

Simplifying Complex Rhythm
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat
Laurie Richards

Preparation

Prerequisites

- *Solid* grasp and understanding of all note values and rests from RR
- Familiarity and comfort level with writing and transcribing rhythm

Basic Note Values

- Principle of doubling

The diagram illustrates the principle of doubling for basic note values. It shows five musical staves, each with a note and its corresponding beat value in red text to the right. An upward arrow and 'x2' are placed between each staff to indicate the doubling process.

Note Value	Beat Value
Whole note	= 4 beats
Half note	= 2 beats
Quarter note	= 1 beat
Eighth note	= 1/2 beat
Sixteenth note	= 1/4 beat

- Continuing beyond 16th notes

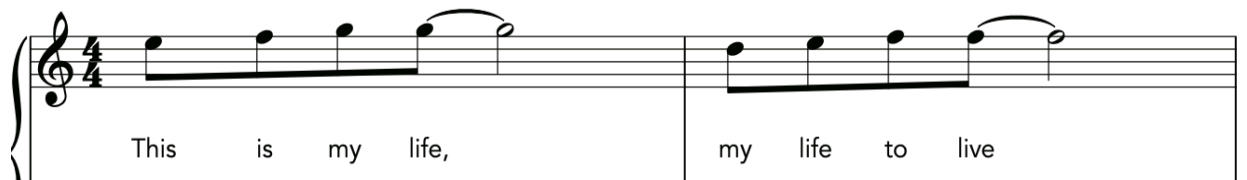
Two Strategies

- Simplifying
- Segmenting

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Simplifying

- Double the note values
 - Distill down to singles, doubles and quads
 - Easier to digest while retaining the same rhythm relationships
 - Double as many times as needed until 16th notes are the most complicated rhythm component
- Conceptual Example 1 - I'll Be There (FL2)



- Conceptual Example 2 - The Mirron (Jazz Clues)



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- Complex Examples

See Music Excerpts (separate handout) - Simplifying

- Bach Partita II Sinfonia
- Beethoven Sonata No 18

Segmenting

- Segment measures into single beats
- Start with easy ones
- Pencil in vertical lines
- Simplify (double note values) a single beat if necessary
- Examples

See Music Excerpts (separate handout) - Segmenting

- Beethoven Sonata No. 8 (Pathétique)
- Beethoven Sonata in Fm