

Making Sense of Asymmetric Meters

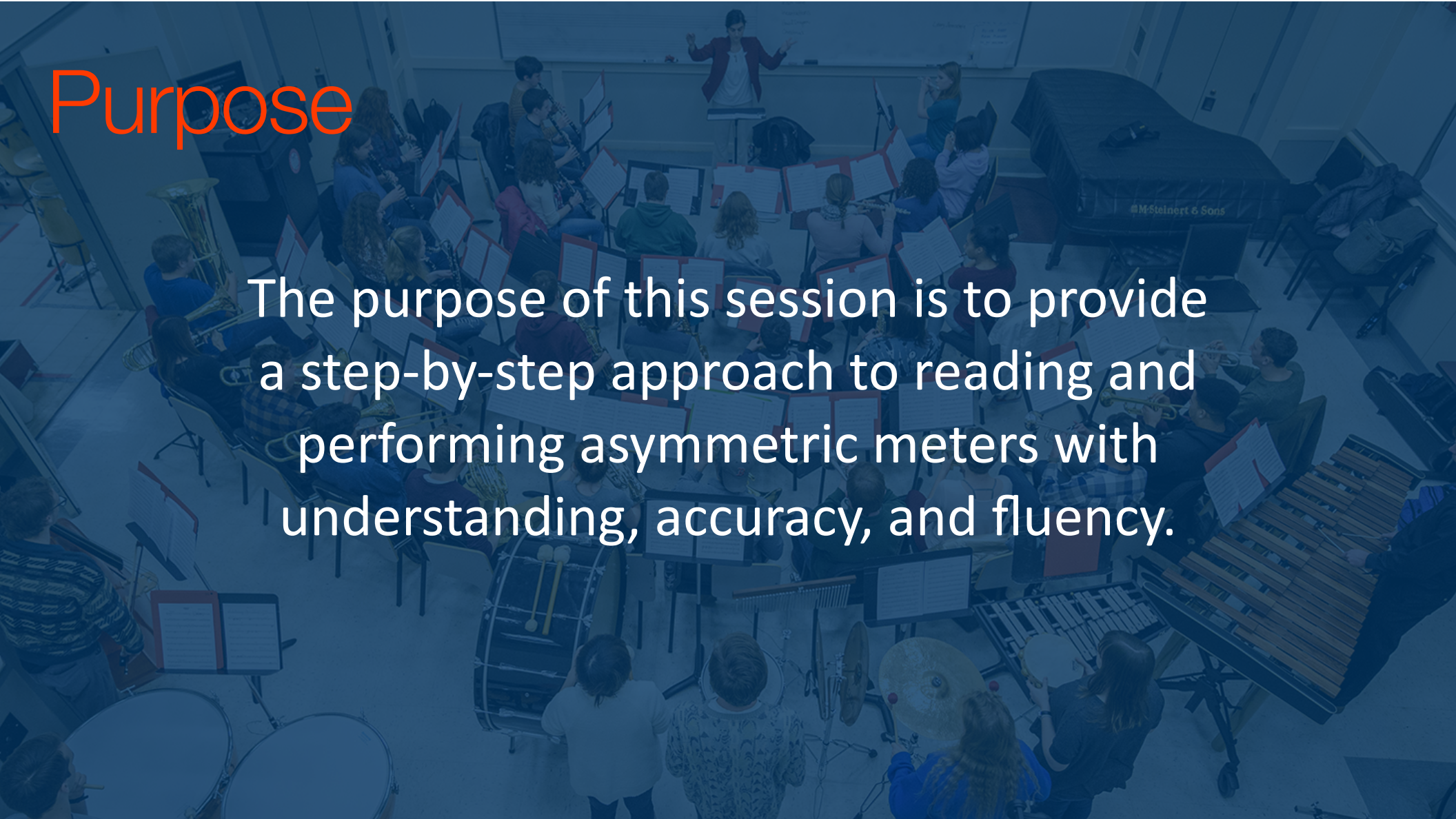
Barry Hartz, Ph.D.

Midwest Clinic

December 21, 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this session is to provide a step-by-step approach to reading and performing asymmetric meters with understanding, accuracy, and fluency.



