

EXAMPLES OF WORKS USING IRREGULAR TIME SIGNATURES

- 1
1 **Elgar** - *Enigma Variations* No VII (presto)
- 1
2 **Elgar** - *Symphony No 1, Mvt. II*
- 1
4 **Xenakis** - *Metastaseis* (bars 1-103)
- 2
16 **Aleksey Stanchinsky** – *12 Sketches, Op.1, No.10* (con moto)
- 2 3 4 5
16, 16, 16, 16 **Igor Stravinsky** - “Sacrificial Dance,” *Rite of Spring*
- and
- 2 3 4 5
8, 8, 8, 4 **Igor Stravinsky** - “Sacrificial Dance,” *Rite of Spring*
- 5
8 **John Rutter** – *Donkey Carol*
- 7
8 **Cat Stevens** – *Ruby Love*
- 8
8 **Bela Bartok** - “Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm”
Mikrokosmos No. 151
- 13
8 **Brad Fiedel** - *Terminator Main Theme*
- 18
8 **Charles – Valentin Alkan** – *Esquisses, Op.63 (No.12 Barcarollette)*

RHYTHM PART ONE

RHYTHM TREE AND NOTE GROUPINGS

Basically, rhythm in music is the arrangement of notes and rests, strong and weak accents and pulse in regular or irregular time.

Notes and rests are usually grouped into whole beat values. For example -



The correct grouping would be:

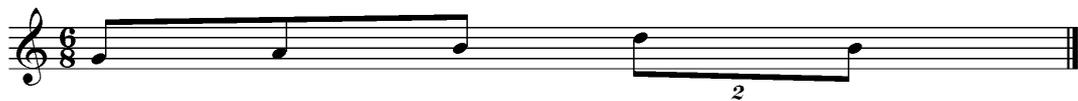


Sometimes notes are grouped irregularly such as when using -

A **triplet**- (in simple time) 3 notes played to the timing of 2 of the same kind.



A **duplet** - (in compound time) 2 notes played to the timing of 3 of the same kind.



A **quadruplet**- (in compound time) 4 notes played to the timing of 3 of the same kind.



RHYTHMIC OSTINATO

An ostinato is a short pattern of musical notation continuously repeated throughout a piece or section of music. It can be harmonic, melodic, rhythmic or a combination of these elements.

MUSIC EXAMPLES

Anna Kendrick (Pitch Perfect Movie Soundtrack) - *Cups*

The Percussion section of this piece is a two bar rhythmic sequence (repeated throughout). The following sound sources are used: cup, hands (clap) and a table.

When you hear the rhythm in its entirety, it looks like this:



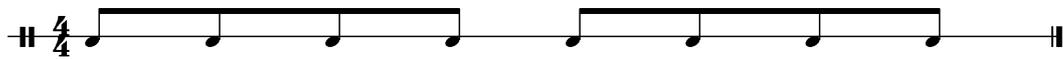
When you separate the sound sources into parts, it looks like this:

The Power of One Movie Soundtrack - *Southland Concerto*

This piece features rhythmic ostinato patterns that are sung by the male vocal choir. For Example: From bars 1 - 5, a solo male voice (call) sings the lyric *A SAMBE BA YA ME MEZ*, the male bass section (response) immediately echoes this line rhythmically and melodically. This lyric is sung for total of five times between the solo and bass sections.

RHYTHMIC OSTINATO (p.32)

- a. The Electric Guitar uses a repetitive quaver pattern to perform the riff in the introduction section (12 bars in length).



- b. The Acoustic Guitar performs a two bar ostinato pattern, which is repeated for the sequence of chords in the introduction, verse and pre-chorus sections.

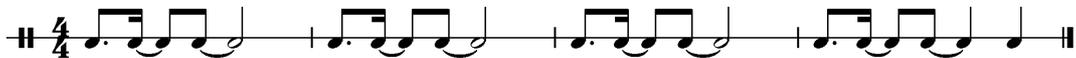
- c. At the end of verse one, the Electric Guitar performs a one bar riff which is played twice (quavers and semi-quavers are used for its rhythm). It continues into verse two and is played 6 more times.



- d. The Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar perform a riff/motif in unison, which is repeated throughout the verse and chorus sections.



- e. The Electric Guitar uses the same syncopated rhythmic pattern while picking the bass harmony and melody in each bar of the introduction, verse and chorus sections.



- f. The percussive SFX played by the clapper (from bar one) and Kick Drum (from bar three) play a two bar rhythmic sequence, which is repeated in the introductions, verse, pre-chorus and chorus sections. The Piano also plays a melodic sequence (four bars in length) from bar three in the introduction. It can also be heard in the verse section.

- g. The Electric Guitar performs a four bar rhythmic sequence (built on mainly quavers), which is repeated in the introduction and verse sections.

Listening Activity: Research and listen to the following music excerpts, identifying the sound source/s responsible for playing a rhythmic ostinato. In your answer include: the length of the ostinato (in bars) and the section/s where the ostinato occurs. If referring to YouTube for listening excerpts, refer to audio clips (not official film video clips).

- a.
- b.
- c. Def Leppard – *Pour Some Sugar on Me*
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.
- k.
- l.
- m.
- n.
- o.
- p.
- q.
- r.
- s.
- t.
- u.
- v. Ben E King – *Stand By Me*
- w.
- x.
- y.
- z.

RHYTHMIC DICTATION

Listening Activity: Complete the rhythm from the following excerpts of music. If referring to YouTube for listening excerpts, refer to audio clips (not official film video clips).

a. **Black Sabbath** – *Electric Funeral* (Electric Guitar’s Opening Riff)



b. _____ – _____ (Acoustic Guitar’s Harmonic/Melodic Accompaniment)



c. _____ – _____ (Electric Guitar’s Opening Riff)



d. _____ – _____ (Electric Guitar’s Opening Riff)



e. _____ - _____ (Male Voices Theme 0:00 – 0:12 seconds)

