

Lesson 10: Rest Values

If you recall, the concept of playing “legato” involves moving from one note to the next with no breaks or gaps in between. However, sometimes it is desirable to have a gap where no notes are played for a short time. This gap is called a “**rest**”. During a rest, no keys should be played and no notes should be held over from previous beats. There should be no sound coming from the piano during a rest.

Just as the appearance of a note indicates the number of beats the note is held, the appearance of a rest indicates the duration of a rest, measured in beats.

<u>Name</u>		<u>Value (# of beats)</u>	<u>Occupies ?? fraction of a measure</u>
quarter rest		1	1/4 of a measure
half rest		2	2/4 (1/2) of a measure <i>Looks like an right-side-up hat – a “half” gentleman only tips his hat half-way upside-down</i>
whole rest		4	4/4 of a measure <i>Looks like an upside down hat – a “whole” gentleman tips his hat the whole way upside-down</i>

There is no symbol that represents a rest with a value of three beats – at least not one that is commonly used.

Within a given measure, the values of the notes and rests in each clef should add up to the number of beats associated with that measure (for example, four beats in the treble clef and four beats in the bass clef for a measure in 4/4 time).

Rests in the treble clef indicate the beats during which the right hand should be silent. Rests in the bass clef indicate the beats during which the left hand should be silent.

For the Younger Student

New vocabulary: **quarter rest, half rest, whole rest**

"Rests last for a certain number of beats"

- 1) To help your child learn to identify the visual differences in the appearance of rests, have him or her look through his or her book to find examples of each type of rest.

- 2) Using random measures of music from his or her music book, have your child count the beats out loud – clap when the notes should be played and throw the hands outward (farther apart) when the rests should occur. This way, he or she can focus on the rhythm without having to simultaneously figure out which keys to play. This develops visual recognition of rhythms. (This is difficult and will take time to master – please be patient!)
- 3) Help your child develop an ear for rhythm by tapping out a simple rhythm (that includes both notes and rests) on a firm surface (like a table top), then ask him or her to mimic the rhythm based upon what he or she hears (not what he or she sees on paper). Keep it interesting by counting the beats out loud sometimes and not other times. (This is difficult and will take time to master – please be patient!)