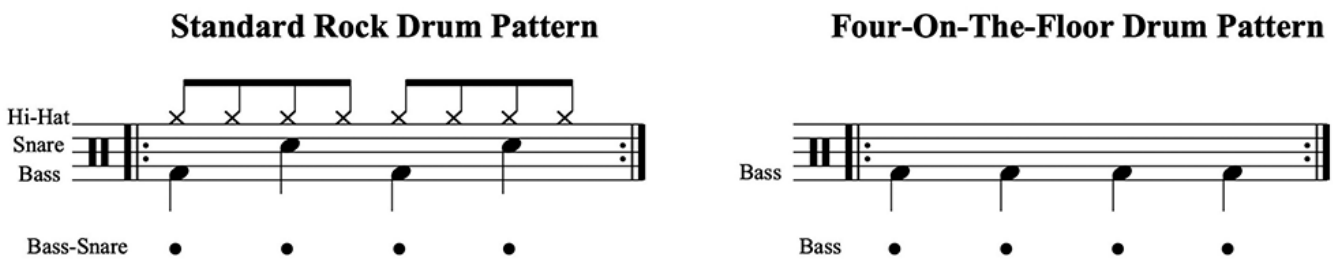
A JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THEORY

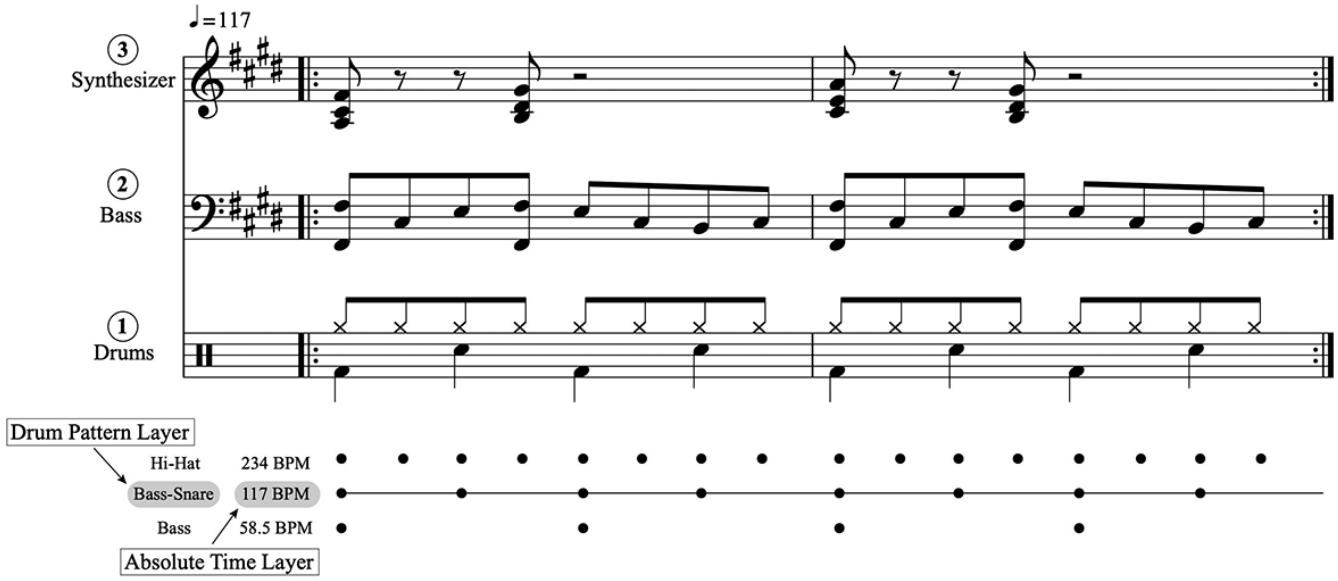
MTO 28.4 Examples: Geary, Analyzing the Beat in Metrically Consonant Popular Songs

