

RHYTHM MASTER

A NEW SEQUENTIAL RHYTHM CURRICULUM



Tom Torrento Music LLC

ARTIST / EDUCATOR / CONSULTANT

DEDICATION

To my supportive family who encourages me to chase my dreams, to my many mentors, and to all of my students, both past and present who have shaped my teaching! I am eternally indebted to you all.

ABOUT THE METHOD

This method is to be utilized as a standalone rhythm teaching tool. It should be used to teach rhythmic foundations and is divided into multiple sections based on certain rhythmic structures and patterns. While teachers should be encouraged to work sequentially, the method can also be utilized in pull out units as new rhythmic figures are introduced.

Every lesson is broken down into three main sections:

Level 1 introduces various patterns and uses repetition to achieve mastery.

Level 2 takes the patterns and begins to mix some of them into attainable exercises.

Level 3 includes a full page etude that cycles through the many variations.

Students who complete the etude are content-level rhythmic masters!

To help ensure successful teaching and student mastery, teachers should utilize the following teaching pattern:

- **Tap It:**
Foot taps quarter note beat while the student taps the written rhythm with hand across chest.
- **Say It:**
Foot taps quarter note beat while the student speaks the rhythm.
- **Clap It:**
Foot taps quarter note beat while student claps the written rhythm.
- **Play It:**
Foot taps quarter note while student plays the written rhythm on a unison note as determined by the teacher.



The Tree of Rhythm

This chart displays the division durations of a beat along with the appropriate counting methods for the different durations. It also shows the downbeat and upbeat placement that is emphasized through the tapping of the student's foot.






Whole Note (Value - 4 Beats)									
Counting	(1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&)	
Foot Tap	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	
Half Note (Value - 2 Beats)									
Counting	(1	&	2	&)	(3	&	4	&)	
Foot Tap	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	
Quarter Note (Value - 1 Beat)									
Counting	(1	&)	(2	&)	(3	&)	(4	&)	
Foot Tap	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	
Eighth Note (Value - 1/2 Beat)									
Counting	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	
Foot Tap	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	
Sixteenth Note (Value - 1/4 Beat)									
Counting	1	e	&	a	2	e	&	a	
Foot Tap	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	



Table of Contents

Lesson	Rhythmic Focus	Page
#1	Quarter Note Rhythms	6
#2	Half Note Rhythms	10
#3	Whole Note Rhythms	14
#4	Dotted Half Note Rhythms	18
#5	Eighth Note Rhythms	22
#6	Dotted Quarter Note Rhythms	26
#7	Syncopated Rhythms	30
#8	Sixteenth Note Rhythms	34
#9	Two 16th / 8th Note Rhythms	38
#10	8th / Two 16th Note Rhythms	42
#11	Dotted 8th / 16th Note Rhythms	46
#12	Cut Time Rhythms	50
#13	6/8 Time Rhythms	54
#14	Advanced Syncopation Rhythms	58
#15	Complex Meter Rhythms	62





Eighth Note Rhythms & Rests

THE SOUND

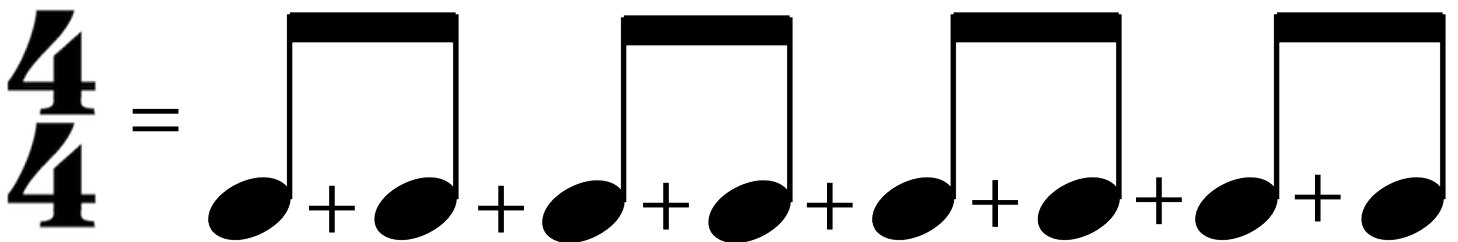


THE SILENCE



An eighth note is a musical note played for one eighth the duration of a whole note. It is half the duration of a quarter note. Eighth notes are notated with an oval, filled-in note head and a straight note stem with one note flag

