, try not to touch the bow hairs with your fingers or hand.
3. Put a small amount of rosin on your bow before playing. Hold the rosin in your left hand, place the bow hairs flat on the rosin and slowly move the bow back and forth on the rosin. Rosin provides the bow hair with friction in order to produce a sound when the bow is pulled across the violin strings
4. If you do not have enough rosin on your bow, your bow will slide across the string and will produce very little or no sound. Too much rosin can produce a raspy or scratching sound.
5. After playing the violin, gently clean it with a soft, clean, lint - free cloth to remove the rosin build up on the string and any dust, oil or sweat on the violin, including the chin rest.
6. If you use a shoulder rest or shoulder pad, always remove them from your violin before putting your violin back in its case.
7. When you are not using your violin or bow, always place them in your case. They can easily fall and become damaged if you leave them on a chair or other surface, even temporarily.
8. Make sure you securely close your violin case using all zippers and latches before picking up your case.
9. Do not store your violin in extremely hot or cold locations, and never leave your violin in direct sunlight or in your car on a warm day.
10. If your violin ever has cracks or the seams begin to open, take it to the music store or violin maker to be professionally repaired. Never use commercial glue to repair your violin. Instrument makers use a special glue for violin seams and repairs.
11. If your violin bridge ever needs to be adjusted, it is important to know the violin bridge is held in place by pressure and proper placement, not glue (tension from the violin strings holds it in place).

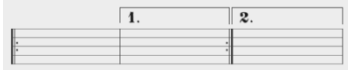
Reading Music

Notation	Definition
	<p>Seven letters of the alphabet are used to name notes in music:</p> <p>A,B,C,D,E,F,G</p>
	<p>Musical notes are written on and between 5 parallel lines called a staff.</p>
	<p>The Treble clef or G clef is used for violin music. It is also used by the viola and cello when the notes are in a higher range than the bass clefs.</p>
	<p>Notes on the lines Memory tips for notes written on the lines: Every Good Boy Does Fine</p>
	<p>Notes in the space Memory tips for notes written in the spaces:F A C E.</p>
	<p>Notes above the staff Notes which extend above the staff are written on ledger lines & spaces.</p>
	<p>Notes below the staff Notes which extend below the staff are written on ledger lines & spaces.</p>










Measures and Repeats

Notation	Definition
<p>A musical staff with a bar line. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure is labeled 'Measure 1' and the second measure is labeled 'Measure 2'. The bar line is labeled 'Bar Line'.</p>	Staffs are divided by bars into measures.
<p>A musical staff with a thick double bar line at the end, indicating the end of a section of music.</p>	A thick double bar is a final ending and indicates the end of a section of music.
<p>A musical staff with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature.</p>	The top number in a time signature shows the number of beats that are in each measure. The bottom number shows what type of note gets each beat. For example, a time signature of $\frac{3}{4}$ indicates each measure contains three quarter notes.
<p>A musical staff with a repeat sign (double bar with two dots) at the beginning and end of a section.</p>	A double bar with two dots is a repeat mark, and indicates the music in between the repeat signs should be repeated.
<p>A musical staff with a repeat sign (double bar with two dots) at the end of a section.</p>	If there is only one repeat sign with the dots facing to the left, go back to the beginning and play the entire section of music again.