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.22.28.4/mto.22.28.4.geary.php

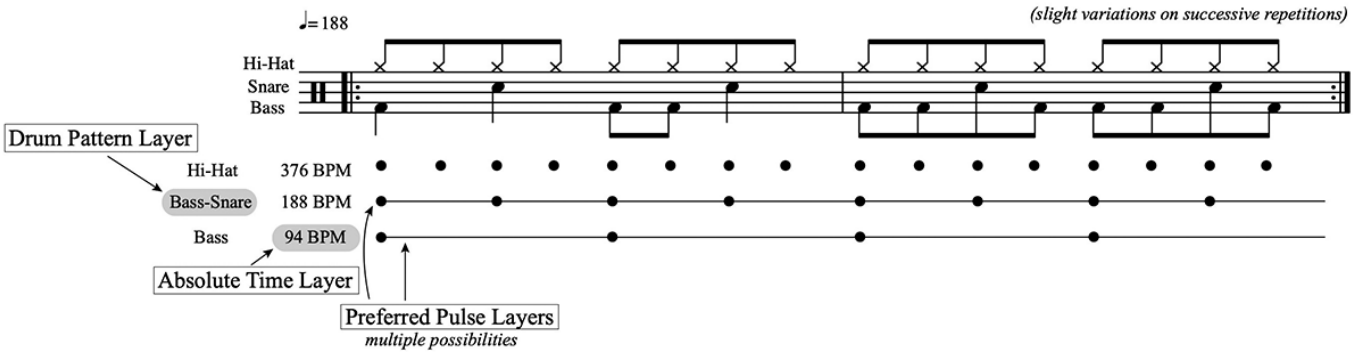
Example 1. The standard rock and four-on-the-floor drum patterns



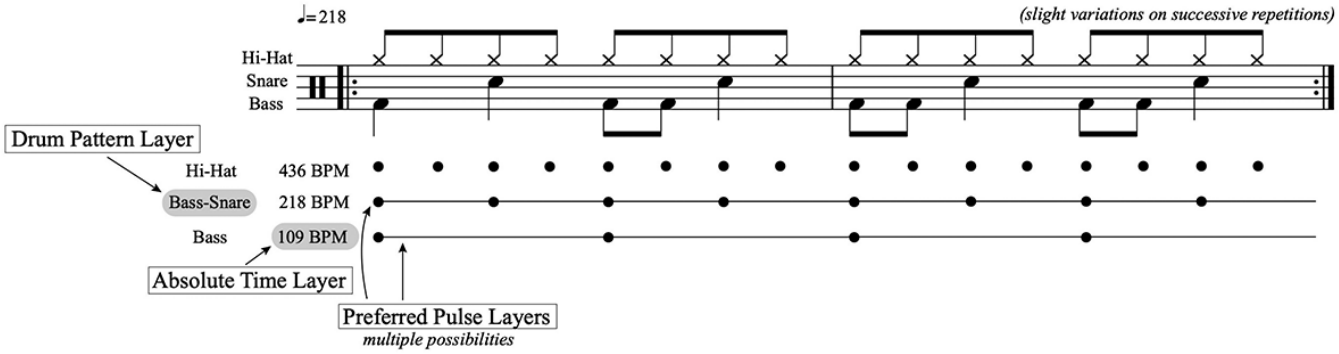
Example 2. "Billie Jean" (Michael Jackson, 1982), Introduction



