



THE CLIBURN

# CLIBURN KIDS

with Buddy Bray



## EPISODE 8: IN FIVE DESMOND "TAKE FIVE"

# TODAY'S WORKSHEET

"Take Five" is a jazz standard written by saxophonist Paul Desmond in the late 1950s. It was originally recorded in 1959 and made famous by the Dave Brubeck Quartet. Two years later, it became a surprise hit and the biggest-selling jazz single ever. Watch [this video](#) of the Dave Brubeck Quartet performing it live!

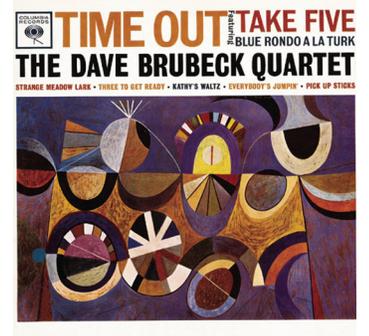
### METER REVIEW

Let's review our previous lesson on feeling meter in music!

Match these words with their definition below.

**METER**      **BEAT**      **TIME SIGNATURE**

**TRIPLE METER**      **DUPLE METER**



- \_\_\_\_\_ How music is divided up: what note length gets the beat, and how many beats will be in each measure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beat groupings of 2.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The rhythmic pattern made in music by putting together strong and weak beats in different groupings, and it is how we "feel" music.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The regular rhythmic pattern of music. Time is counted in music by using these.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beat groupings of 3.

Different beat groupings, or the order of beat groupings, create a certain rhythmic feel in music. For example, a waltz or minuet is always in triple meter, or beat groupings of 3; a march, like Stars and Stripes Forever, is often in duple meter, or beat groupings of 2.



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### ODD METERS

As Buddy explains in this episode, some pieces of music don't fit within either triple or duple meter! The piece we are hearing today is in 5, which musicians call an odd meter. An **odd meter** is simply a meter that does not fit within beat groupings of 2, 3, or 4, the most common meters in music. Music in 5 and 7 are both common odd meters. Listen to Buddy play the piece, and describe how it sounds. Is it steady or unsteady? Is there a pattern you notice? How does it make you feel?

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Does it sound a little bit like both triple and duple meter? That's because it is! We can combine groupings of 3 and 2 to get the feel of a song in 5. Let's figure out how to put those beat groupings together so it matches the piece!

Let's start with triple meter, since we have done this before.

Start counting out loud to 3 at a steady pace, and clap along to help feel the beat.

**1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3**

Now take a big step forward every time you say "1", and stand in place for counts 2 and 3. You can also clap louder, or say "1" louder than "2" or "3". Chances are, you will start doing one or both of those things automatically as you start to feel the pulse of the music!

**1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3**  
*step! step! step!*



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Let's do the same thing in duple meter. The strong beat in duple meter is also on beat 1.

**1 2 1 2 1 2** Count out loud to 2 first.

**1 2 1 2 1 2** Then add your step!  
*step! step! step!*

Now, let's combine them to make 5! Combining 2 and 3 will always equal 5, but when we are putting music together, it matters which beat grouping comes first, because it will change the feel of the music. Try the count and step exercise with the patterns in both boxes below. You can count to 5, or stick with the beat groupings of 2 and 3. Now listen again to Buddy play the music, and circle the box with the correct beat groupings below!

**3 + 2 = 5**  
**1 23 + 1 2**  
**1 2 3 4 5**

**2 + 3 = 5**  
**1 2 + 1 23**  
**1 2 3 4 5**

Can you step in time as Buddy plays the music? It might feel a little strange!



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# LEARN ABOUT THE COMPOSER!

### **PAUL DESMOND** 1924–1977

Paul Desmond was an American jazz alto saxophonist and composer, best known for his years with the Dave Brubeck Quartet, as well as his composition of the jazz standard, "Take Five." He made the piece famous with the Dave Brubeck Quartet in the early 1960s.

Paul Desmond was born Paul Emil Breitenfeld in 1924 in San Francisco. His father, Emil Breitenfeld, was a pianist, organist, composer, and arranger. Paul began playing the clarinet at age 12, and continued to study through high school. He had wanted to be a violinist, but his father convinced him to stick with the clarinet, since clarinetists were less common than violinists. Paul began playing the alto saxophone in college. He was drafted during World War II and played for the Army band for a time, but never saw combat.



After the war ended, Paul began working as a musician in San Francisco. He changed his last name to Desmond, after a famous singer from the time. He met pianist Dave Brubeck, and began playing full time in his Dave Brubeck Quartet in the late 1950s. It was during this time that he composed his now famous "Take Five," which was a surprise smash hit in 1961. Paul played with the Dave Brubeck Quartet until 1967, when the group disbanded. Paul and Dave remained good friends until Paul's death in 1977.

In addition to his work with Dave Brubeck, Paul Desmond performed with a number of other well-known jazz musicians during his time, including trumpeter Chet Baker and fellow saxophonist Gerry Mulligan. He composed, performed, and recorded regularly until his death. He appeared on countless stages and on dozens of albums over his decades-long career. "Take Five" remains one of the most famous jazz standards ever written.