



COMPOUND METERS

29 Sept 2017

Compound Meters

- Beat is divided into 3 subdivisions
 - Beat duration must then be DOTTED
- Divide numerator by 3 to find # of beats per m.
 - 3/8 (1 big beat, 3 eighth notes) – often hear hypermeter
 - 6/8 (2 big beats, 6 eighth notes) – 1+a 2+a
 - 9/8 (3 big beats, 9 eighth notes) – 1+a 2+a 3+a
 - 12/8 (4 big beats, 12 eighth notes) – 1+a 2+a 3+a 4+a
- May also have 4, 16 or 32 as denominator
- $1 e + e a e =$ sixteenth notes in compound

Compound Meters

- If “Compound” the beat is divided in 3
 - 3, 6, 9 or 12 on top (numerator)
- If “Simple” the beat is divided in 2
 - 2, 3 or 4 on top (numerator)
- Compound single = $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ when fast enough that it feels like 1 beat per measure

Hearing time signatures

Beaming

- Count first and beam second
- Beam each beat individually
 - Use ties if necessary
- Always must see start of beat 3 in quadruple