

Mastering Rhythm with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and apply rhythmic notation, duration, and time signatures in a musical context.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of musical rhythm. Read the front side, think of the answer, and then check the back to see how Max the Monkey would solve the puzzle!

Pulse

The steady, underlying beat of a piece of music, often compared to a heartbeat.

How many beats does a crotchet receive in a 4/4 time signature?

A crotchet receives one beat.

Semibreve

A musical note that lasts for four beats in 4/4 time.

Explain the purpose of a Bar Line.

A vertical line used to divide music into equal sections called bars or measures.

Tempo

The speed at which a piece of music is played, often measured in beats per minute.

Minim

A note that lasts for two beats in 4/4 time.

What is the function of a 'Rest' in musical notation?

A symbol that indicates a period of silence where no sound is played for a specific duration.

Quaver

A note that lasts for half a beat in 4/4 time.

Time Signature

A sign at the beginning of a piece of music that tells you how many beats are in each bar and which note value gets one beat.

Syncopation

A rhythmic effect that involves placing emphasis on the 'off-beat' or the weaker parts of the bar.

Justify why a composer might choose to use a 3/4 time signature instead of 4/4.

A 3/4 time signature creates a waltz-like, triple-meter feel, whereas 4/4 provides a steady, march-like or rock feel.

Compare and contrast a crotchet and a quaver.

Both are rhythmic note values, but a crotchet lasts for one full beat while a quaver lasts for only half a beat, meaning two quavers fit into the time of one crotchet.