

Music Theory for Irish Dancers

Rhythm in Irish Traditional Music *Online Video Course*

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In this course, we will be analyzing the rhythm and timing commonly found in Irish dance, and how it relates to the traditional music to which it is set. Beginning with a crash course in music theory – with an emphasis on counting various time signatures and interpreting rhythms – each subsequent week will focus on one particular tune type (i.e. reels, jigs, etc.).

WEEK ONE – Intro to Music Theory

- Finding the Beat
- Rhythms
- Time Signatures
 - Simple
 - Compound
- Tempo Spectrum

WEEK TWO – Reels

- Cut Time (2/2)
- Tempo: 82 – 124 BPM
- Soft Shoe Rhythms
- Treble Reel Rhythms

WEEK THREE – Hornpipes

- 4/4 Time
- Tempo: 113 – 144 BPM
- Traditional Speed Rhythms
- Slow Hornpipe Rhythms

WEEK FOUR – Jigs

- 6/8 Time
- Tempo
 - 92 – 132 BPM
 - 73 BPM
- Soft Shoe Rhythms
- Fast Treble Jig Rhythms
- Slow Treble Jig Rhythms

WEEK FIVE – Slip Jigs

- 9/8 Time
- Tempo: 80 – 113 BPM
- Soft Shoe Rhythms

WEEK SIX – Set Dancing*

- Set Dancing Examples
- Reels vs. Polkas
- Battering
- Slides

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