Big Ideas

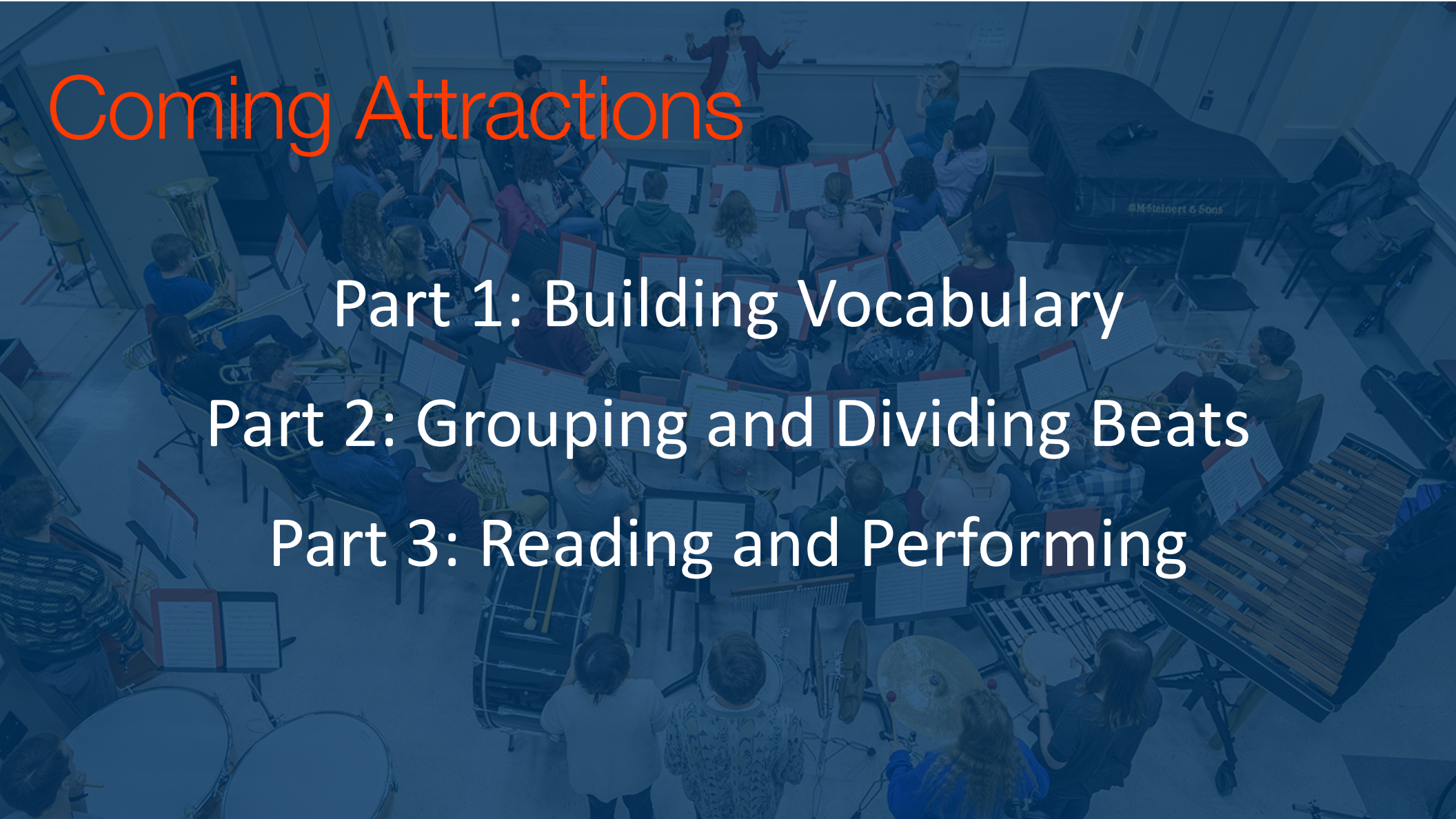
- Rhythm vocabulary is created by applying connection, silence, and division to an underlying pulse.
- Immersing students in the sound and feel of meters builds the foundation for reading with accuracy and flow.
- Teach $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ meter in both three beats and one beat per measure as early as possible.
- Large muscle movement helps students experience how beats are grouped and divided in asymmetric meters.

