

JASON HUXTABLE

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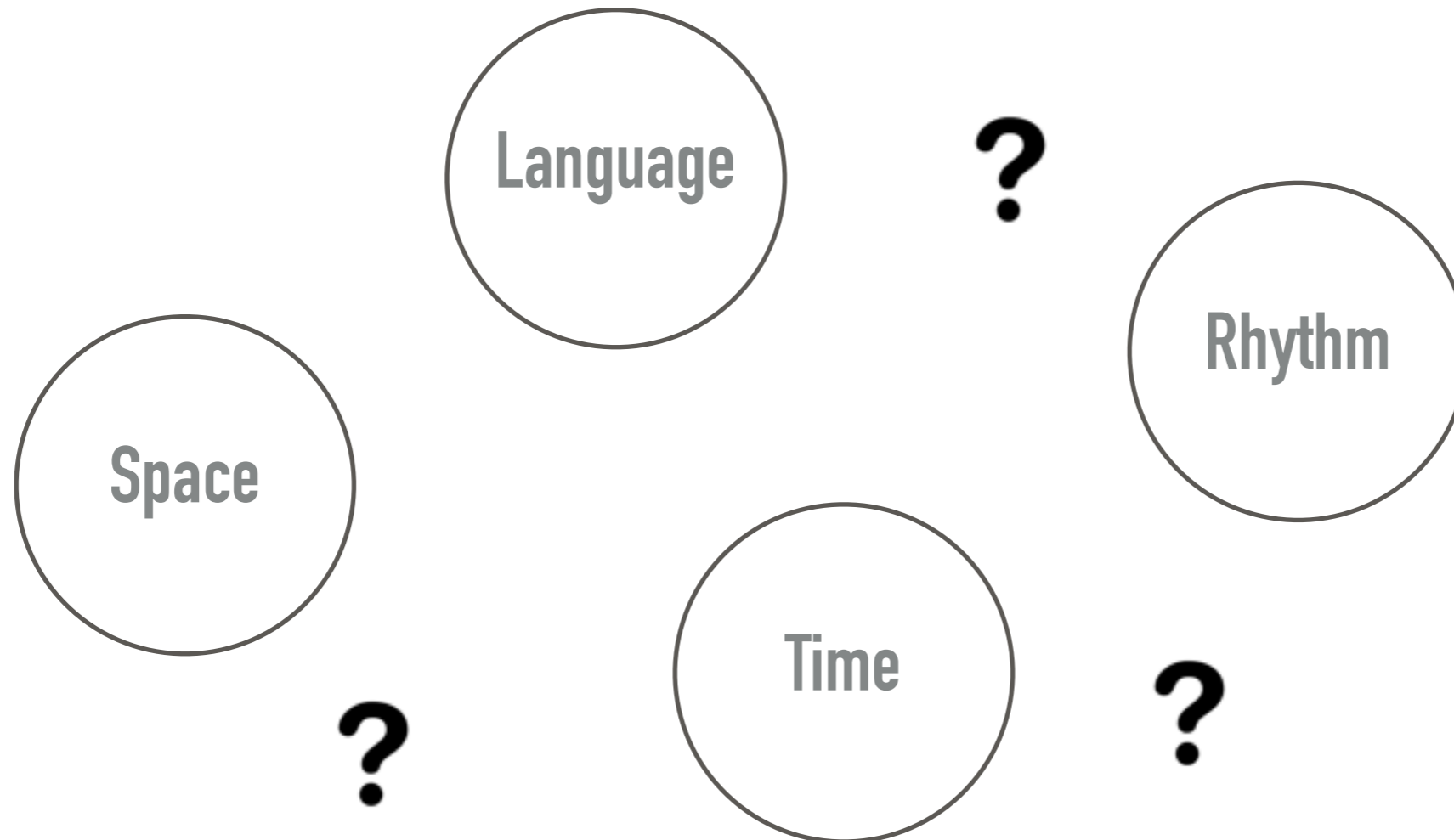
**RHYTHM AND LANGUAGE:**

**'SPACES IN TIME' AS PHONOLOGY**

# ABOUT ME



## THE CALL...



**INTERSECTIONS? RELATIONSHIPS?**

## MUSIC AS A LANGUAGE: WORKSHOP SERIES AT RBC (FHEA)

- ▶ Music as a Language?
- ▶ What is 'Language'?
- ▶ How did we learn our first language?
- ▶ How does this compare with how we learnt 'music'?
- ▶ How does this help us to understand development of **musical language and literacy**?

An easy one to start...

# WHAT IS LANGUAGE?

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‘a system of **communication** used by a particular country or community’

Oxford Living Dictionary [online] <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/language>

‘...is a system of **communication** based upon words and the **combination** of words into sentences. Communication by means of language may be referred to as **linguistic communication**, the other ways mentioned above — laughing, smiling, shrieking, and so on — are types of **non-linguistic communication**.’

