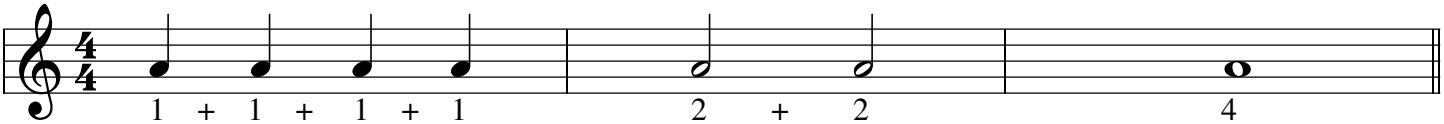


TIME SIGNATURES

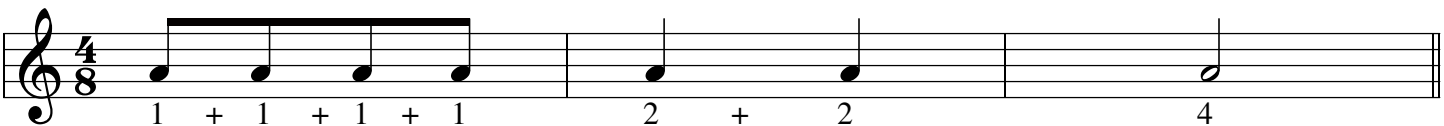
Time signatures are musical symbols. They are found at the beginning of a song, after the key signature. Time signatures tell us two things: (1) how many beats or pulses there are in each measure and (2) what kind of note is the beat or pulse note. In simple terms, the top number of the time signature tells us how many beats or pulses there are in a measure. The bottom number tells us what kind of note gets one of those beats or pulses.

Below is an example of 4/4 time. The top number (4) tells us that there are four pulses per measure. The bottom number (4 represents quarter note) tells us that the quarter note is the pulse note.

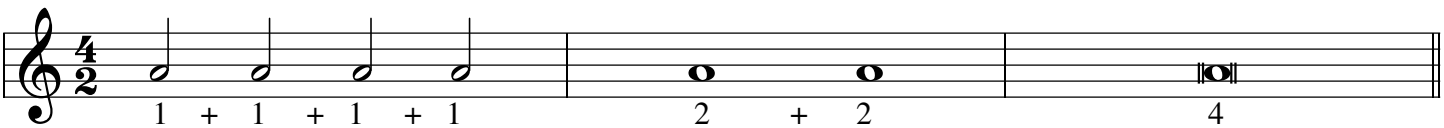
1. 

Beneath each note is the number of pulses it is worth in 4/4 time. The value of each measure must equal 4 full counts or pulses.

In the measures below the time signature has been changed to 4/8 time. Now the eighth note is the beat or pulse note. But if you look at the top number you will see that there are still 4 pulses per measure. Now however, the beat note is the eighth note (*represented by the 8*) instead of the quarter note when the bottom number was 4.

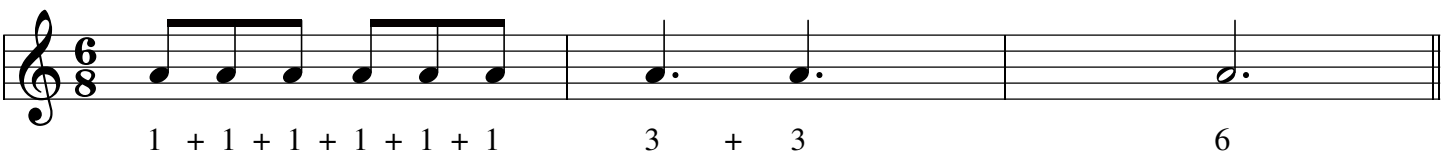
2. 

Here is an example of 4/2 time. The bottom number (2) represents the half note and tells us that it is our beat note. The 4 on top of the time signature tells us that there are again 4 beats, counts or pulses per measure.

3. 

This is a double whole note. It is worth twice as much as a whole note.

The 8 of 6/8 time tells us that the eighth note is our beat note and the 6 tells us that the value of a measure of 6/8 time is equal to 6 eighth notes. This is a SimpleTime explanation. The last two measures represent Compound Time because we are combining three beat notes, eighth notes, to make a new beat note, the dotted quarter note. For now, however, we will count these measures in Simple Time.

4. 

REMEMBER: We do not know what a note is worth (how many beat it gets) unless we are given a time signature.

We do know, for certain, that in any time signature it takes two eighth notes to make one quarter note, two quarter notes to make one half note, two half notes to make one whole note, etc.

You must always check your meter (time signature) before attempting to sing or play. □