

Subdivision

Music

Counting the smallest note in the bar fixes most timing problems.

Subdivision means keeping a faster pulse running underneath the one you play.

1 Find the smallest value present

If any sixteenths appear, subdivide in sixteenths throughout.

2 Count it out loud at half speed

Slow enough that every subdivision is real, not imagined.

3 Play with the counting continuing

Long notes are where time is lost; keep counting through them.

4 Fade the counting to internal

Only once the tempo is genuinely stable.

WHERE PLAYERS RUSH

After a long note

Into a rest

At the end of a phrase

Anywhere the subdivision stopped

A metronome on beats 2 and 4 only will expose whether you are actually subdividing.