**Halvor Eifring & Rolf Theil (2005)** Linguistics for Students of Asian and African Languages

Language is ‘a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a **finite set of elements**’... ‘A finite number of **phonemes** (or letters in its alphabet) and each sentence is representable as a finite sequence of these phonemes (or letters)’. Thus, a grammar of a language should be thought of as ‘a device of some sort for producing the sentences of the language under analysis’.

**Chomsky, N. (1957)** Syntactic Structures. The Hague: Mouton.

**Key Terms:** **Communication, combination, set of elements, finite/infinite sequences, linguistic/non linguistic**

**WHAT IS  
RHYTHM?**

**The phenomenon of events, and non events, which interact with subdivisions of pulse (my definition!)**

**finite set of elements' . . . 'A finite number of phonemes (or letters in its alphabet) and each sentence is representable as a finite sequence of these phonemes (or letters)'.  
Chomsky**

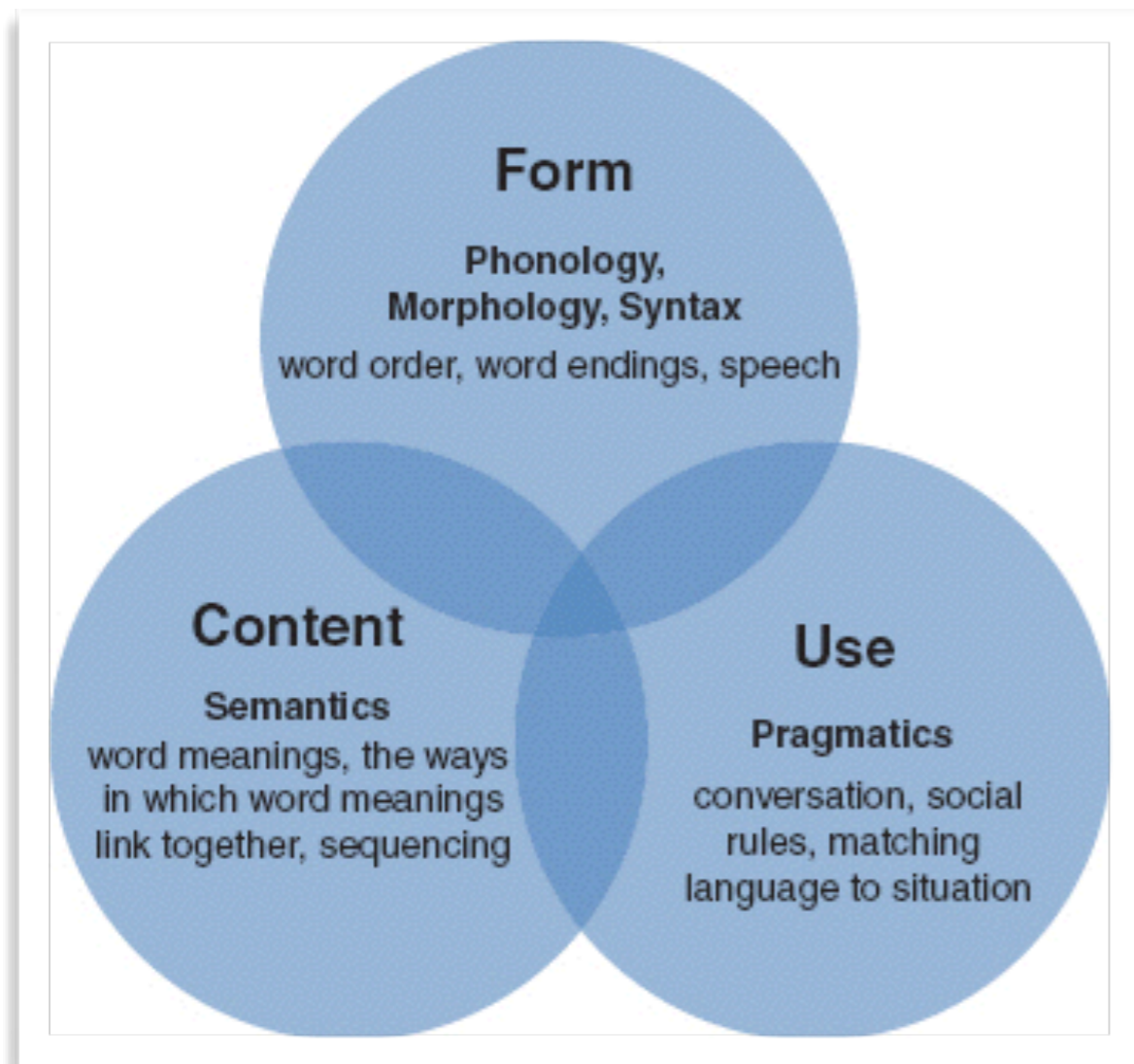
**Rhythmic Phonemes?**

**Key Terms: pulse, subdivision, time, events/non events, phoneme**



# EXPANDING UNITS: RHYTHMIC PHONOLOGY?

## Language



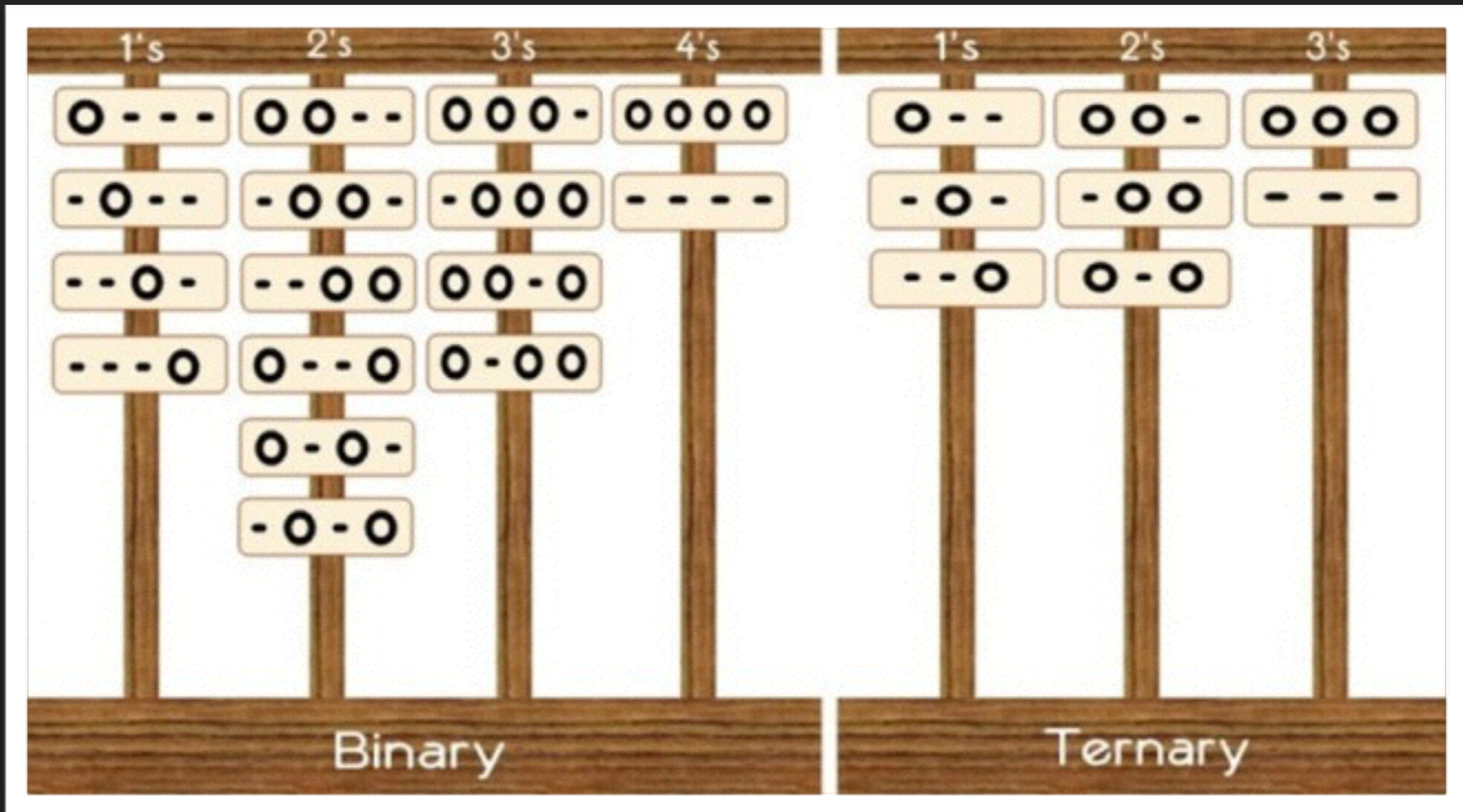
**‘Phonology refers to the rule-governed system by which sound, or phonemes, are combined to create meaningful units, or words.’**

**Driver, L., Ayyangar, R. & Tubbergen, M.V. (2017)** Language Development and Disorders of Communication and Oral Motor Function

[online] <https://musculoskeletalkey.com/language-development-and-disorders-of-communication-and-oral-motor-function/>

