

# Some aspects of rhythm

## Sub-dividing

There is a difference between playing the right rhythms, and playing with *underlying rhythmic pulse*. Sub-dividing is one of the keys to good rhythm. It ensures that full value is given to every note and helps to maintain musical direction and flow. All notes longer than very short, fast notes are sub-divided in the player's mind.

1

Example

Romanze in F, op. 50, Beethoven

- First play the subdivisions with the bow. Then mentally hear and feel the pulses while playing normally.

## Sing and tap sub-divided pulse while playing

- Sing a regular pulse, or tap your foot, or sing and tap at the same time, while playing a phrase or a passage.

Practising only a few passages in this way greatly improves rhythmic pulse in general as well as in the passages themselves.

2

Example

Sonata in D, op. 1 no. 13, Handel  
First movement

## Practise accents to mark rhythmic groups

Although a run should end up sounding even, in the player's mind it needs to be sub-divided into groups with rhythmic aiming-points.

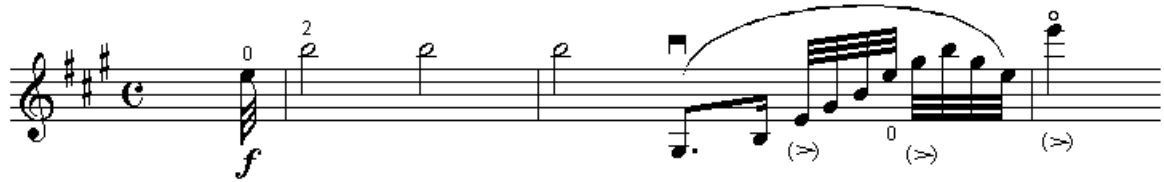
- Establish aiming-points by playing an accent. Afterwards, with the accent removed, the run will retain structure and control.

3

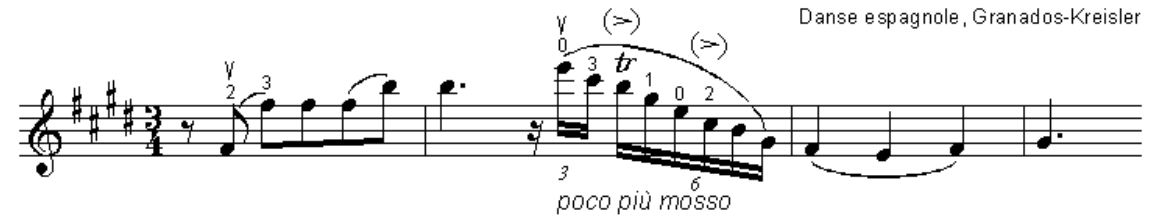
Example

Sonata in E<sup>b</sup>, op. 12 no. 3, Beethoven  
First movement

4  
Example



5  
Example



### Sound + silence = note-value

When a note is played shorter than its full written value, for example when there is a dot marked above it, the silence that follows must be given its full value. Care must be taken not to shorten the space between the notes, leading to a feeling of hurry or instability.

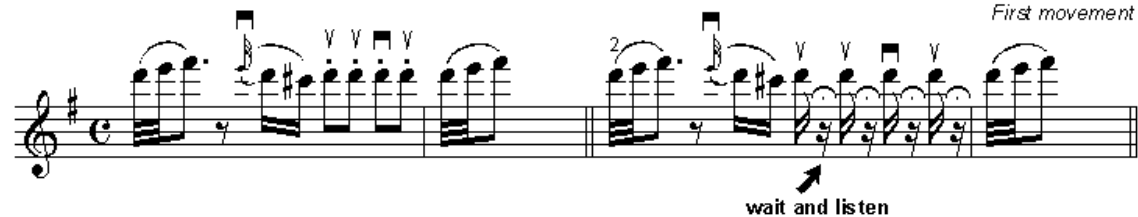


- Listen carefully to the silence in between notes.
- Exaggerate by very slightly lengthening the space between the notes.

6  
Example



7  
Example



### Joining notes to the notes that follow

8  
Example



In dotted patterns the short note usually belongs to the following long note, not to the previous one.

- Practise by pausing slightly before the semiquaver. Then connect it to the following crotchet:

