



# Quaver triplets

The image shows three staves of musical notation. Each staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, followed by four groups of three eighth notes each, each group marked with a '3' above it, then a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, followed by four more groups of three eighth notes each, each marked with a '3' above it. The second staff starts with a '5' above the first measure, followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. It contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, followed by four groups of three eighth notes each, each marked with a '3' above it, then a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, followed by four more groups of three eighth notes each, each marked with a '3' above it. The third staff starts with a '9' above the first measure, followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. It contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, followed by four groups of three eighth notes each, each marked with a '3' above it, then a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, followed by four more groups of three eighth notes each, each marked with a '3' above it.

The aim of this étude is to develop the ability to switch accurately between duple and triple subdivision of the beat, and to practise reading rhythms based on quaver triplets.

The étude can be practised in various ways:

- **Read horizontally:** Sing the étude one line at a time. Conduct or tap the pulse while singing.
- **Read vertically:** Start with bar 2 and read bars 2, 6 and 10 consecutively. Repeat the procedure starting with bar 4. Imagine that the time signature is 12/8 and that the triplet markings have been removed. Read the rhythms as you would in 12/8 (see Figure A). Then read the étude horizontally.

