

# METRE AND TIME SIGNATURES - EXPLAINED

The following slides are used in my YouTube Tutorial 'Metre and Time Signatures - Explained'.

## **Beat:** a unit of measurement of rhythmic pulse

*That's the fancy definition! Put simply, the beat is the underlying pulse of the music. Like your heartbeat, it's regular and steady. It's what you would tap your foot along with when you're enjoying listening to a piece.*

## **Metre:** Regular, repeating pattern (also Meter) of strong and weak beats

**Strong** weak **Strong** weak **Strong** weak

1 2 1 2 1 2

**Strong** weak weak **Strong** weak weak

1 2 3 1 2 3

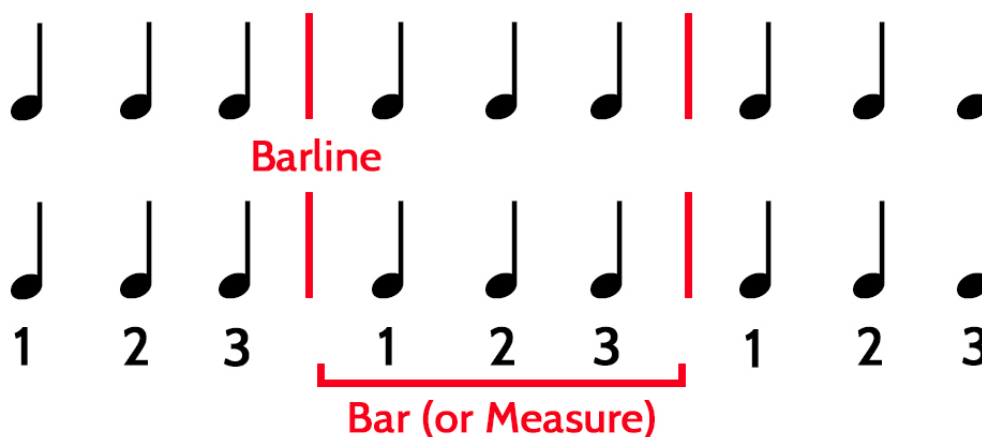
**Strong** weak weak weak **Strong** weak weak weak

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



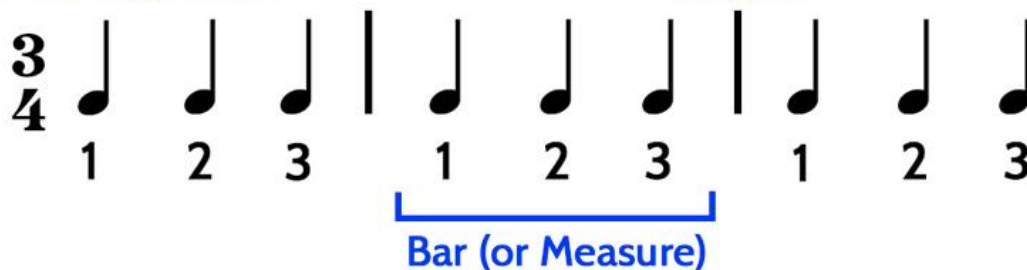
Strong weak weak Strong weak weak Strong weak weak

Strong weak weak | Strong weak weak | Strong weak weak



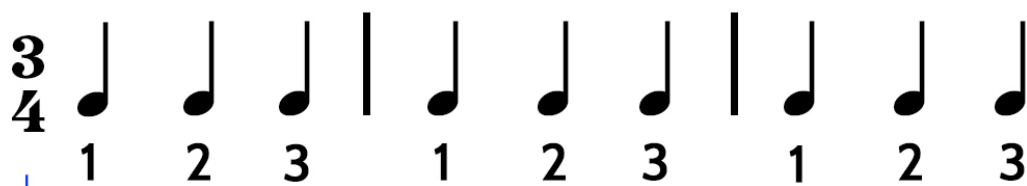
Time Signature

Barline

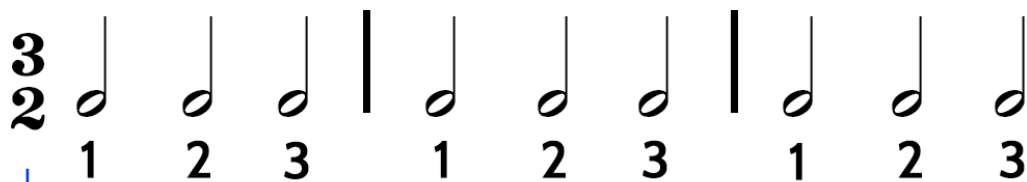


- 3** top number tells you the number of beats per bar
- 4** bottom number tells you the type of beat, i.e. what note value receives one beat





♩ = Crotchet (Quarter Note) Three Crotchet beats per bar



♩ = Minim (Half Note) Three Minim beats per bar



♩ = Quaver (Eighth Note) Three Quaver beats per bar

## Beat

- the regular, underlying pulse of the music

## Metre

- the regular and recurring pattern of strong and weak beats represented in the music by the...

## Time Signature

- which tells you how many beats there are in a bar, i.e. the number of beats contained within the strong-weak pattern, for example  $\frac{4}{4}$  equals 'strong-weak-weak-weak' 1-2-3-4

## Rhythm

- the organisation of notes and rests of different lengths

*This last slide is actually taken from my companion Tutorial 'Difference between Metre and Beat – and the Rhythm', but I thought it would be helpful to add it in here too. 😊*