Coming Attractions

Part 1: Building Vocabulary

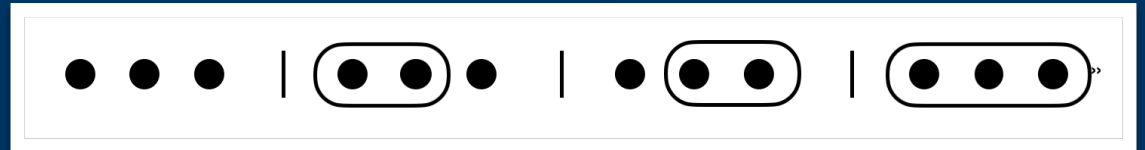
Part 2: Grouping and Dividing Beats

Part 3: Reading and Performing

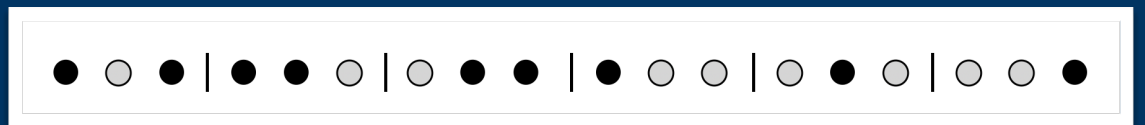


Part 1: Building Vocabulary

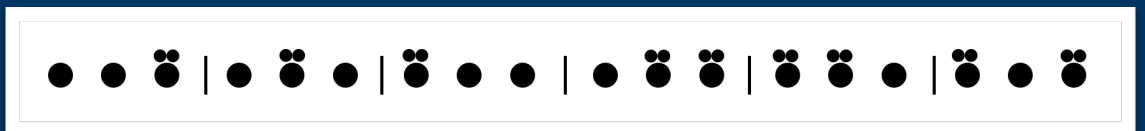
beat + connection



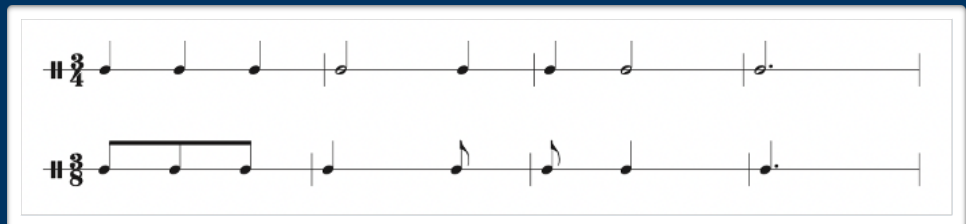
beat + silence



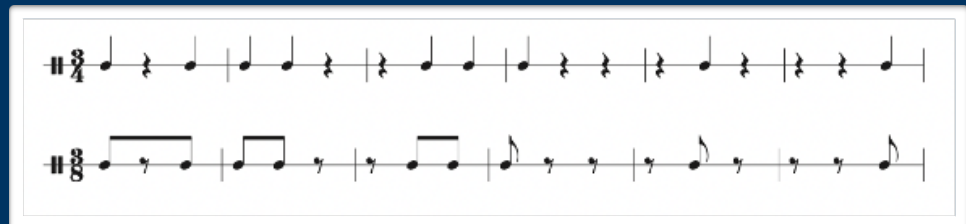
beat + division



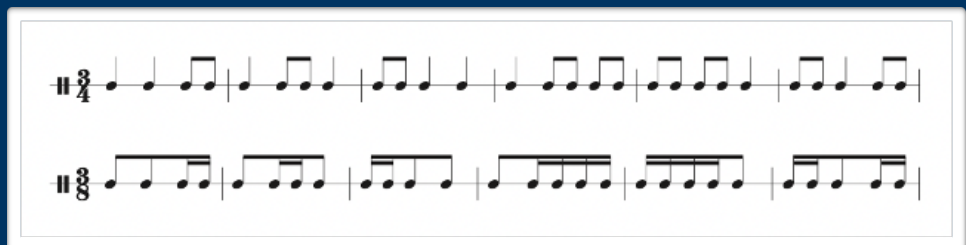
beat + connection



beat + silence



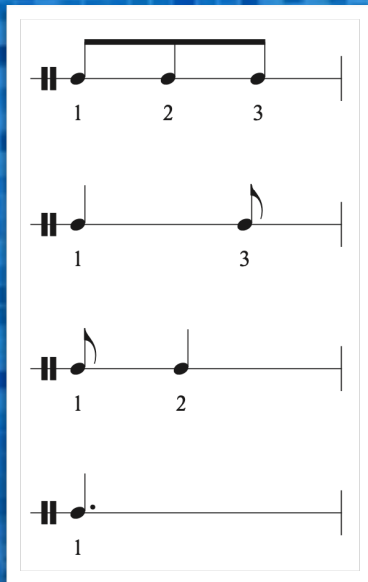
beat + division





Canon

Aural Immersion



Echoing
Labeling
Translating
Improvising



Tunes in Compound Meter

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Mulberry Bush

If You're Happy and You Know It

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

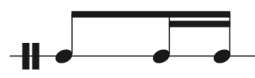
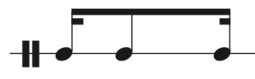
Over the River and Through the Woods

Pop Goes the Weasel

Home on the Range

Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?

