

BEAT, RHYTHM AND GROOVE BROKEN DOWN

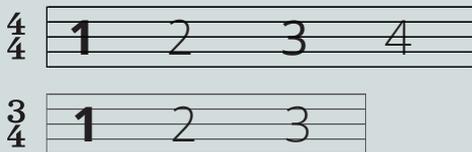
UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE AND DYNAMICS OF THESE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF MUSIC.



BEAT

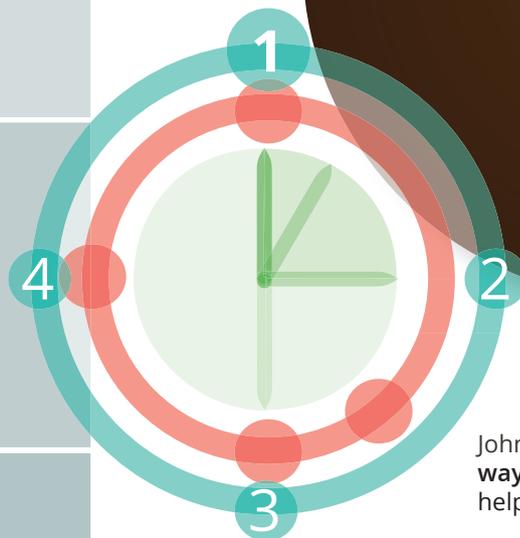
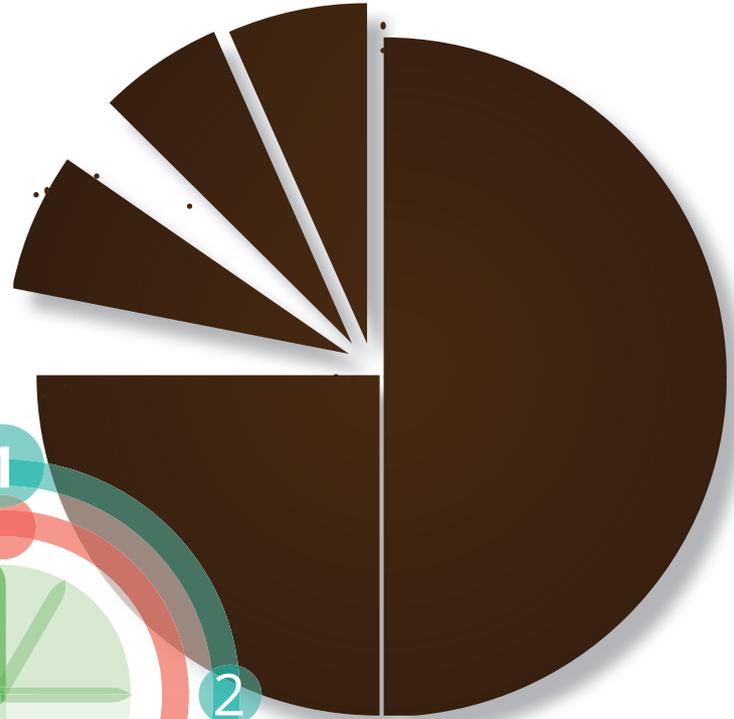
The beat is the regular pulse of the song. The timing. It's the thing you tap your foot to. Like the ticking of a clock. Represented by notes in music.

The first beat is the strongest and the rest are less emphasised.



BEATS IN A BAR

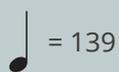
Beats are grouped in bars in music. In 4/4 time, there are 4 beats to a bar. In 3/4 time, there are only 3 beats in the bar. You could also visualise a bar as a circle, like a cake, divided up into pieces of various sizes.



John Varney's TED talk, [A different way to visualize rhythm](#), is quite helpful. Google it.

TEMPO

The speed or tempo of the song is measured by beats per minute. How fast the needle spins. Written like this:



RHYTHM

The rhythm is the pattern of notes the bass might play or reflected in the timing of the words. The rhythm works in time to the beat.

GROOVE

The groove is the "feel" of the song. It's the thing that makes you want to move, not just tap your foot. When the rhythm and the tempo work well together, the song has groove. More groove, less speed!

DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP

Within the timing of the regular beat, the rhythm can be any number of combinations of notes. There are some common rhythmic patterns but the rhythm is often driven by the style of music or words of the song. The groove makes the song feel energetic, not just a faster tempo. For the song to groove, you need to find the balance between the beat, tempo, and rhythm.