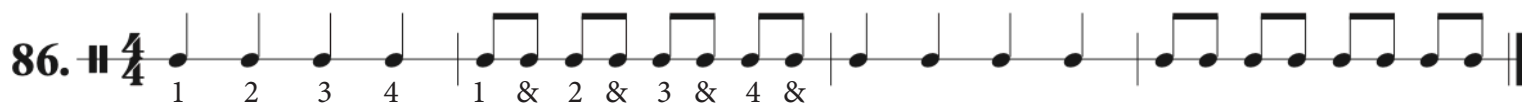
THE MUSIC



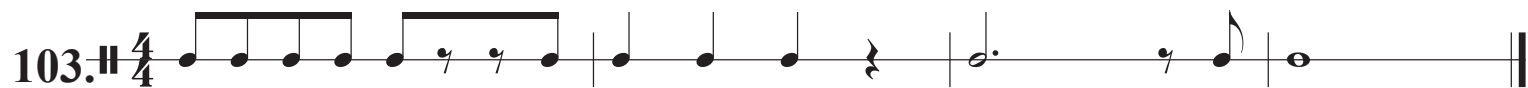
THE MATH

$$\frac{4}{4} = .5 + .5 + .5 + .5 + .5 + .5 + .5 + .5$$

Eighth Note Rhythms & Rests - Level 1



Eighth Note Rhythms & Rests - Level 2



Eighth Note Rhythms & Rests - Etude

106. $\sharp \frac{4}{4}$

106. $\sharp \frac{4}{4}$



About the Author

Tom Torrento is a licensed, professional educator and musician. He has a passion for developing a high self-worth in his students using music education as a vehicle for growth, and works tirelessly to emphasize the value of music within society today. In the 2017-2018 year, Tom was named the Region 9 Michigan Department of Education Teacher of the Year, the MSBOA District XVI Director of the Year, as well as the Michigan Recipient of School Band & Orchestra Magazine's 50 Directors Who Make A Difference. Mr. Torrento is currently pursuing a PhD in Music Education from Oakland University where he was awarded a half assistantship allowing him to continue to further his teaching while completing the degree. Tom earned his Master of Arts Degree in Band Conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University in 2015, Bachelor's of Music Education degree from Eastern

Michigan University in 2012, graduating with honors from both schools. Since 2018, Tom has served as Director of Bands, guiding and growing all aspects of the North High School, Brownell Middle School, & Parcels Middle School band programs in Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

At the age of 15, he co-founded the Warren (MI) based rock band PBM, proving that there is just as much a place for horns in popular music today as there was twenty to fifty years ago. He also proved that a life in music can lead to success on many levels. For 12 years, Tom performed at bars, music halls, festivals, clubs and colleges in over 40 states, performed in several cities throughout the United Kingdom and traveled over 250,000 miles. During this time, Tom played trumpet, flugelhorn and sang on six albums, including one album nationally distributed, and several distributed in England, France, Germany and Scotland. He and his band mates appeared on Season 1 of NBC's hit reality show, America's Got Talent, making it all the way to the semifinals.

Prior to his appointment in Grosse Pointe Public Schools, Tom was the Instrumental Music Director at Lincoln High School and Middle School in Van Dyke Public Schools. As director of bands, Tom incorporated the skills and experiences he gained as a touring musician—marketing and relationship building with various traditional and social media outlets—to rebuild the band program while on a strict budget. His efforts and campaigns have highlighted the value music education plays in the growth and development of an individual. He raised over \$250,000 through the local community and grant writing to ensure all students who want the chance to thrive in the arts are provided the opportunity regardless of the socio-economic circumstance they were born into. In 2015 he successfully applied for and received the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Grant which resulted in \$165,000 in new equipment. This investment resulted in the band program doubling in size. What started as 86 students in 2012 has built to 170 strong in 2015. Since 2015, the Lincoln Bands have received two additional awards from MHOF resulting in even high growth at both the high school and middle school levels.

Tom is the current District XVI Treasurer for the Michigan Schools Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA). As an avid believer in public school equity, Tom created the #MIEquityED hashtag for social media to bring heightened awareness to non-educators.

In addition to teaching, Tom is also an Educator/Artist Endorsee for Phaeton Trumpets. Tom lives in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan with his beautiful wife Jenna, his daughter Charlotte, and his sons Collin, Crosby, & Caden and enjoys performing with local musicians and theatre organizations whenever his busy schedule allows.