

# Important Rhythm Definitions

**Beat** - Basic unit of time used to measure musical rhythms



This time signature has 4 beats in each measure.

**Hemiola** - A rhythmic passage which superimposes duple and triple time or suggests a different meter or time signature



This rhythm suggests a  $\frac{2}{4}$  meter, even though it is written in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.

**Tempo** - The speed at which a musical piece is to be played. This may be written as **M.M.** (which originally stood for **Mälzel Metronome** but is now commonly referred to as “**Metronome Marking**”) or **BPM** (Beats per minute).

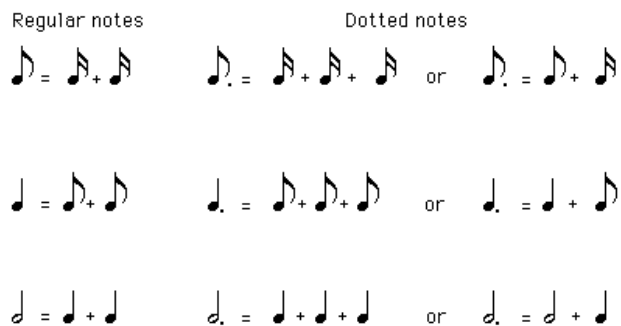


Because the M.M. equals 60, there are 60 beats per minute, or one per second.

**Meter** – The grouping of beats into regular patterns (also called **Time Signature**)



**Subdivision** – Dividing larger notes into smaller notes or groupings. Subdividing increases rhythmic accuracy and stability.



**Syncopation** – Rhythmic device in which weak beats and/or upbeats are emphasized

