

**Pedagogical Assignment #3:
Rhythm Textbooks
(Due Friday, September 12)**

Several dedicated rhythm books are on reserve at the music library:

Hall/Urban, *Studying Rhythm*, 4th edition
 Hoffman, *The Rhythm Book*, 2nd edition (provided online; library as 1st edition)
 Kazez, *Rhythm Reading: Elementary through Advanced Training*, 2nd edition

Please think of this limited comparison as a kind of warm-up for the first big textbook review project. When you notice differences among books, you should first ask yourself whether these differences are significant. If so, consider what each author's reasoning might have been that led to such a different approach.

1. All three of these books begin with exercises in $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$. Hall and Urban use a separate chapter for each meter; Hoffman's chapter includes $\frac{2}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$; Kazez concludes with two exercises in $\frac{5}{4}$, two exercises in $\frac{7}{4}$, and two exercises with changing meters ($\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$).
 - Is separating vs. combining $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$ important to you? Explain.
 - Why might it make sense to Hoffman to include duple, triple, and quadruple meters with an eighth-note beat or a half-note beat?
 - Why might it make sense to Kazez to include $\frac{5}{4}$, $\frac{7}{4}$, and changing meters?
2. Compare the introductory compound meter chapters of all three books.
 - Briefly summarize the content of each chapter, making sure the differences among the books are clear.
 - Do these compound meter chapters seem consistent with their corresponding introductory simple meter chapters? Explain.
3. Based on your observations, how do you think each author approaches rhythm? Your answer should include a plausible explanation for the differences in these books, and why they make sense from the authors' perspectives. (Helpful hint: what common pattern is missing from Kazez's initial compound meter chapter?)
4. People disagree about which book is most challenging because the evaluation depends on what one considers challenging. Identify some arguably difficult features that appear much earlier in one book than in the others, or perhaps are omitted from the others. (You may choose challenging features from different books.) Why might the author have found it either reasonable (i.e., not very difficult) or important to introduce this feature early?

Write up your answers and submit the document either on paper or electronically (as an e-mail attachment) by the beginning of class on Friday, September 12.