Example 3. "86" (Green Day, 1995), Verse 1



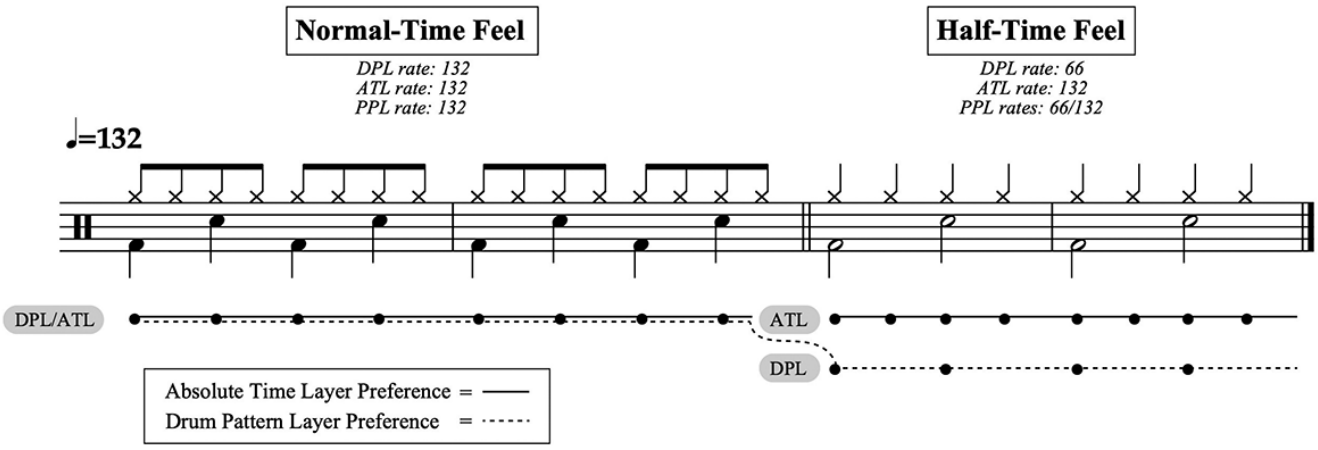
Example 4. "Dammit" (Blink 182, 1997), Verse 1



