LearnMusic Theory. net 6.8 Rhythm and Meter 1: Metric Techniques

Metric = Music that relies on *meter signatures* (also called *time signatures*). *Metric structure* = The pattern of stresses (strong beats and weak beats) that create the feeling of a time signature.

- 1. *Polymeter* = Using more than one meter at a time.
- 2. *Polytempo* = Using more than one tempo at a time.
- 3. Mixed meter = Frequent time signature changes (every 1-3 measures); notated with time signatures <u>or</u> accents.



4. *Hemiola* = Type of mixed meter (or polymeter) that alternates between 3+3 and 2+2+2 beat patterns.



5. Asymmetric meter = Meter in which some beats have two divisions and some have three.



6. Complex meter = Using nonstandard beat lengths in a normally compound or complex time signature. May be notated by indicating the division groupings (below left) <u>OR</u> with accents / beaming.



7. *Metric Modulation (Tempo Modulation)* = Some rythmic value in the first temo becomes equal to a different rhytmic value in the second tempo. Metric modulation always involves a change of tempo, and usually involves a tuplet in one or both tempos. Associated first with composer Elliott Carter.



8. *Ostinato* = Repeating rhythmic/pitch pattern. Unlike isorhythm, the pitch and rhythmic patterns are equal in length.



9. Displaced accent = Using accents to imply a time signature other than the notated time signature.



These accents imply 2-beat measures, contrary to notated time signature.

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