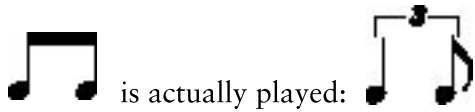


## Swing & Swing Time

**Swing** is more than a style of big band music—it's also a jazz technique that is the heart and soul of good jazz playing. The official definition of playing something in **swing time** is playing 8th notes as if they were a triplet consisting of a quarter note and an 8th note. For example:



But that's a *guideline* and not a hard and fast rule. Don't expect to get this concept right away—it's a special *feeling* that will eventually become natural when you play it enough.

**Frank Sinatra** developed his style around swing music. The vocalist for both Harry James and Tommy Dorsey, two of the big band era's giants, Sinatra emerged early in his career with a style rooted in the "swinging" feel of the tunes he was singing—syncopated yet smooth.



Photo: Institute of Jazz Studies

Here's a swing-feel warm-up in 6/8 time. This will make it easier to get the sound of the swing feel in your fingers.

Track 2

C

Swing feel

The image shows a musical score for Track 2 in 6/8 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is C major. The melody in the treble staff starts with a quarter note on C4, followed by eighth notes. There are brackets above the melody indicating a "Swing feel" and a "2" (a pair of eighth notes). The bass staff has a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

Here's an exercise in 4/4 that is written *straight*—without a swing feel. Play as written:

Track 3

C

The image shows a musical score for Track 3 in 4/4 time. It consists of a single treble clef staff. The key signature is C major. The melody is written in a straight, non-swing style. There are some accidentals (flats) in the melody.

Here's that exercise that is written *swing style*—with a swing feel. Play as written:

Track 4

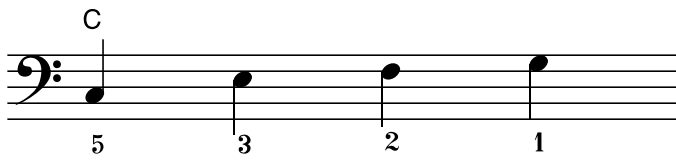
C

The image shows a musical score for Track 4 in 4/4 time. It consists of a single treble clef staff. The key signature is C major. The melody is written in a swing style, featuring triplets of eighth notes. There are some accidentals (flats) in the melody.

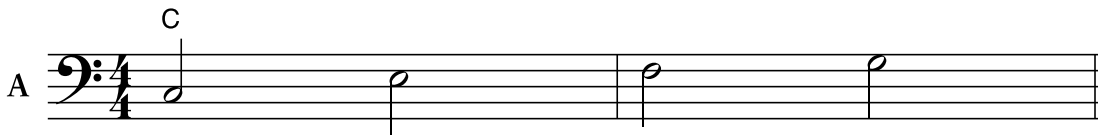
# III. INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYBOARD RHYTHM SECTION: WALKING BASS

The walking bass is a left-hand pattern found often in jazz. It is used to create a rhythm background in addition to keeping a steady beat. It also outlines the indicated chords, playing the part often played by a bass in a jazz group.

These four tones comprise a walking bass in C Major:



It can be played in many ways. Here are two:



## Walking Bass Warm-Up Track 20

Now play the walking bass part as it is used in a jazz progression. Play it slowly and steadily.

Slowly

