

Royal College of Music Museum

Time Keepers - Group 1 Activity Pack

- Discover a musical Time Keeper
- Learn about an object from the Royal College of Music Museum
- Complete a Time Keeper challenge

MISSION 1: Discover

What am I?



I am a Time Keeper. I am a machine with a special name.

1. Do you know what I am called?

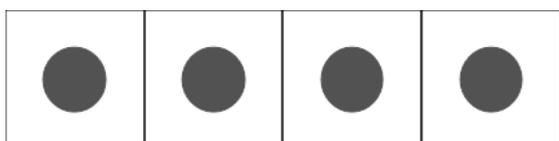
2. How do I work? Follow the instructions below or watch this video.

- Take off the plastic cover if there is one.
- Wind the metal spring on the side.
- Release the pendulum (push it to the side).
- Adjust the speed by moving the metal slide up and down

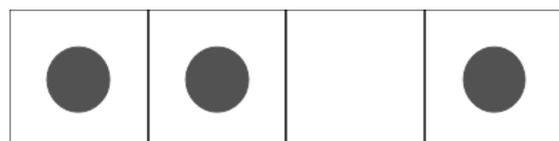


WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ss5Z5qTDQU>

I make a steady beat. This is called a **pulse**.



Can you clap this pulse? One clap for every dot, at a steady pace.



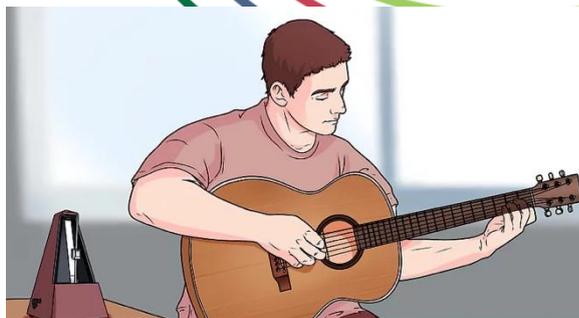
How about this rhythm? Miss a clap where there is no dot.



Or this rhythm?

When musicians practise, a **metronome** helps them to play the music in time (stick to the **tempo**).

Tempo is the speed of a piece. It is measured by the number of beats per minute.



We know what speed to play a piece by looking at the **metronome mark**. A metronome mark looks like this:

$$\text{♩} = 100$$

This means that the speed is 100 crotchet beats per minute.

3. Can you find the **metronome mark** on this piece of music? What is it?

SONATA
Sonata Quasi Una Fantasia

Abbreviations: PS., signifies Principal Subject; SS., Second Subject; C., Coda; R., Return; T., Transition; D., Development.
1st Edition"

Adagio sostenuto M.M. ♩ = 50

L.van BEETHOVEN, Op. 27, No. 2

Si deve suonare tutto questo pezzo delicatissimamente e senza sordini. **a)**

legato sempre
b) sempre p^{pp} e senza sordini

pp ma cantando con espressione

4. Sometimes composers just use words to describe the **tempo**. These words are often in the Italian language.

Can you set your metronomes to these speeds? Take turns. You can choose any number between the range given.

Italian word	What does it mean?	Speed
<i>Andante</i>	At a walking pace	Between 76 - 108 beats per minute
<i>Allegro</i>	At a fast, lively pace	Between 120 - 156 beats per minute
<i>Presto</i>	Very quickly	Between 168 - 200 beats per minute
<i>Largo</i>	Slow	Between 40 - 60 beats per minute

MISSION 2: Learn



While travelling to Amsterdam in 1814, an inventor called Johann Maelzel spotted a gadget that helped to measure musical beats. He borrowed the idea and added a **pendulum** (the bit that swings) – and he called it a **metronome**.

Here is an example of Maelzel's metronome that belongs to the Royal College of Music Museum.

Maelzel was determined to make his metronome a success, but how could he encourage musicians to use it?

Luckily for Maelzel, he was friends with the great classical composer **Ludwig van Beethoven**. Beethoven thought the metronome was a brilliant invention, and he started to use the special **metronome marks** in his music. And the rest is history!



Quick quiz

(Find the answers at the end of the activity pack)

1. What was a steady beat called?

2. What do you call the speed of a piece?

3. What do metronomes help musicians to do?

4. What swinging addition did Maelzel add to his metronome invention?

5. Who was Maelzel's famous friend who helped make the metronome a success?

MISSION 3: Challenge

Now it is your turn to be Time Keepers! Can you complete these challenges using your metronome? For each challenge you'll need to choose a member of your group to be in the leader in charge of the metronome.

Challenge 1

The leader chooses a speed on the metronome.

Can you pat your knees in time with the clicks?

The leader changes the speed of the metronome.

Can you keep up with the changes?

Challenge 2

The leader will set a speed on the metronome.

Can you say these tongue twisters in time with the clicks?

Tongue Twister No. 1

Red lorry, yellow lorry
Red lorry, yellow lorry
(Repeat)

Tongue Twister No. 2

I scream
You scream
We all scream
For ice cream!

Quick Quiz answers

1. A steady beat is called a **pulse**.
2. The speed of a piece is the **tempo**.
3. Metronomes help musicians to **keep in time**.