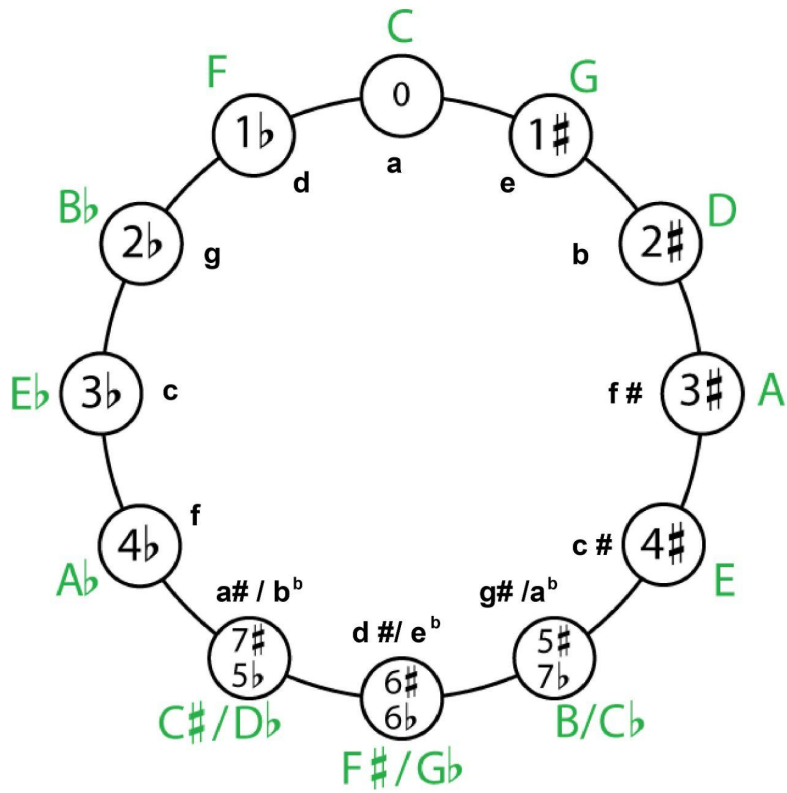
	<p>First and Second endings should be played as follows: Play the first ending the first time through the music, repeat to the beginning of the section, then skip over the first ending and play the second ending</p>
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Key Signatures

Sharps, Flats & Naturals

Notation	Name	Definition
Sharp 		A sharp set before a note raises the pitch of the note a half-step, and remains in the effect of the rest of the measure.
Flat 		A flat set before a note lowers the pitch of the note a half-step, and remains in the effect of the rest of the measure.
Natural 		A natural set before a note restores the natural pitch of a note, and is often used after a flat or sharp.
Enharmonic Notes		Enharmonic notes are two notes which sound the same, but are spelled differently (e.g. D# and Eb, F# and Gb)

Circle of Fifths




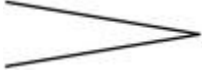

A circle of fifths is an arrangement of keys by ascending fifths. It displays how many sharps or flats are in each key. Major keys are noted in capital letters and are found on the outer part of the circle (C,G etc.), and minor keys are in lower case letters on the inner part of the circle (a, e etc.).

Dynamics & Tempo


Notation	Name	Definition
	Dynamics	Dynamics is a term that indicates the degree of loudness or softness in music. The following commonly used dynamic terms are listed in the order of softest to loudest.*
<i>ppp</i>	Pianississimo	As soft as possible
<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo	Very soft
<i>p</i>	Piano	soft
<i>mp</i>	Mezzo piano	Moderately soft
<i>mf</i>	Mezzo forte	Moderately loud
<i>f</i>	Forte	loud
<i>ff</i>	Fortissimo	Very loud
<i>fff</i>	Fortississimo	As loud as possible





*Although dynamics softer than *ppp* or louder than *fff* are theoretically possible, in actual practice, they are rarely used.

Additional Dynamics


Notation	Name	Definition
	Crescendo	Crescendo (cresc.) means to gradually become louder.
	Diminuendo	Diminuendo (dim.) means to gradually become softer. The term decrescendo (decresc. or decr.) also means to become softer.
	Accent	Emphasize the note by playing forcefully.
	Sforzando	Play loudly with a sudden, forced emphasis.

