

Complex Meter

SIMPLE METERS AND COMPOUND METERS ARE BOTH USED QUITE A BIT IN THE COMMON PRACTICE PERIOD, BUT THEY WERE RARELY FOUND TOGETHER... MOST PIECES EXCLUSIVELY USED ONE OR THE OTHER!

COMPOUND METER, COMPOUND METER, WHEREFORE ART THOU COMPOUND?

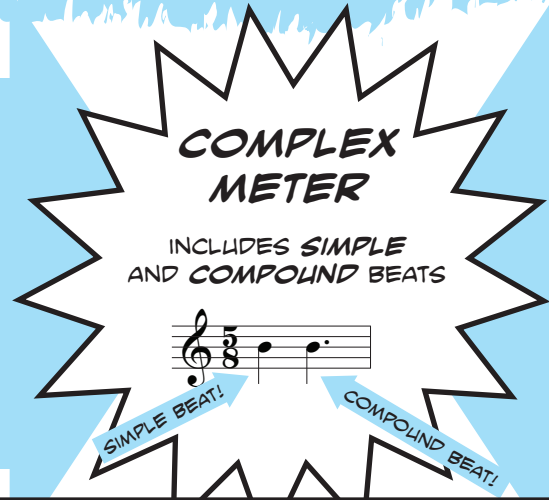
ON THE RARE OCCASION THAT THEY WERE COMBINED, IT WAS GENERALLY AS **MIXED METER**, WHEN THE METER CHANGES FROM ONE MEASURE TO THE NEXT.

UH, BECAUSE OF THIS DOT...?



CONSISTENT ALTERNATIONS LIKE THIS ARE OFTEN WRITTEN WITH **TWO TIME SIGNATURES** AT THE BEGINNING, LIKE THIS: $\frac{6}{8} \frac{3}{4}$

BUT TWENTIETH-CENTURY COMPOSERS - ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE WORKING IN A STYLE CALLED **PRIMITIVISM**, WHICH FEATURED **PRIMAL, UNPREDICTABLE RHYTHMS** - WOULD TAKE THE **COMBINATION OF SIMPLE AND COMPOUND RHYTHMS** TO THE NEXT LEVEL!



SIMPLE METER

BEAT UNIT DIVISIBLE BY TWO

BEAT SHOWN BY UNDOTTED NOTE

COMPLEX METER

INCLUDES SIMPLE AND COMPOUND BEATS



SIMPLE BEAT!

COMPOUND BEAT!

COMPOUND METER

BEAT UNIT DIVISIBLE BY THREE

BEAT SHOWN BY DOTTED NOTE

IN THESE METERS, THE BEATS WILL BE **UNEVEN!** THE NOTE THAT SERVES AS THE **DIVISION** OF THE BEAT REMAINS **CONSTANT** THROUGHOUT THE MEASURE.



SO THESE **EIGHTH NOTES** SHOULD ALL BE THE **SAME LENGTH!**

LIKE **COMPOUND METERS**, THE **TIME SIGNATURE** FOR COMPLEX METERS IS BASED ON THE **DIVISION** OF THE BEAT. BUT, IN FACT, THESE METERS STILL HAVE **TWO, THREE OR FOUR** BEATS PER MEASURE!

$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{8}{8}$	$\frac{9}{8}$	$\frac{10}{8}$	$\frac{11}{8}$
CAN BE WRITTEN AS	CAN BE WRITTEN AS	CAN BE WRITTEN AS	CAN BE WRITTEN AS	CAN BE WRITTEN AS	CAN BE WRITTEN AS
$\frac{2+3}{8}$	$\frac{2+2+3}{8}$	$\frac{2+3+3}{8}$	$\frac{3+2+2+2}{8}$	$\frac{3+3+2+2}{8}$	$\frac{2+3+3+3}{8}$
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
$\frac{3+2}{8}$	$\frac{3+2+2}{8}$	$\frac{3+2+3}{8}$	$\frac{2+3+2+2}{8}$	$\frac{3+2+3+2}{8}$	$\frac{3+2+3+3}{8}$
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
$\frac{2+3+2}{8}$	$\frac{2+3+2}{8}$	$\frac{3+3+2}{8}$	$\frac{2+2+2+3}{8}$	$\frac{2+3+2+3}{8}$	$\frac{3+3+3+2}{8}$

OF COURSE, WHILE USING **8** FOR THE **BOTTOM NUMBER** IS MOST COMMON IN **MODERN SCORES**, ANY NOTE CAN BE USED AS THE DIVISION!

LIKE $\frac{7}{16}$...

OR $\frac{11}{2}$!