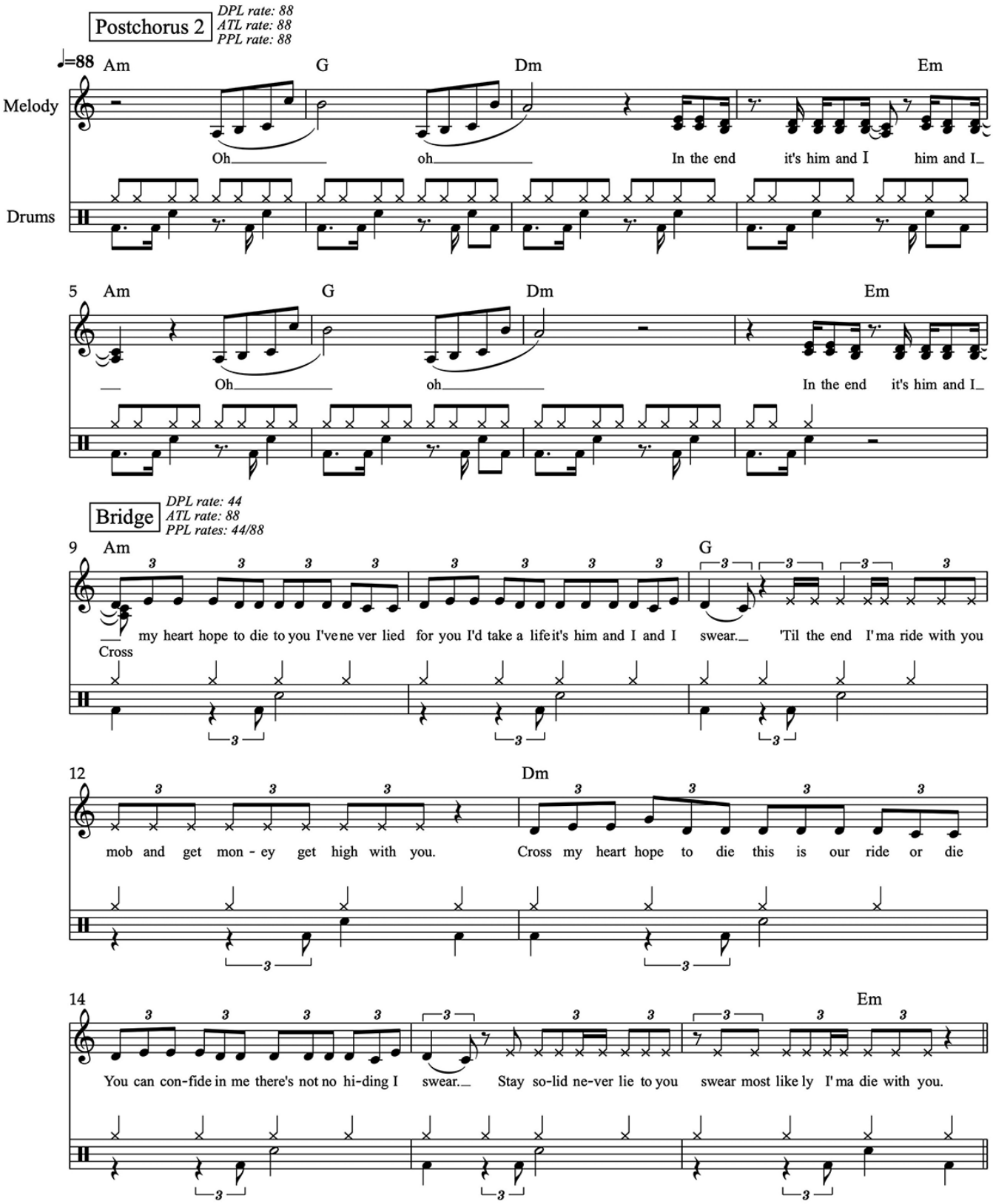
Example 5. Popular songs with a quadruple simple meter and standard rock drum pattern

