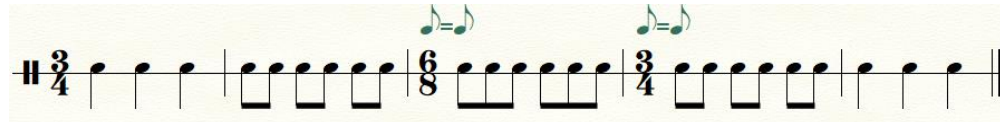# Unit 24 Sight Singing Assignment

1. **Meter Change Procedure #1: note value remains constant, therefore beat changes**

The indication above the staff tells you that the note values don't change when the meter does. Therefore, the speed of the beat will alter at the meter change.

2. **Meter Change Procedure #2: beat remains constant, therefore note value changes**

When the indication above the staff equates two unequal note values – such as a quarter note and a dotted quarter note – it means that the value of the beat stays the same over the meter change. Therefore, it is the note values themselves that must alter.

In the first example, take care to observe that m.2 and m.4 should sound identical. In the second example, mm. 1 and 4 are the same and mm. 2 and 3 are also the same. There is more than one way to notate the same thing!
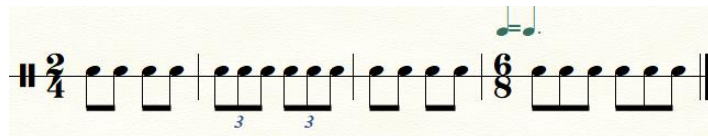

This procedure is very useful for the composer and performer to move seamlessly between simple and compound meters. In this example, be very careful that your divisions and subdivisions of the beats are perfectly precise.

3. Hemiola

Hemiola is defined as a change to note groupings that gives the impression of changing meter without actually changing meter. In the first example, mm. 3-4 give the impression of being in 3/2, but the written meter is still 3/4.
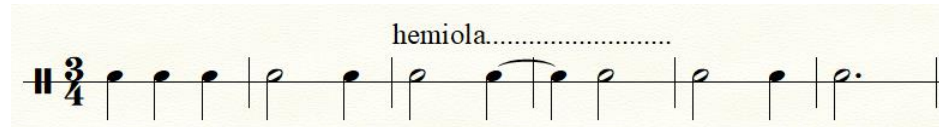
3/8 is an interesting time signature, because depending on context, it can be conducted either in 3 (simple time) or in 1 (compound time). Perform the following rhythm twice, the first time conducting in a "small 3," the second time conducting in a "big 1."
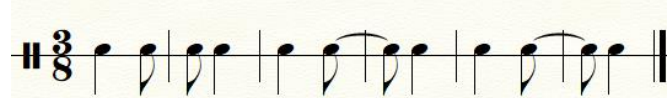

In rhythms containing triplets, two tripletized eighth notes add up to the value of one tripletized quarter note. This principle is very useful in the next example.

4. Irregular (Asymmetrical) Meters (5, 7)

- In a 5 time signature, conduct in a "big 2." This might be "3+2" (notate △| in your score if desired) or "2+3" (notate |△ if desired).
- In a 7 time signature, conduct in a "big 3." Therefore: (a) △|| (b) ||△ (c) |△| (rare)
- You can determine how to conduct irregular meter by examining the note groupings and/or beamings in the score.
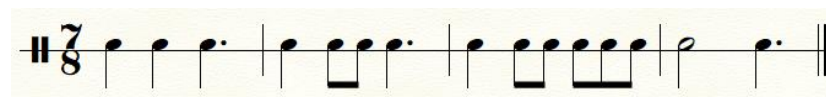
Metric (Tempo) Modulation

Aural Skills IV

Deduce the metronome marking for each section and write it in. When a subdivision stays constant but the beat changes, you have to know the speed of the little note (for instance, if quarter=90, sixteenth=360). Perform by conducting the appropriate meter and speaking "tah." Perform at the indicated tempi. Do the accents!!!