

'Ready and....'

Bringing the music in:

One of the skills that are essential for the class musician is to be able to 'pick-up' from the teacher's prompt. This is usually from the words 'Ready And' although sometimes 5,6,7,8 is used, more often than not in the USA and Canada.

This prompt is to give the musician the indication of the tempo that the teacher requires. Many dancers believe that this prompt is for them but actually it is not, although it is helpful in preparing them for the music that is to follow.

The tempo of the 'Ready and' indicates the speed. For Reel and Jig time a guide tempo marking is: 112 beats per minute.

If we notate it, in **Reel (4/4)** where the metronome beat equals a minim it will look like this. (Music notation represents the metronome beat) *Notice the 'Ready and' takes 2 bars*



Ready And



Anacrusis* (Lead-in note)

Or if the music is in 2/4 time. Where the metronome beat equals a crotchet. *Notice the Ready and takes 2 bars*

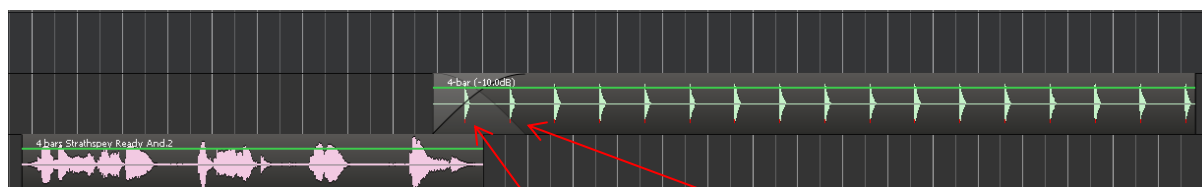


Ready And



Anacrusis* (Lead-in note)

Let's look at this in audio terms with the voice instruction and the metronome beat. This represents 8 bars)



↑
Voice instruction

↑ ↑
'Ready and...'

↑
Anacrusis* (Lead-in Note)

↑
First beat of the bar

**Anacrusis - is the unaccented note or notes which precede the first accent of any rhythmic division in a composition*

'Ready and....'

In **Jig** (6/8) time, where the metronome beat = dotted crotchet.



Ready.....And.....



Anacrusis* (lead-in note)

If we look at this in audio terms with the voice instruction and the metronome beat. This represents 8 bars)



↑ Voice instruction ↑ Ready and... .. ↑ Anacrusis* (Lead-in Note) First beat of the bar

In **Strathspey** time where the metronome beat = 124 crotchet beats per minute it would look like this. Notice the 'Ready and' only takes 1 bar.

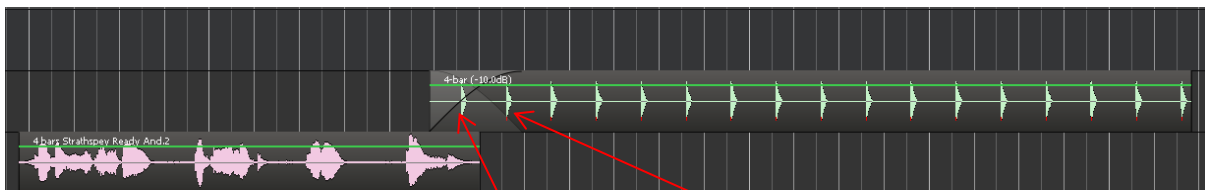


Ready.....And.....



Anacrusis* (lead-in note)

If we look at this in audio terms with the voice instruction and the metronome beat. This represents 8 bars)



↑ Voice instruction ↑ Ready ↑ and... .. ↑ Anacrusis* (Lead-in Note) First beat of the bar

*Anacrusis - is the unaccented note or notes which precede the first accent of any rhythmic division in a composition

'Ready and....'

Pas de bas:

Pas de bas is always taught in reel time.

Often the teacher will break the step down, slow it down considerably, and ask the musician to come in a number of bars after they start, usually 8 bars.

The mantra that has emerged over time is this.

"Step beat beat and, step beat beat and, step beat beat and, on your toes"

"Spring beat beat..... , spring beat beat, with the mu-sic, rea-dy and"

The start of the exercise is considerably slower than you will be play at and the teacher will build the speed over the 8 bars. You need to listen for the

with the mu-sic rea-dy and.....

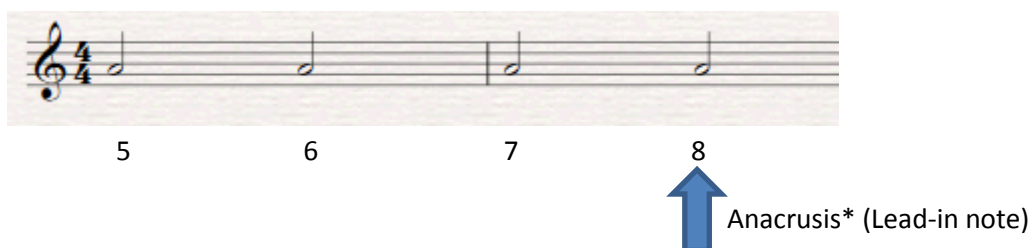
It is the Ready and (again) which gives you the speed at which you should play. Usually they will have asked you to play for 8 bars.

There is an exemplification of this in the resource materials.

Using '5,6,7,8.....'

Some teachers, particularly those from the United States will use 5,6,7,8 instead of 'Ready and....'

If we notate it, in **Reel** (4/4) where the metronome beat equals a minim it will look like this. (Music notation represents the metronome beat) *Notice the Ready and takes 2 bars*

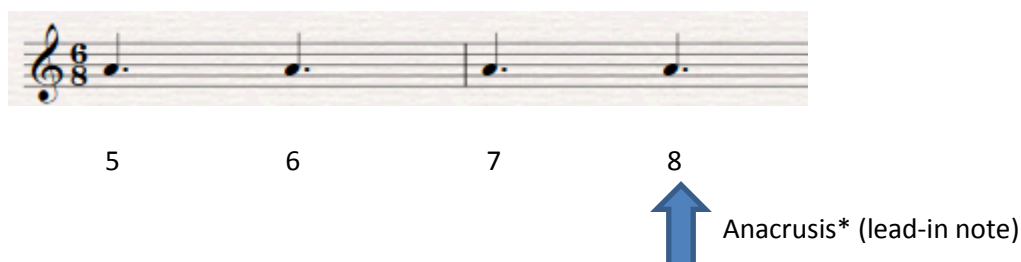


5 6 7 8

↑ Anacrusis* (Lead-in note)

In jig time.

In **Jig** (6/8) time, where the metronome beat = dotted crotchet.



5 6 7 8

↑ Anacrusis* (lead-in note)

**Anacrusis - is the unaccented note or notes which precede the first accent of any rhythmic division in a composition*

'Ready and....'

In strathspey time it will look like this.

In **Strathspey** time where the metronome beat = 124 crotchet beats per minute it would look like this. *Notice the Ready and only takes 1 bar*



5 6 7 8



Anacrusis* (lead-in note)

Practice Materials:

On the Class Musician website there are some practice MP3s that you can use to rehearse this picking-up from the teachers prompt. The LH channel is the teacher's voice whilst the RH channel is the metronome beat which enables you to set the balance between voice and metronome beat. In the last bar the metronome fades away so that you can practice your slight *rallentando* and 'professional' finish to the exercise.

<http://www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/resources.html>

And

http://www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/resources_2.html

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