

Time Signatures

Time Signatures are the numbers at the beginning of a piece of music - The top number tells us the number of beats in each bar. The bottom number tells us the type of note. For example: 4/4 time means there are 4 beats in each bar and the 4 on the bottom means that these 4 notes are quarter note beats or crotchets.

$\frac{4}{4}$ time means: There are 4 quarter note or crotchet beats in each bar.

$\frac{3}{4}$ time means: There are 3 quarter note or crotchet beats in each bar.

$\frac{2}{4}$ time means: There are 2 quarter note or crotchet beats in each bar.

"C" stands for Common Time which is the same as $\frac{4}{4}$ time.

$\frac{4}{4}$ time is used so much that you can write the letter "C" instead of $\frac{4}{4}$

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 3 4

Here is an example of various note values in $\frac{4}{4}$

Count 1 2 3 & 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 & 3 4 1 & 2 3 & 4

Here is an example of various note values in $\frac{3}{4}$

Count 1 2 & 3 1 2 3 & 1 2 3 1 2 3

Here is an example of various note values in $\frac{2}{4}$

Count 1 2 1 & 2 1 2 1 2 &