



CONDUCTING / ANACRUSIS

Name _____

Whether or not you will ever **conduct** a fine choir, band or orchestra, learning to be a **conductor** is a positive way to respond to rhythm. Information you have learned about **steady beat**, **accent** and **meter** will be useful as you practice this skill.

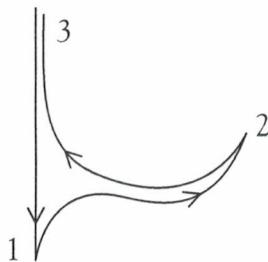
Shown below are standard conducting patterns used universally by conductors. In each pattern there is a strong downbeat followed by weaker upward pulses. The diagrams show the patterns for a right-handed director, but can be reversed for a left-handed person. Often, both hands are used for emphasis and sustaining one group of musicians as another group cuts off.

CONDUCTING PATTERNS

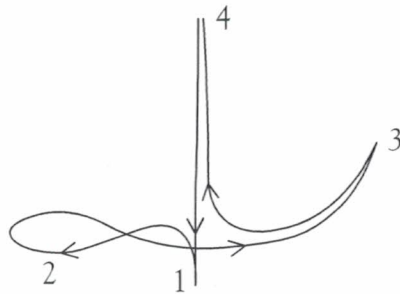
Practice each of these patterns slowly at first, then faster with appropriate recorded music and class singing.



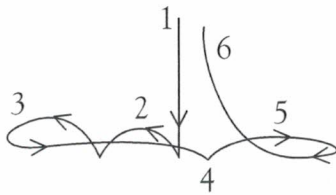
Two-Beat Pattern (down-up), counting 1-2



Three-Beat Pattern (down-right-up), counting 1-2-3



Four-Beat Pattern (down-left-right-up), counting 1,2,3,4



Six-Beat Pattern (down-left-left-right-right-up), counting 1,2,3,4,5,6

ANACRUSIS

Music does not always start on the first beat of the measure. You will notice that sometimes a piece starts one or more beats before the first strong downbeat. This beginning ahead of the downbeat is called an **anacrusis**, which is also referred to as a 'pick-up note'. An anacrusis consists of less than a full measure of counts, coming just before the first full measure of music.

When this happens, the last measure of the piece will supply the missing beats to constitute a full measure when added together.

Notice this beginning of "America, the Beautiful" to see how an 'anacrusis' is presented. See how many other songs you can find in your music textbook or octavo music featuring an 'anacrusis' at the beginning of a song.

Ex.

X