Artist	Song (Year)	Drum Pattern Layer Rate (BPM)
Michael Jackson	"Human Nature" (1982)	46
Everything Everything	"The Peaks" (2013)	57
Celine Dion	"All By Myself" (1996)	60
The Impressions	"People Get Ready" (1965)	72
Beyoncé	"Halo" (2008)	80
Katy Perry	"Roar" (2013)	90
Lynyrd Skynyrd	"Sweet Home Alabama" (1974)	98
Gnarls Barkley	"Crazy" (2006)	112
Bon Jovi	"It's My Life" (2000)	120
Kelly Clarkson	"Since You've Been Gone" (2004)	131
Van Halen	"You Really Got Me" (1978)	138
Van Morrison	"Brown Eyed Girl" (1967)	149
Jerry Lee Lewis	"Great Balls of Fire" (1958)	160
Panic! At The Disco	"I Write Sins Not Tragedies" (2005)	170
Little Richard	"Tutti Frutti" (1956)	185
The White Stripes	"Fell In Love With A Girl" (2001)	190
Paramore	"Fences" (2007)	202
Jonathan Coulton	"Sticking It to Myself" (2011)	208
Willie Nelson	"On The Road Again" (1980)	222
Metallica	"Killing Time (1991)	233

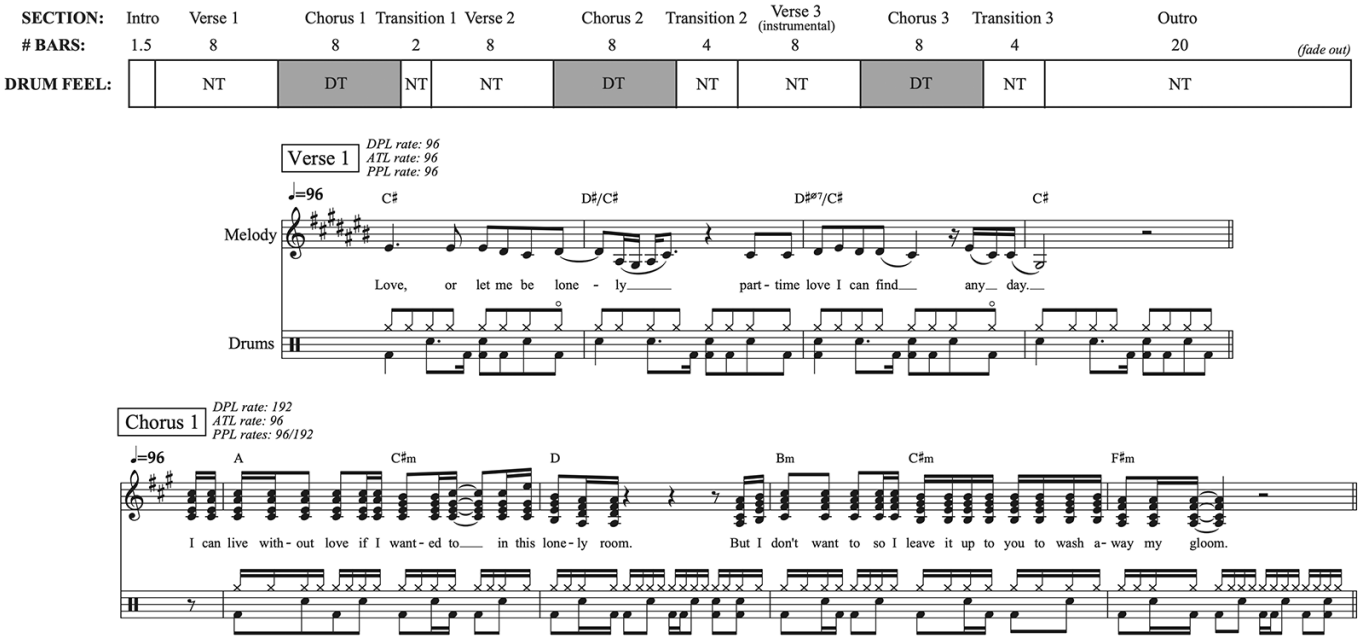
Example 6. Normal-time feel to half-time feel groove change



Example 7. "Him and I" (G-Eazy and Halsey, 2017), Postchorus 2 to Bridge

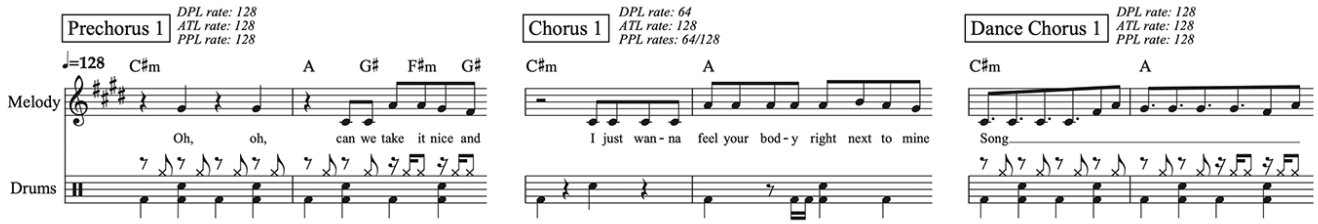


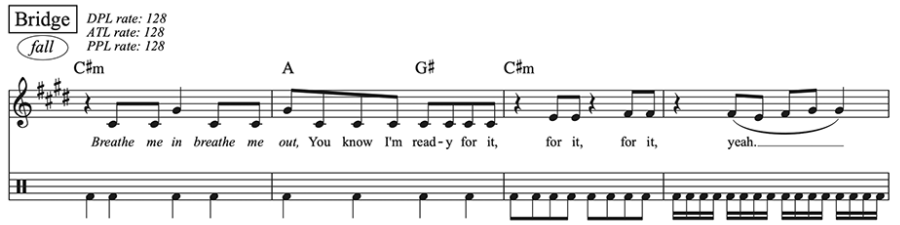
Example 8. "Love or Let Me Be Lonely" (Friends of Distinction, 1970)

