



# INTRODUCTION / DEFINITION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Thirty days has September,  
April, June and November.  
All our days are filled with rhythm,  
Head to toe and inside out.  
Days of rhythm, beat and wonder  
Make me want to dance and shout!*

Adapted

## WHAT IS RHYTHM?

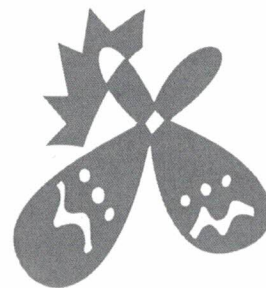
We've got rhythm, but what is it exactly? In defining the term **rhythm**, many elements of music are involved.

### Rhythm:

- is the organization of musical sounds in time (tempo).
- is measured motion, a grouping of notes based on time value.
- can exist independently, without melody, through speech, body percussion and unpitched instruments.
- is the aspect of music that deals with duration of sound.
- is made up of basic beats and pulses, some more accented and prominent than others.
- is the first essential of melody, giving structure to the upward and downward motion of pitches.

Throughout these thirty lessons on rhythm, apply your natural rhythmical instincts to better understand these concepts:

1. **Beat**
2. **Rhythm of the words** (song text)
3. **Accents** (strong, weak beats)
4. **Duration/Value** (long/short sounds and silences)
5. **Meter** (duple/triple/quadruple)
6. **Syncopation**



Rhythm patterns may be **even**, **uneven** and/or **syncopated**. Several rhythm components interact in a musical composition; **beat**, **accent** and the **rhythm of the melody**. In subsequent lessons, you will learn more about these essentials of rhythm.