

Intro to World Music

- Rhythm
 - describes how music is organized in time
- Beat
 - a steady pulsation resulting in regular division of time.
 - Beat Prominence
 - pulsatile music
 - quasi-pulsatile music
 - nonpulsatile music
 - NOTE: Absence of discernible beat \neq absence of beat or rhythm
- Tempo
 - Italian for "time"
 - the rate/speed at which beats pass in music
 - in this class, a (culturally) subjective descriptor
 - Western concept of tempo:
 - 60 BPM = a slow tempo
 - 90 BPM = a moderate tempo
 - 120 BPM = a fast tempo
 - Tempo Changes
 - *accelerando* = gradual increase in tempo
 - *ritardando* or *rallentando* = gradual decrease in tempo
 - *rubato* = pushing and pulling of tempo for expressive purposes
- Meter
 - organization of alternating strong (or "accented") beats and weak beats into reoccurring rhythmic patterns
 - Common metrical patterns (meters):
 - duple (strong - weak)
 - triple (strong - weak - weak)
 - quadruple (strong - weak - medium - weak)
 - quadruple in popular music—emphasis on the "backbeat" (beats 2 & 4)
- Division of the Beat
 - simple division: beats are divided into multiples of two (e.g. "The Alphabet Song")
 - compound division: beats are divided into multiples of three (e.g. "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")
- Syncopation
 - placing emphasis on notes that fall between the primary beat with...
 - an accent
 - an extension of duration
 - both of these techniques
 - like tempo, also culturally subjective
- Dynamics
 - relative volume (loudness) in music
 - used as an expressive element in both Western music and other cultures
 - *crescendo* = gradual increase in volume
 - *decrescendo* = gradual decrease in volume