

PLAY IT AGAIN

Using repeats and repetitions

■ Sometimes an idea is so good that it's worth saying a second or even third time. Repetition, either exact or with variations, is one of the basic organizing principles of music. Repeated notes, phrases, rhythms,

chord progressions, and even entire repeated sections create patterns which help listeners (or players) make sense of the music. So, good music can be surprisingly repetitive!

Single repeated measures of music are indicated by a symbol in the middle of the measure that resembles a percent sign.



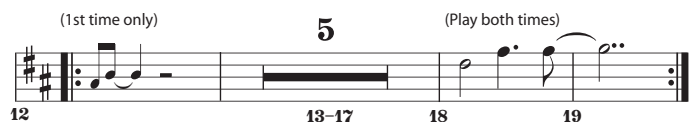
Repeat brackets, consisting of one thick and one thin vertical bar with two dots enclosing the center line of the staff, are used when one or more measures of music are to be immediately repeated. They're placed at the beginning and end of the repeated passage.

If there are no other indications, the section should be repeated once. Occasionally you will see extra instructions over the repeat dots, for example to play the section "3x" (three times).



It's common for longer sections of music to have two or more different endings. When this happens, a numbered bracket over the music will show you which measures to play each time you arrive at the ending point. For example, the second time you reach the end of a repetition, you will skip the music in all the other endings, play only the measures in the second ending, and then do whatever the second ending directs you to do, such as repeat, go on, or skip to somewhere else.

Occasionally, the music contained within repeats on an individual part is to be played for only one of those repetitions. In this case, 1st time only or Tacet 2nd time (tacet = silence) will be placed above the music indicated.



One final tip: if you have a large number of repeated measures in a row, number them (in pencil) to help you keep track of where you are in the music.

