

Lesson 11: The eighth note (quaver)

and tempo directions

A eighth note (quaver) is a note that is half a beat long. It looks like a quarter note but has a small tail on the end of the stem.

One eighth note on its own looks like this:



Two together look like this:



An eighth note (quaver) rest looks like this:



Tip:

- *quaver* is another name for a *eighth note*

To get the feel of how fast eighth notes are try clapping this rhythm:



Away In a Manger

William J. Kirkpatrick

A - way in a man - ger no crib for a bed, the

li - ttle lord Je - sus lay down his sweet head. The

stars in the bright sky look down where he lay, the

li - ttle lord Je - sus a sleep on the hay.

Tempo directions

Usually, at the start of a piece of music, you will see a word or two telling you how fast or slow to play. Often these words are in Italian. It is useful to know the meaning of a few of them.

Here are some of the most common words. You should try to memorise them.

Allegro - quick

Allegretto - fairly quick

Presto - very quick

Andante - at a medium speed

Maestoso - majestically

Lento - quite slow

Largo - very slow

Adagio - slow

Vivace - lively

You may wonder why musical directions are usually given in Italian?

This is because Italy was the centre of European music during the 16th century when many of the rules of classical music were being standardised and the Italian ideas gradually spread right through Europe and the world.

If playing *Happy Birthday* with accompaniment, play it an octave higher than written.

Andante **Happy Birthday to You**

Accompaniment for *Happy Birthday*