Music For Callers

MUSIC CURES THE SAVAGE BEAST

Five Basic Elements of Music

- Timbre
- Form
- Rhythm
- Melody
- Harmony

TIMBRE

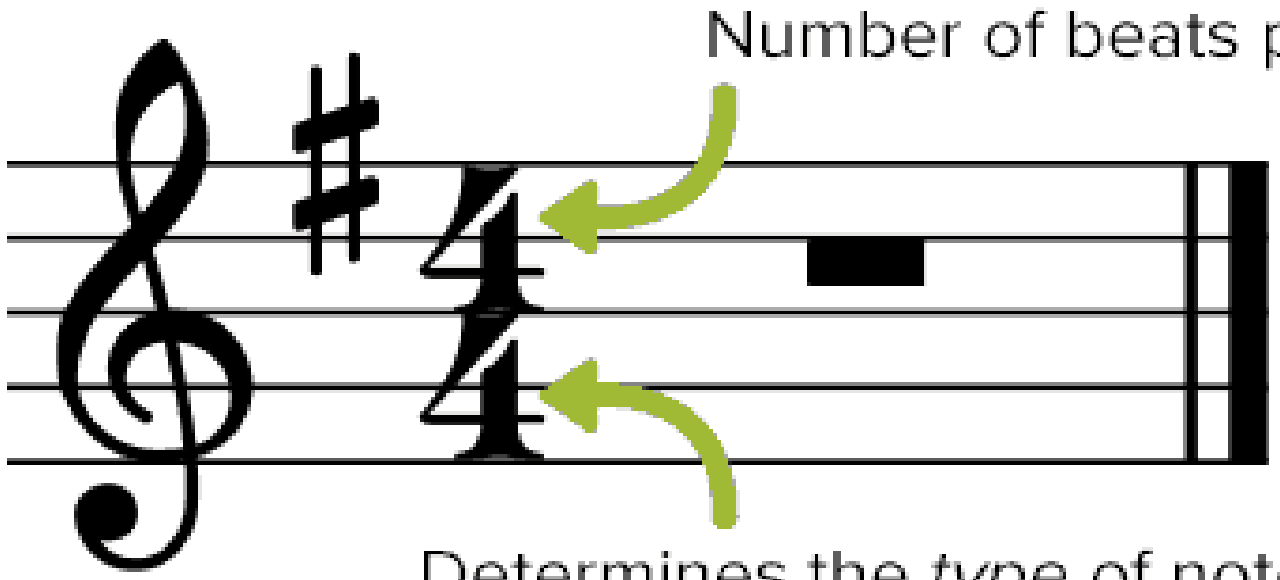
Timbre enables the listener to hear the differences between musical instruments. The trumpet has a much different sound than the violin, for example. The human voice is another example of different timbres. Everybody has a different sound to their voice. Sometimes called Vocal Register.

FORM

Form in music is the structure of music composition. Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony are the main elements that a composer uses to design the musical architecture of the piece.

RHYTHM

Rhythm is expressed as a measure of time. It can be said that it is a function of time between beats. The word refers literally refers to the duration of musical sound, or the duration of the interval between musical sounds. The recurring musical pulse is known as the "beat." It is the foundation of all rhythm. Musicians identify rhythm in terms of a fraction, known as a time signature. The upper portion identifies the number of beats in each measure, while the lower portion defines what kind of note gets one beat. (1/4, 1/2, 1/8)


Number of beats per measure.
Determines the *type* of note that gets the beat.

All square dance music must have a recognizable downbeat to enable us to deliver the call on the musical phrase. That is the heavy beat of the music. It is recognized by a bass type of instrument in the orchestration. There may be other beats that you can hear, but the bass beat is what gives the dancer and the caller the feel to dance and call to.

The important thing to remember is.....

RHYTHM IS ALL ABOUT FEEL

The most common rhythms found in todays square dance music are:

- **2/4 Time** - It is often referred to as Boom/Chuck music. Technically it says that there are two beats of music to each measure and that a 1/4 note gets one beat.

