

## Chapter 5

## Beat, Meter, and Rhythm: Compound Meters

## BASIC ELEMENTS

*Meter signatures*





A. Provide the correct meter signature for the example below. Beneath the staff, write the meter type (e.g., compound triple). For now, disregard pitch elements and focus only on the rhythm and meter.

Chopin, Nocturne in E $\flat$  Major, Op. 9, No. 2, mm. 1–2

The musical score shows two measures of music. The right hand (treble clef) has a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand (bass clef) has a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G3, B2, D3, E3, G3, B2, D3, E3. The key signature is E-flat major (two flats). The tempo/mood marking is *espress. dolce*. There is a fermata over the final two notes of the right hand melody.

Meter type: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Simple meter review. For each of the following meters, write in the meter type, beat unit, division and subdivision, and borrowed division (triplets). See the example.

Meter	Meter Type	Beat Unit	Beat Division	Beat Subdivision	Borrowed Division (Triplets)
$\frac{3}{2}$	simple triple				
4					
$\frac{4}{8}$					
2					
$\frac{3}{8}$					
$\frac{4}{4}$					



**II. Inserting bar lines: Simple and compound meters**

Note the meter signature given, then add bar lines to the melody. This melody has an anacrusis, so the first bar line is given, and the last bar is shortened to account for the upbeat. Note that some rhythms feature triplets.

Chopin, Nocturne in G minor, Op. 37, No. 1, mm. 1–6 (melody only)

The musical score consists of two staves of music in G minor (one flat) and common time (C). The first staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains measures 1 through 5. It starts with an anacrusis (upbeat) of two eighth notes. The melody includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 4 and a fermata over the final note of measure 5. The second staff contains measures 6 through 6, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 6 and ends with a double bar line. The piece concludes with a final cadence.