

- Use a metronome to establish good timing and rhythmic accuracy.
- Use a metronome to help the ensemble have the same source to get tempo info from.
- Ultimately the idea is to NOT need the metronome to do the above.

### Placement if using a speaker:

- Where you place the metronome speaker is important.
- Behind the group (any group) is best.
- On the field, it's best to keep the metronome in the pulse center. This is usually with the battery, behind the center snare, or whatever section has the pulse.
- Never put the metronome up front for the marching band.
- Do not just sit the metronome in the back of the field and leave it. Listening environments change!

### Ways to use the metronome (in order of difficulty):

- Click on full tempo with the smallest subdivision playing (e.g., 16<sup>th</sup> notes playing)
- Click on tempo with the second smallest subdivision playing (e.g., 8<sup>th</sup> notes playing)
- Click on full tempo with quarter note or primary beat playing (e.g., Just the quarter note playing)
- Click on half tempo. (e.g., use every other quarter note click or cut the tempo in half)
- Click on backbeats (e.g., counts 2 and 4 of a 4/4 measure)
- Click on one beat per measure click. (e.g., whole note click for 4/4)
- Click once ever so many beats. (e.g., one click every 8 beats, 16 beats, etc.)
- No metronome, playing together live with great cohesion.

### NOTE:

Music should have life. Everything does not have to be perfectly in time to feel great. The performers and audience should feel comfortable with how the performance is going. Times where the group feels as though it could fall apart or feels uncomfortable should be where you address using the metronome or timing issues. If it feels good but fluctuates in tempo – leave it alone! Part of playing well as an ensemble is knowing what to address and what to leave alone. The main thing is that it feels good, and you are making good MUSIC!

