

NAME: _____
 CHOIR: _____

3/8 and 6/8 Time Signatures

In $\frac{3}{8}$ time:

$\frac{3}{8}$ means there are 3 beats per measure.
 $\frac{8}{8}$ means the 8th note receives 1 beat.

In $\frac{3}{8}$ time:

$\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{7}{8}$ = 1 beat

$\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{2}{8}$ = 2 beats

$\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$ = 3 beats

In $\frac{6}{8}$ time:

$\frac{6}{8}$ means there are 6 beats per measure.
 $\frac{8}{8}$ means the 8th note receives 1 beat.

In $\frac{6}{8}$ time:

$\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{2}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ receive the same number of beats as in $\frac{3}{8}$ time.

In addition, $\frac{3}{8}$ = 3 beats, $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{2}{8}$ = 6 beats

Exercises

1 In the examples, circle the measures with the incorrect number of beats.

a.

b.

2 Complete the measures, using one note or rest. Write the beats, then count and clap the rhythm.

a.

b.

3/8 and 6/8 Time Signatures at Fast Tempos

Remember that 4/4 or C time can be cut in half to C or 2/2 time when the composer wants the music to be performed at a fast tempo.

3/8 and 6/8 can also be performed at fast tempos: count each 3/8 measure in 1 count and each 6/8 measure in 2 counts.

There is a strong beat on 1 in 3/8 time and on beats 1 and 4 in 6/8 time.

Because the tempo is fast, it is only necessary to count the strong beats.

In fast 3/8 time:

$\text{♪ or } \text{♪} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ beat}$
 $\text{♪♪} = 1 \text{ beat}$

$\text{♪ or } \text{♪} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ beat}$
 $\text{♪} = 1 \text{ beat}$

$\text{♪} = 1 \text{ beat}$

In fast 6/8 time:

♪, ♪, ♪ and ♪ receive the same number of beats as in 3/8 time.

In addition, ♪ = 1 beat, ♪ or ♪ = 2 beats

Exercises

1 Write the strong beats below the notes in a fast tempo.

a.

b.

2 Write the correct time signature and the strong beats below the notes in a fast tempo.

Tempo Marks

TEMPO is an Italian word meaning "rate of speed." Tempo marks tell how *fast* or *slow* the music should be played. Tempo marks are also written in Italian.

ITALIAN	ENGLISH
<i>Largo</i>	Very slow
<i>Adagio</i>	Slow
<i>Andante</i>	Moving along (walking speed)
<i>Moderato</i>	Moderately
<i>Allegro</i>	Quickly, cheerfully
<i>Vivace</i>	Lively and fast

Moderato may be combined with other words:

Allegro moderato = slightly slower than *Allegro* but quicker than *Moderato*

A Gradual Change of Tempo

Terms used to indicate a gradual change in tempo are:

ITALIAN	TERM	ENGLISH
<i>ritardando</i>	<i>ritard. or rit.</i>	gradually slower
<i>accelerando</i>	<i>accel.</i>	gradually faster

Exercises

- 1 In writing music, tempo marks tell the _____.
- 2 A very slow tempo marking is _____.
- 3 A lively and fast tempo marking is _____.
- 4 Match the Italian term to its English meaning by writing the correct letter in each blank.

_____ Quickly, cheerfully	a. <i>Moderato</i>
_____ Gradually slower	b. <i>Vivace</i>
_____ Lively and fast	c. <i>Adagio</i>
_____ Moderately	d. <i>Ritardando</i>
_____ Moving along (walking speed)	e. <i>Accelerando</i>
_____ Very slow	f. <i>Largo</i>
_____ Gradually faster	g. <i>Andante</i>
_____ Slow	h. <i>Allegro</i>