Building Block Rhythms

			A			
			B			
			C			
			D			
			E			

Shifting into Three

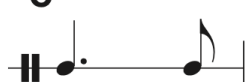
A



B



C



D



E



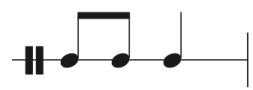
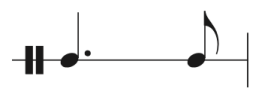
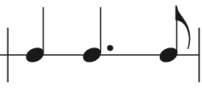
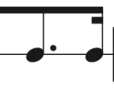
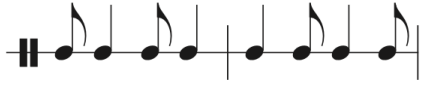
The image displays five musical staves, labeled A through E, each containing a sequence of four notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. Staff A is marked with a 2/4 time signature. The notes are written on a single staff line, with G4 on the first space, A4 on the second line, B4 on the second space, and C5 on the third line. The notes are connected by a horizontal line, indicating a continuous melodic line. The staves are arranged vertically, with A at the top and E at the bottom.

Shifting into Three

The diagram illustrates the process of shifting a musical piece from 2/4 time to 3/4 time. It consists of five rows, each showing a transformation from an original 2/4 measure to two 3/4 measures. Red arrows indicate the direction of the shift.

Original Measure (2/4)	Shifted Measures (3/4)
A Two eighth notes (e.g., G4, A4)	A1 (first eighth note) A2 (next two eighth notes)
B Quarter note (e.g., G4)	B1 (first eighth note) B2 (next two eighth notes)
C Dotted quarter note (e.g., G4)	C1 (first eighth note) C2 (next two eighth notes)
D Half note (e.g., G4)	D1 (first eighth note) D2 (next two eighth notes)
E Two eighth notes (e.g., G4, A4)	E1 (first eighth note) E2 (next two eighth notes)

Shifting into Three

A 		A1 	A2 		A1 	A2 
B 		B1 	B2 		B1 	B2 
C 		C1 	C2 		C1 	C2 
D 		D1 	D2 		D1 	D2 
E 		E1 	E2 		E1 	E2 

Reading Development Counts

1 + 2 + 3 A1 A2

1 + 2 + 3 B1 B2

1 + 2 + 3 C1 C2

1 + 2 + 3 D1 D2

1 + 2 + 3 E1 E2

1 2 + 3 +

1 2 + 3 +

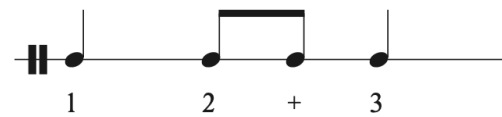
1 2 + 3 +

1 2 + 3 +

1 2 + 3 +

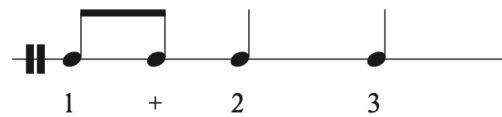
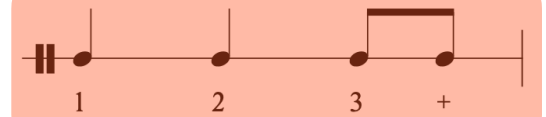
Reading Development

Notation + Counts



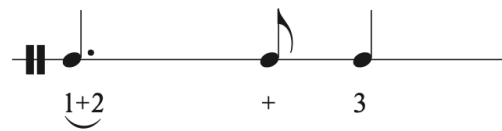
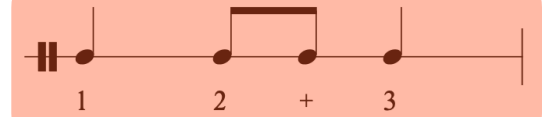
A1

