

# TOM MANOFF THE MUSIC KIT

Sinfonia 11.

SECOND EDITION



## Rhythm Reader and Scorebook

# **THE MUSIC KIT**

## **RHYTHM READER AND SCOREBOOK**

**TOM MANOFF**

SECOND EDITION



**W • W • NORTON & COMPANY**  
**NEW YORK • LONDON**

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Printed in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Manoff, Tom.

The music kit. Second Edition

Contents: [1] Workbook—[2] Rhythm reader and  
scorebook.

1. Music—Theory, Elementary. I. Title.  
MT7.M267 1984 781 83-17336

ISBN 0-393-95298-3

W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10110  
W. W. Norton & Company Ltd., 37 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3NU

# THE MUSIC KIT

BY THE SAME AUTHOR  
*Music: A Living Language*

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# **RHYTHM READER**

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# RHYTHM READER

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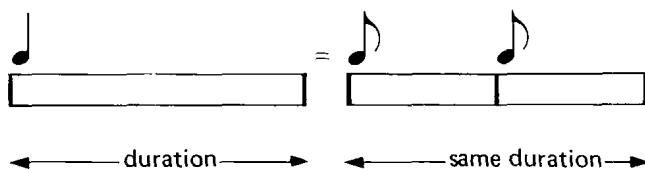
# CHAPTER 1

## RHYTHM

*Rhythm* is action in time. Whether it be a drum beat, the steady ticking of a clock, or your own heartbeat, all are specific actions that occur in a space of time. Rhythmic notation is the system used to indicate the number of actions, the time each action takes, and the relationship of these actions to a *beat*. This basic beat, or pulse, is what we feel when we step in time to a marching band or tap our feet to a rock or jazz tune. The speed of the beat is described by the term *tempo*. A polka or rock dance has a fast tempo; a funeral march has a slow tempo. The rhythms we **hear** are represented by symbols we **see**, called *notes*.

## THE QUARTER NOTE AND THE EIGHTH NOTE

The first notes we learn are the quarter note (♩ or ♩) and the eighth note (♪ or ♪). Quarter notes are twice as long in duration as eighth notes; conversely, it requires two eighth notes to equal the duration of one quarter note.

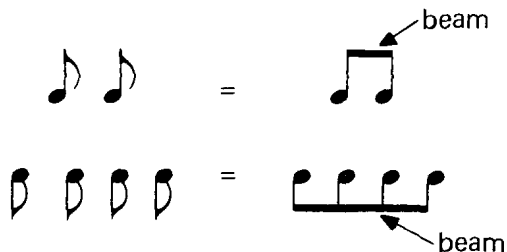


The several parts of the eighth note are the *notehead*, *stem*, and *flag*:



## BEAMING EIGHTH NOTES

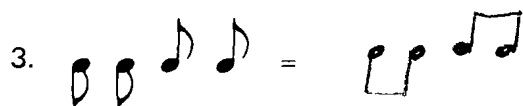
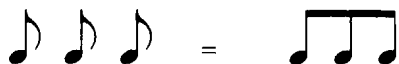
Eighth notes can be beamed together for easier reading.







### 1

Rewrite these eighth notes, using beams:

Example:

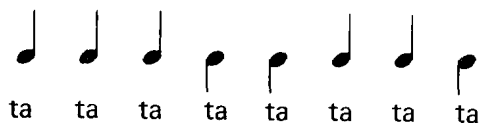


## SPEAKING RHYTHMS

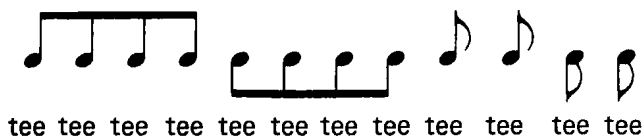
To get you started reading and comprehending rhythm quickly, we use a method for speaking simple rhythms. Quarter notes (  or  ) will be spoken "ta." Eighth notes (  , or  ) will be spoken "tee."

### 2

Speak in an even, steady manner, and at a moderate tempo:



Speak in an even, steady manner:



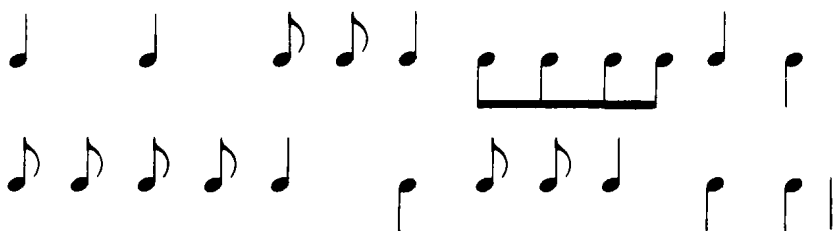
### 3

1. Listen to *Rhythm 1* (S 1, B 1) a few times, then speak the rhythm with the recording. Before each exercise, you will hear a count to establish the tempo. In this case, the count is "one, two, three, four."

#### *Rhythm 1*



2. Repeat *Rhythm 1*, speaking and following this version, which is the same rhythm as the one just above, but notated differently.



### DOUBLE BAR

A *double bar* (|| or ||) indicates the end, as in the example directly above.

### REPEAT SIGNS

A group of notes is repeated when it is enclosed by *repeat signs*, ||: :||. Therefore:



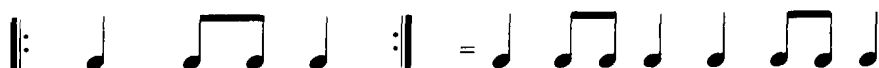
is performed



## 4

Write out each of these rhythms with the repeat:

Example:



In performing a line of music, go back to the beginning without any lapse of the beat when you reach a repeat sign.

## 5

Speak *Rhythms 1* through *3* with the recordings. Remember the repeat signs.

1. *Rhythm 1* (S 1, B 1)



2. *Rhythm 2* (S 1, B 1)



3. *Rhythm 3* (S 1, B 1). You will hear "one, two, three" before the rhythm.



## 6

Repeat *Rhythms 1* through *3* with the recording. This time, speak and clap.

## 7

Repeat *Rhythms 1* through *3* with the recording. These versions are the same rhythms as in **5**, but notated differently. Speak and clap:

1. *Rhythm 1*

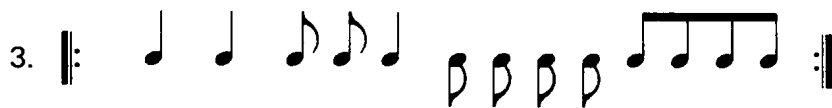



2. *Rhythm 2*3. *Rhythm 3***8**

Do these on your own. Speak first, then speak and tap with one hand on a table or desk.

**9**

Tap and imagine you are speaking these rhythms. Don't speak!

**FERMATA SIGN**

The *fermata* symbol (  ), when placed above a note, indicates that the note is to be held for a longer duration than its indicated value. The duration is left to the discretion of the performer. The fermata is also called a hold.



**TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND CONCEPTS**



rhythm

beat

basic pulse

duration

tempo

the relationship between  and 

note

notehead

stem


flag

beaming eighth notes



# CHAPTER 2

## RESTS

Just as there are symbols which represent musical sounds for specific time durations, there are symbols which represent the absence of musical sound, or silence. These symbols are called *rests*. A *quarter rest* (  ) has the same time value as a quarter note. In the following rhythms, speak the quarter rest as "rest."

## 1

Speak with the recording. Do not clap.

1. *Rhythm 4* (S 1, B 2)



2. *Rhythm 5* (S 1, B 2)



### 3. *Rhythm 6* (S 1, B 2)



4. *Rhythm 7* (S 1, B 2)