- **4/4 Time** - This time signature is characterized by a heavy Boom Boom type style. The 4/4 music gives a different feel to its rhythm and is often hard to identify other than by feel.

- ¾ Time – Think of it as a Waltz rhythm – (1 2 3, 1 2 3)

- **6/8 Time** - This is referred to a Jig Time and gives an entirely different feel to the music. It can be counted and used by the caller in the same fashion as other rhythms, but it can also give a Rat-ta-ta, Rat-ta-ta beat in which we, as callers, use the Rat count to give us the beat. Some examples of this music are most often found in Contras or Quadrilles. This is not a common rhythm in singing calls.

More Rhythm Examples

2/4 Time:

- Green Green (Chaparrel ???)
- RYL 204 – Around the World With Bill Bailey
- Rhythm – San Antonio Stroll
- RYL 2020 Platinum – Born to be Wild
- RYL 114 – Charlie Brown
- ESP 433 – Rivers of Babylon
- RIV 1022 – Boogie Sticks
- RIV 649 – R.O.B.
- ESP 220 – Lonesome Pine

4/4 Time

- RYL 264 – Does Anyone Know what Time It Is?
- RYL 607 – Come Sail Away
- CHIC 1046 – Desperado
- TBT 102 – Take Me Home
- LM – The Cowboy Rides Away
- ACME 163 – One of These Nights
- RR 1321 – Tragedy
- TBT 103 – Peg
- ESP 434 – BJH
- CHIC 4057 – Spanish Eyes Patter
- RYL 448 – Royal Jagger

6/8 Rhythm



RR 241 The Rhythm of My Heart

And FINALLY a brand new 6/8 rhythm Patter

Shameless plug coming up



To Be Released Soon

Royal Joy

Same Song – Different Arrangement – 2/4 vs 4/4

- ACME 124 – Rock and Roll Lullabye
- RYL – Rock and Roll Lullabye

MELODY

Melody is generally considered to be the tune that we recognize. Melody consists of a succession of tones forming a musical line or theme. It is what gives us a song we can sing to.

Melody consists of TONES put together in a pattern that creates an enjoyable and pleasurable sensation. A TONE is a single sound made when a piano key is struck, or a guitar string is plucked. A TONE is the basic element of Melody, just as the Beat is the basic element of Rhythm.

A group of TONES put together form a tune. We can all sing many different tunes. It is the variations of tones that create the tunes or melodies we recognize. If we played a scale of eight different tones, we would know this as the Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do. The Do tone at the beginning and end is identical in tone and varies only in pitch. Technically the two have a frequency of a two to one ratio. That is to say that the Do on the first part is 1/2 the frequency of the Do at the last part. This frequency difference is also referred to as an octave

1960's – 1970's

- Strong Rhythm Track
- Single Pick Lead
- Few Lead Instruments

- False Hearted Girl – Jay Bar K
- Don't It Make You Want To Go Home - Kaalox
- Dance With Me One More Time – Square Tunes
- Bourbon Street – Bob Cat
- Jackson - Jewell

HARMONY

Harmony refers to combinations of tones that, when played together, yield a pleasurable mix. If two tones are played concurrently that are too close to one another in tone, they are said to be in dissonance, or discord. Generally, harmony occurs when two tones are played concurrently, and are separated by at least one other complete tone.

For our use, harmony is best described as anything that is not rhythm or melody

Best Square Dance Song EVER

- RR 117 – All Wrapped Up In You
  - Fills
  - Chases
  - Straying from the Lead

RYL 1022 – Humble and Kind

1. Sax/Guitar(Single Pick Leads)
2. Guitar/Fiddle
3. Fiddle/Sax
4. Sax/Guitar
5. Guitar/Fiddle
6. Fiddle/Sax
7. Sax/Guitar

Most Expensive Square Dance Song Ever Produced

- SD4K 001 – When the Saints Go Marching In
- 6 Callers
- 11 Musicians for one 3 hour block
- 12 hours studio time