A2



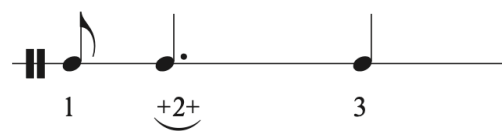
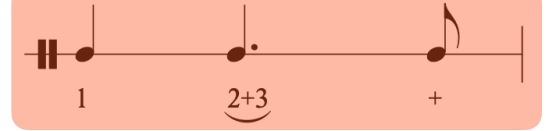
B1

B2



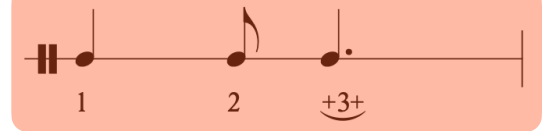
C1

C2



D1

D2



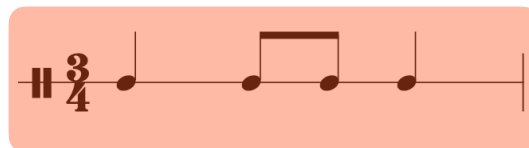
E1

E2



Reading Development

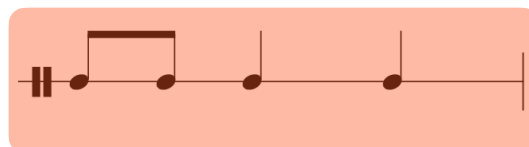
Standard Notation



A1



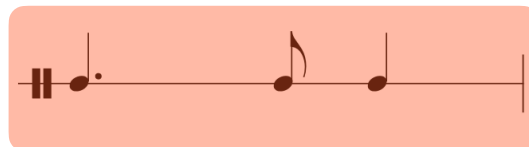
A2



B1



B2



C1



C2



D1



D2



E1



E2

Reading Development

Enrhythmic

Notation

A1	A2
B1	B2
C1	C2
D1	D2
E1	E2

Part 2: Grouping & Dividing Beats

Grouping Pulses into 2s and 3s



Grouping Beats



let's swing

Plug in Vocabulary

A



B



C



D



E



A1



B1



C1



D1



E1



A2

B2

C2

D2

E2

Thirds

Concert F Major

D	E	LA	B	A
C	D	SO	A	G
Bb	C	FA	G	F
A	B	MI	F#	E
G	A	RE	E	D
F	G	DO	D	C
E	F#	TI	C#	B
D	E	LA	B	A
C	D	SO	A	G
Bb	C	FA	G	F
A	B	MI	F#	E
G	A	RE	E	D

Concert Bb Major

D	E	MI	B	A
C	D	RE	A	G
Bb	C	DO	G	F
A	B	TI	F#	E
G	A	LA	E	D
F	G	SO	D	C
Eb	F	FA	C	Bb
D	E	MI	B	A
C	D	RE	A	G
Bb	C	DO	G	F
A	B	TI	F#	E
G	A	LA	E	D

Concert Eb Major

D	E	TI	B	A
C	D	LA	A	G
Bb	C	SO	G	F
Ab	Bb	FA	F	Eb
G	A	MI	E	D
F	G	RE	D	C
Eb	F	DO	C	Bb
D	E	TI	B	A
C	D	LA	A	G
Bb	C	SO	G	F
Ab	Bb	FA	F	Eb
G	A	MI	E	F

Concert Ab Major

D	E	FA	B	A
C	D	MI	A	G
Bb	C	RE	G	F
Ab	Bb	DO	F	Eb
G	A	TI	E	D
F	G	LA	D	C
Eb	F	SO	C	Bb
Db	Eb	FA	Bb	Ab
C	D	MI	A	G
Bb	C	RE	G	F
Ab	Bb	DO	F	Eb
G	A	TI	E	D

Part 3: Reading & Performing

Familiar Order

The image displays a musical score for a 7/8 time signature, consisting of four staves of rhythmic exercises. Each staff contains three measures of music with corresponding fingerings and accents. The exercises are labeled A1, B1, C1, D1, E1, A2, B2, C2, D2, and E2.

Staff 1:

- A1:** 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3
- B1:** 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 3
- C1:** 1 + 2 + 1+2 + 3

Staff 2:

- D1:** 1 + 2 + 1 +2+ 3
- E1:** 1 + 2 + 1 + + 3
- A2:** 1 + 2 + 1 2 3 +

Staff 3:

- B2:** 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3
- C2:** 1 + 2 + 1 2+3 +
- D2:** 1 + 2 + 1 2 +3+

Staff 4:

- E2:** 1 + 2 + 1 2 + + 1

Ping Pong

A1

1 2 + 3 1 +

A2

1 2 3 + 1 +

B1

1 + 2 3 1 +

B2

1 2 + 3 1 +

C1

1+2 + 3 1 +

C2

1 2+3 + 1 +

D1

1 +2+ 3 1 +

D2

1 2 +3+ 1 +

E1

1 + + 3 1 +

E2

1 2 + + 1 + 1

Asymmetric Etudes

The musical score consists of six staves, each containing two measures of music. The first measure of each staff is in 6/8 time, and the second measure is in 7/8 time. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). Fingerings and accents are indicated below the notes.

