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Well hey there and welcome to the very first episode of Busy Kids Love Music, an educational podcast for music-lovers brought to you by Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano.

Today we're talking all about rhythm.

Rhythm might be a word that you hear a lot when people are talking about music. Someone might say something like, "This piece has great rhythm!" or maybe your piano teacher tells you that you need to work on the rhythm in your music. But if someone asks you what rhythm is, you might not be sure how to explain it!

Think of rhythm as a way of organizing the beats in music.

If you open up your silverware drawer, you might have all the spoons in one place and the forks in another place. Open up your dresser drawers and perhaps your t-shirts are in one drawer and your shorts in another. Rhythm is like this -- it's our way of organizing the beats in music so that musicians can make sense of the music. Rhythm is often the thing in music that makes us move and groove to music.

Rhythm is made up of sounds and silences.

Some of those sounds are long and some sounds are short.

Listen to me a clap a rhythm.

Now let's clap it together.

Let's try another one. You listen.

Let's do it together.

You just clapped a rhythm -- some of the sounds we clapped were long, some were short.

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All music has rhythm! In the Baroque period of music, which was music composed in the years 1600-1750, rhythm was often very repetitive. Listen to how the rhythms in this piece repeat often.

As music developed and changed through the years, rhythms became more complicated and would even change often in the same piece of music.

Next time you're listening to a piece of music, notice the rhythm. Does the rhythm have a pattern that repeats, or is it always changing? Is the rhythm easy to make sense of, or is it unpredictable?

On our next episode of Busy Kids Love Music, we're going to learn about Edvard Grieg and his most famous work, *Peer Gynt* -- which has among it some very repetitive rhythms and themes that might be familiar to you already.

Just because the episode is over doesn't mean the learning has to stop. I've created a free 5 day music camp for kids that goes deeper into exploring rhythm and piano basics. You can join by visiting busykidsdopiano.com/musiccamp. That's busykidsdopiano.com/musiccamp. For more information on today's episode, including show notes as well as a list of the music you heard, visit busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/1

We'll see you in two weeks on the Busy Kids Love Music podcast!