Tempo & Expressive Terms

- **A tempo** In tempo. "A tempo" is used after some variation in the tempo, and means return to the original tempo or speed.
- **Accent** An accent placed over or under a note means the note should be emphasized by playing forcefully. Indicated by the sign: >
- **Accidentals** A sign indicating a momentary departure from the key signature by using a flat, sharp or natural to temporarily alter the pitch of a note by a half step. Accidentals apply to the note immediately following the symbol, and remain in effect throughout the measure in which it appears.
- **Adagio** A slow, leisurely tempo, often considered to be slower than andante, but not quite as slow as largo. Slow movements of a piece are sometimes titled Adagio
- **Allegretto** A lively and moderately fast tempo. Often considered to be slower than allegro, but faster than andante.
- **Allegro** A quick, lively and fast tempo (not quite as fast as presto).
- **Andante** A moderately slow tempo. Often considered to be a walking speed.
- **Andantino** A slightly slower tempo than andante (andante is a moderately slow tempo).
- **Arco** Arco is Italian for bow. After a pizzicato (plucked) section of music, arco is often used to indicate the next passage of music should be played with the bow.
- **Articulation** Articulation describes the manner of providing definition and shape to individual notes or phrases. For string players, this involves both the right and left hand. The main markings are a dot . which means shorten the note, a line _ or slur  which means play the note smoothly, and an accent > which means add a forceful emphasis. These markings are often used in combination with each other, and mean many different things to different musicians.
- **Concerto** An instrumental composition for solo instrument(s), often in three movements, frequently accompanied by an orchestra. The sequence of the movements in a concerto generally is fast-slow-fast.

- **Concerto grosso** An instrumental concerto for a small group of soloists (called the concertino), which play in contrast to the main body of instrumentalists or orchestra (called the ripieno or tutti).
- **Crescendo** Crescendo (cresc.) means to gradually become louder, and is indicated by the sign: 
- **Da capo** (D.C.) repeats from the beginning.
- **Da segno** (D.S.) repeats from the sign.
- **D.C. al Coda** means go back to the beginning of the piece, play to the "Coda" sign: , then jump to the Coda section to finish the piece (Coda means "tail," and refers to a concluding section of a piece).
- **D.C. al Fine** means go back to the beginning, and end at the Fine marking (D.C. is an abbreviation for "da capo," and means "from the beginning" and Fine means "end").
- **Détaché** Détaché indicates a smooth, separate bow stroke should be used for each note (it does not mean detached or disconnected). Notes are of equal value, and are produced with an even, seamless stroke with no variation in pressure.
- **Détaché lancé** Détaché lancé is a variation of the détaché bow stroke, and is a slightly separated bow stroke that gently articulates the notes with an unaccented, distinct break between each note. It is often used in combination with the loured or porté stroke to perform several separated notes in the same bow. A combination of a line with a dot over or under it is often used to indicate this bowing.
- **Diminuendo** Diminuendo (dim.) means to gradually become softer. The term decrescendo (decre. or decr.) also means to become softer, and is indicated by the sign: 
- **Dolce** Dolce is a direction to play sweetly, softly and gently.
- **Down bow** The sign for down bow is  and indicates a downward stroke of the bow from frog to tip.
- **Dynamics** A term that indicates the degree of loudness or softness in music. When the dynamic level is changed instantaneously, it is called terraced or changed dynamics (this was popular during the Baroque period). When the Italian word "issimo" is added to a dynamic term, it means very, extremely, or as much

as is possible. e.g. pianissimo means "as soft as is possible" and fortissimo means "as loud as is possible."



- **Fermata** The sign  under or over a note or rest indicates the note or rest should be held and prolonged at the discretion of the performer or conductor (this sign is also called a "hold" or by the nickname "bird's eye").
- **First and second endings** First and second endings are repeat signs, and should be played as follows: play the first ending the first time through the music, repeat to the beginning of the section, then skip over the first ending and play the second ending.
- **Frog** The bottom part of the bow, a block of wood (often ebony) that bow hairs are attached to. When music indicates "play at the frog," it means to use the bottom part of the bow hair, closest to the frog, for that section of music. Some scholars postulate the frog is named after the bottom soft part of a horse's hoof, also called a frog (e.g. Robin Stowell, *Cambridge Companion to the Violin*, 1992: 24-29). Other terms used to indicate play at the bottom part of the bow include "play at the nut", heel or *au talon* (French for "at the heel").
- **Grace note** A grace note is used to ornament a note, and is written in a small font indicating the musician should quickly play the grace note, then the note it is attached to (the grace note is not part of the rhythmic value of the measure).





