









# Rhythms

**Why are we learning this?** Rhythm is a key ingredient in every single musical composition, and playing in time allows you to perform in an ensemble.


## What is Rhythm?

- Rhythm is the duration of each note (how long you play each note for).
- Each length has a corresponding note and a rest. The note means 'play this for this long', while the rest means 'be silent for this long'.
- Music has a **pulse**, a steady beat that goes throughout the piece.
- To keep in time with the music, you need to make sure you are playing along to the pulse.
- Sometimes the pulse is shown by a conductor, sometimes it is played on a drum, and sometimes someone will count it out loud.

## Musical Features – the notation used to show rhythm

		$\frac{1}{2}$ beat	Quaver
		1 beat	Crotchet
		2 <u>beats</u>	Minim
		4 <u>beats</u>	Semibreve

## Keywords

<b>Ensemble</b>	Two or more people playing different parts of the same piece together
<b>Ostinato</b>	A short repeating pattern
<b>Rest</b>	Silence for as long as the rest indicates
<b>Improvisation</b>	Making up music on the spot (improvising), usually as part of a solo
<b>Bar</b>	A short section of music, usually consisting of 4 beats. Music is divided up into bars to make it easier to read, and so that everyone is in the same place at the same time
<b>Syncopation</b>	When a rhythm stresses the <b>off beat</b> (e.g. the 'ands' of 1+2+3+4+)
<b>Dotted notes</b>	A dot after a note adds half as much again on. E.g.  is a dotted minim. A minim is worth 2 beats, the dot adds half of 2 (1) onto it so the whole thing would be 3 beats