## What are rhythmic phonemes?

# THE RHYTHMIC ALPHABET



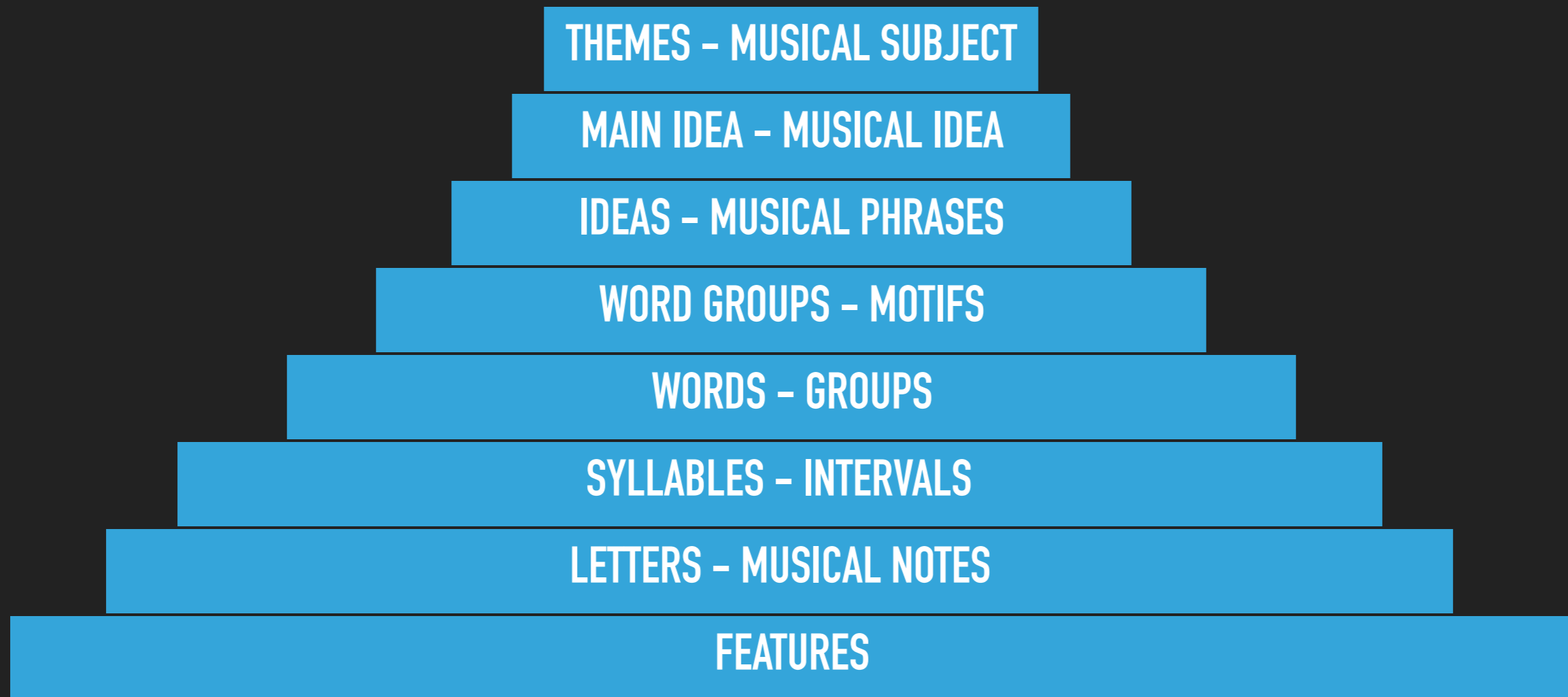
Greb, B (2012). The Language of Drumming Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation

# RHYTHMIC ALPHABET - INITIAL LETTERS

The image displays four musical staves, each representing a different initial letter of the rhythmic alphabet. Each staff begins with a small icon in a box: 'A' (a dot on the left), 'B' (a dot in the middle), 'C' (a dot on the right), and 'D' (a dot on the far right). The musical notation consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. Each staff contains four notes, each with a 'v' above it and the word 'CHIO' written above the note. The notes are quarter notes, and the rhythm is consistent across all staves: a quarter note followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note followed by a quarter rest, and so on.

- Counting and rhythmic ontology
- 'Speaking' the letters
- Cyclic phonemes: group activity
- Examples of more advance rhythms

# HIERARCHIES OF MUSICAL/LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES



**Cantwell, R. Y, Millard (1994).** The relationship between approach to learning and learning strategies in learning music *British Journal for Educational Psychology*, Volume 64, Issue 1, pp. 45-63

## Conclusion

**Exploration of the links between language and rhythm can help develop an understanding of rhythm as:  
phonological constructions of 'phonetic' units, deployed across space and time as communicative action.**

**This understanding develops our ability to perceive, organise and explain rhythmic material, impacting upon communications within performance and pedagogy disciplines.**

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