- **Harmonics** are overtones of the string and produce soft flute- like sounds when the string is lightly touched at specific fractional divisions (nodal points). Natural harmonics are produced on open strings, and artificial or stopped harmonics are produced on stopped strings.
- **Harmony** Harmony is created when pitches are combined simultaneously.
- **Homophonic** A form of musical texture with a melody and chordal accompaniment.
- **Incidental music** Music supplementing a spoken drama such as music composed for a play. Incidental music could be introducing a play (such as an overture), between acts (an interlude), or as a supplement to spoken parts or dramatic elements.
- **Jeté** Jeté means "thrown" in French. In this bow stroke, the bow is thrown on the string, and then bounces for several notes in the same bow direction. The height

and speed of the bounce are regulated through factors such as the amount of pressure used by the index finger, and where the bow is initially thrown or placed. Dots above or under the notes may be used to indicate jeté.

- **Legato** Legato indicates the notes should be smoothly connected, played either in one or several bows. Slurs are often used to indicate legato.
- **Moderato** Moderato means to play at a moderate tempo or speed. This term sometimes modifies others such as Allegro moderato, which means moderately fast.
- **Multiple stops** Multiple stops describe chords played on stringed instruments. For example, double stops describe playing notes simultaneously on two strings, and triple stops mean playing notes simultaneously on three strings.
- **Muted** A direction for the musician to play with a mute. For string players, mutes are small clamps of wood, metal, rubber, leather or plastic, which fit onto the bridge and result in a softer, muted sound with a veiled quality. To mute something is also indicated by the Italian term *con sordino* or the German term *mit Dämpfer*. The terms *arco* (bow), *via sordini* (take off mute) and *senza sordino* (without mute) are used to indicate when the muted section ends and the musician should resume playing with a bow.
- **Notation** The writing down of musical notes and symbols to represent pitch, rhythm, and melodies.
- **Pitch** Pitch is the relative "highness" or "lowness" of a sound when compared with other notes. It can also indicate an absolute fixed position in a range of musical notes (e.g. the pitch "middle C").
- **Pizzicato** Pizzicato (*pizz.*) is a term that means the string is plucked with the finger instead of being bowed.
- **Presto** A fast, rapid and lively tempo, faster than allegro.
- **Rallentando** Rallentando means gradually becoming slower. It also is abbreviated as *rall.*
- **Repeat Signs.** A double bar with two dots is a repeat marking, and indicates the music in between the repeat signs should be repeated. If there is only one repeat sign with the dots facing to the left, go back to the beginning and play the entire section of music again (for more repeat sign variations, see *Da capo*, *da segno*, *D.C. al Fine*, *D.C. al Coda*, and first and second endings).
- **Scale** An ascending or descending arrangement of pitches.

- **Sforzando** Sforzando means forced or accented, and is usually attached to a single note or chord. It generally indicates the note should be played loudly with a sudden, accented emphasis, and is indicated by the marking: *sfz*
- **Simile** In a similar manner. Simile is often used to indicate a passage of music should be performed in the same manner as a preceding section.
- **Slur** A slur is a curved line grouping notes together, and means the notes included in the slur should be played in the same bow . Unless otherwise indicated, notes in the slur should be played legato (smoothly). When slurs are used with dots over or under the notes, this indicates a slight separation should be used between the notes (the terms slurred staccato or dotted slurs are often used to describe this technique). When a slur is placed between two notes with the same pitch, this is called a "tie" and the two notes are played in one bow for the duration of both notes.
- **Spiccato** Spiccato is an off-the-string, controlled bouncing bow stroke which produces a crisp sound and very short notes. It is the slowest of the bouncing strokes. Dots above or under the notes may be used to indicate spiccato.
- **Staccato** Staccato indicates the bow should remain on the string to play shortened and detached notes, distinctly separate from successive notes. Staccato is sometimes used with slurs (slurred staccato) for a series of short, stopped notes played in the same up or down bow (many violinists perform slurred staccato as a series of slurred martelé strokes).
- **String Quartet** A string quartet is a composition for four stringed instruments: two violins, a viola and a cello. String quartet music generally is composed in a multi-movement form. The term string quartet is also used to describe a performance group composed of four stringed instruments.
- **Tempo** Tempo means the rate of speed or pace of the music. Tempo also may be used with other qualifying words such as "a tempo," meaning return to the original tempo or speed. Various tempo markings are used to indicate directions for the rate of speed such as andante (moderately slow) and allegro (fast). Metronome markings are another way to specify even more precisely the tempo of music e.g.  = 60 means each quarter note should be played at the speed of 60 quarter notes per minute.
- **Tie** When a slur is placed between two notes with the same pitch, this is called a "tie" and the two notes are played in one bow for the duration of both notes.

