

Level 2: Sound Fundamentals

CUT TIME is a meter in which there are two beats per measure and the half note receives one beat. Cut time is also called **ALLA BREVE**.

$\text{C} = \frac{2}{2}$ = Two beats (counts) per measure.
 $\text{C} = \frac{2}{2}$ = A half note receives one beat (count).

51 MAKING THE CUT—Clap and count before you play.

Andante

52 SOME FOLKS DO—This version is in $\frac{2}{4}$ time.

Moderato Stephen Foster (1826–1864)

53 SOME FOLKS DON'T—This version is in cut time. How is it different from the $\frac{2}{4}$ version? How is it similar?

Moderato Stephen Foster (1826–1864)

54 DOO-DLE IN TWO-DLE—Play and conduct Yankee Doodle in common time, then change the meter to cut time by drawing a vertical line through the C (C). Now play and conduct in “two” (cut time). Both versions should sound exactly the same, but the speed of your conducting gestures will be “cut” in half!

Allegro American Folk Song

55 MERRILY, THIS IS HOW WE ROLL—Play and conduct in common time, then change the meter to cut time by drawing a vertical line through the C (C). Now play and conduct in “two” (cut time). Both versions should sound exactly the same, but the speed of your conducting gestures will be “cut” in half!

Andante American Folk Song

D.C. AL CODA means to repeat from the beginning (*da capo* or “head”) and then play the *coda* (the “tail”) where indicated.

158 THE IRISH JAUNTING CAR—Trace the “roadmap” of the piece before you play.

Moderato Irish Folk Song

The score is in bass clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat major. It starts with a *mf* dynamic and a *Moderato* tempo. The first line contains the main melody with dynamics *mf* and *f*. A repeat sign with a double bar line and a *Coda* symbol (a circle with a cross) is placed at the end of the first line. The second line continues the melody with a *p* dynamic. A red arrow points to the end of the second line with the text *D.C. al Coda*. The third line is the *Coda* section, starting with a *Coda* symbol and ending with a double bar line.

GRACE NOTES are a type of musical ornamentation. They are placed prior to and are slurred to the note they enhance, and appear smaller in size. Grace notes usually are single notes, either with or without a slash through the stem and flag, but can also include two or more notes. Rhythmically they are placed immediately prior to the beat, but in music of the Baroque and Early Classical periods they are sometimes played on the beat.

159 GOODNESS, GRACE NOTES!—Try out your grace notes. Make sure they feel relaxed and not forced.

Andante

The score is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat major. It starts with a *mf* dynamic and an *Andante* tempo. The melody features several grace notes marked with red triangles above them. The piece ends with a double bar line.

160 TRAVELIN' TO ARKANSAS—A hoedown is an American folk dance. Play the grace notes lightly and just before the beat of the note they precede.

Moderate hoedown tempo

The score is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat major. It starts with a *mf* dynamic and a *Moderate hoedown tempo*. The melody is characterized by many grace notes. A repeat sign with a double bar line and a *Coda* symbol is placed at the end of the first line. The second line continues the melody with a *D.C. al Coda* instruction. The third line is the *Coda* section, starting with a *Coda* symbol and ending with a double bar line. A *f* dynamic is indicated at the end of the *Coda* section.

161 GRACEFUL GRACE NOTES—Here are more grace notes to practice. Make sure they have a natural and relaxed feel to them and never sound rushed.

Moderate waltz tempo

The score is in bass clef, 3/4 time, and B-flat major. It starts with a *mp* dynamic and a *Moderate waltz tempo*. The melody features grace notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and a *f* dynamic. There are two endings: the first ending leads back to the beginning, and the second ending leads to the *Coda*.