Staff 1: Measure 1 (6/8): 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 123. Measure 2 (7/8): A1 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3 1 + 2 + 1 2 3 +.

Staff 2: Measure 1 (6/8): 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 3 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3. Measure 2 (7/8): B1 B2 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3.

Staff 3: Measure 1 (6/8): 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 3 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3. Measure 2 (7/8): C1 C2 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3.

Staff 4: Measure 1 (6/8): 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 3 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3. Measure 2 (7/8): D1 D2 1 + 2 + 1 2 + 3.

Staff 5: Measure 1 (6/8): 1 + 2 + 1 + 3 1 + 2 + 1 2 + +. Measure 2 (7/8): E1 E2 1 + 2 + 1 2 + +.

Staff 6: Measure 1 (6/8): 1. Measure 2 (7/8): 1.

Hands & Feet



Hands & Feet

The image displays four staves of handwritten musical notation. Each staff begins with a double bar line and a time signature. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. The time signatures used are 7/8, 3/8, and 6/8. The notation is written in a clear, legible style on a white background.

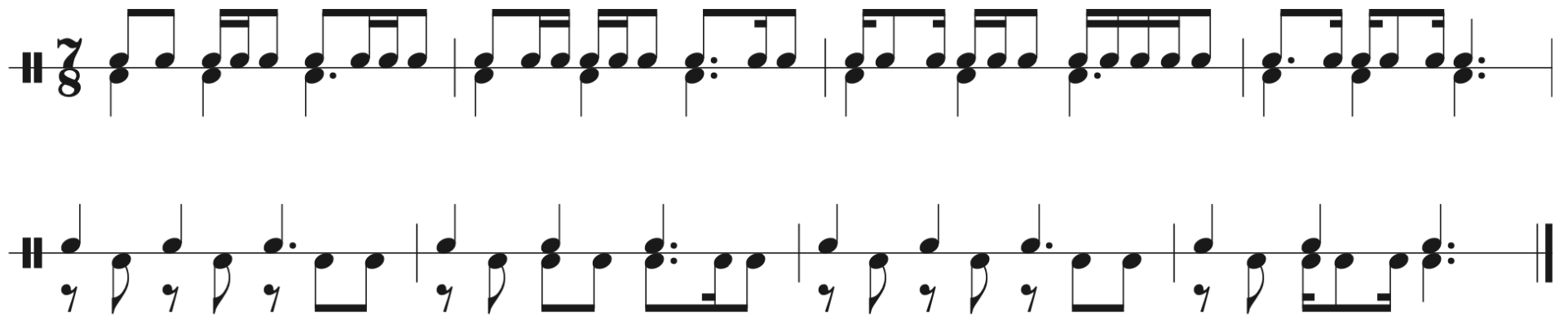
Staff 1: 7/8 time signature. The first measure contains four eighth notes (quarter rest, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note). The second measure contains a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a half note. The third measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Staff 2: 7/8 time signature. The first measure contains four eighth notes (quarter rest, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note). The second measure contains a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a half note. The third measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The sixth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The seventh measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The eighth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Staff 3: 7/8 time signature. The first measure contains four eighth notes (quarter rest, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note). The second measure contains a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a half note. The third measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The sixth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The seventh measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The eighth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Staff 4: 7/8 time signature. The first measure contains four eighth notes (quarter rest, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note). The second measure contains a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a half note. The third measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The sixth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The seventh measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The eighth measure contains a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Grand Finale!



What will you remember?



What will you remember?

- Focus on the sound and feel.
- Connection, silence, and division.
- Aural immersion builds fluency.
- Reading development process
- Teach $\frac{3}{4}$ & $\frac{3}{8}$ in 3 and 1.
- Movement builds understanding.



Andante moderato (♩ = 76)

THANKS!

Barry Hartz, Ph.D.
barry.hartz@ufl.edu

Midwest Clinic

December 21, 2023