- **Time Signature** A sign or fraction placed at the beginning of a piece to show how many beats are in each measure. For example, a time signature of 3/4 indicates each measure contains three quarter notes.
- **Trill** A trill ornaments a note, and is a rapid alternation between two pitches, usually a major or minor second above the note. The letters *tr* and a wavy symbol  are used as trill markings. Accidentals are often used to indicate whether the trill is a major or minor trill.
- **Up bow** The sign for up-bow is  and indicates an upward stroke of the bow from the point (or tip) to the frog (or nut).
- **Vibrato** Vibrato for stringed instruments is similar to vocal vibrato—it is a slight and rapid fluctuation in pitch, and is used to add warmth and expression to music. There are three types of vibrato: finger, hand, arm or a combination of all three. Many violinists use a combination of finger and hand vibrato. This type of vibrato is produced by a back and forth rolling motion of the finger and hand on the string, resulting in the pitch being lowered and raised. Variations in the width and speed of the vibrato can produce a wide range of expression.
- **Whole Bow** Initials are sometimes used in music to indicate what part of the bow should be used:
WB = Whole Bow; LH = Lower Half; UH = Upper Half; MB = Middle of the Bow.





Rhythm and Meter

Meter & Time Signatures









Meter is the grouping of beats in stressed and unstressed patterns. For example, the musical form of a waltz generally uses a rhythmic pattern of three beats, with the first note accented (ONE, two, three; ONE, two, three). This is called a triple meter. The most common meters are double meters (a rhythmic pattern of two beats); triple meter (three beats) or quadruple meter (four beats).

Time Signatures (sometimes known as meter signatures) are a sign or fraction placed at the beginning of a piece to indicate the meter of the piece. Time signatures show how the beats are grouped in each measure, and what the duration is of each note. The top number in a time signature indicates how many beats there are in a measure, and the bottom number indicates the note value which represents one beat. For example, a time signature of 3/4 indicates each measure contains three quarter notes. Since each measure is grouped into three beats, 3/4 is in a triple meter.

Sample Time Signatures

	2/4 Time Signature
	3/4 Time Signature
	The letter "C" for "common time" is often used to indicate a 4/4 time signature.
	6/8 Time Signature. Notice how in this time signature, the eighth notes are grouped into two groups of three notes each.

Rhythmic Value Chart

Name	Note	Beats	Rest
Whole Note		4 beats	
Dotted Half Note*		3 beats	
Half Note		2 beats	
Quarter Note		1 beat	

Eighth Note		1/2 beat	
Sixteenth Note		1/4 beat	

**A dot increases the value of a note by 1/2. Example:*

$$\text{Dotted Half Note} = \text{Half Note (2 beats)} + \text{Quarter Note (1/2 of Half Note is 1 beat)} = \text{Dotted Half Note (3 beats)}$$

Equivalent Note Chart

Whole Note				
Half Notes				
Quarter Notes				
Eighth Notes				
Eighth Note Triplets*				

Sixteenth Notes				
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**A triplet is a group of three notes played in the time of 2 notes of the same value.*