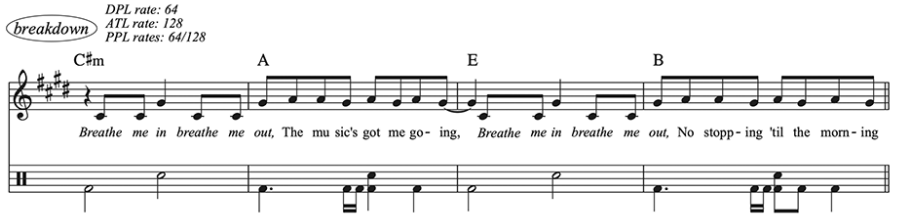


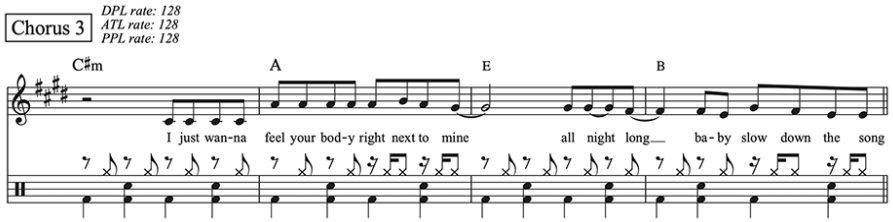
Example 9. "Slow Down" (Selena Gomez, 2013)

SECTION:	Intro	Verse 1	Prechorus 1	Chorus 1	Dance Chorus 1	Verse 2	Prechorus 2	Chorus 2	Dance Chorus 2	Bridge			Chorus 3	Dance Chorus 3
# BARS:	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	(fall) 8	(breakdown) 8	(rise) 8	8	8
DRUM FEEL:		NT	NT	HT	NT	NT	NT	HT	NT	NT	HT	NT	NT	NT

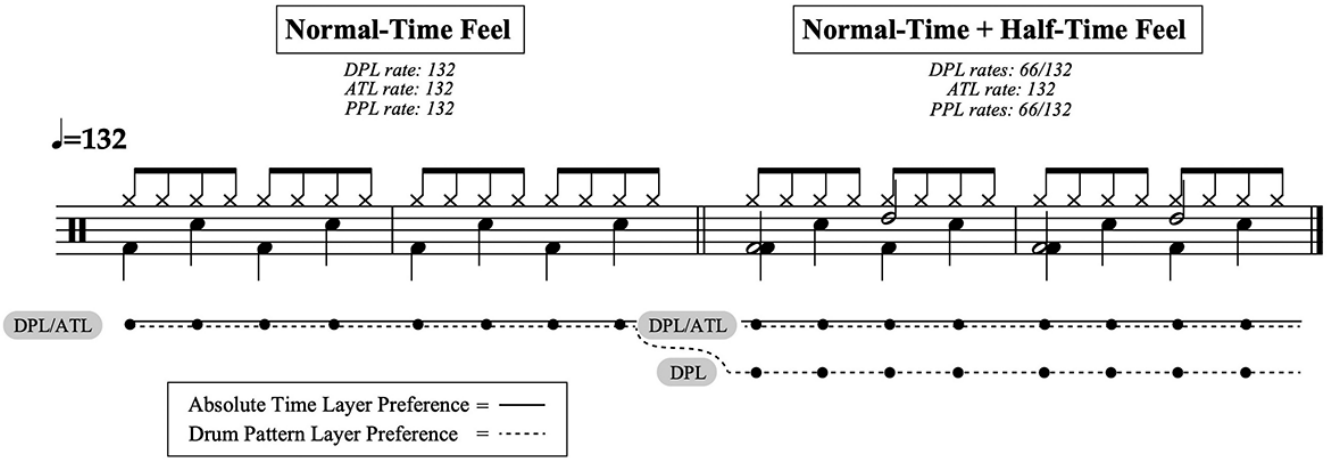
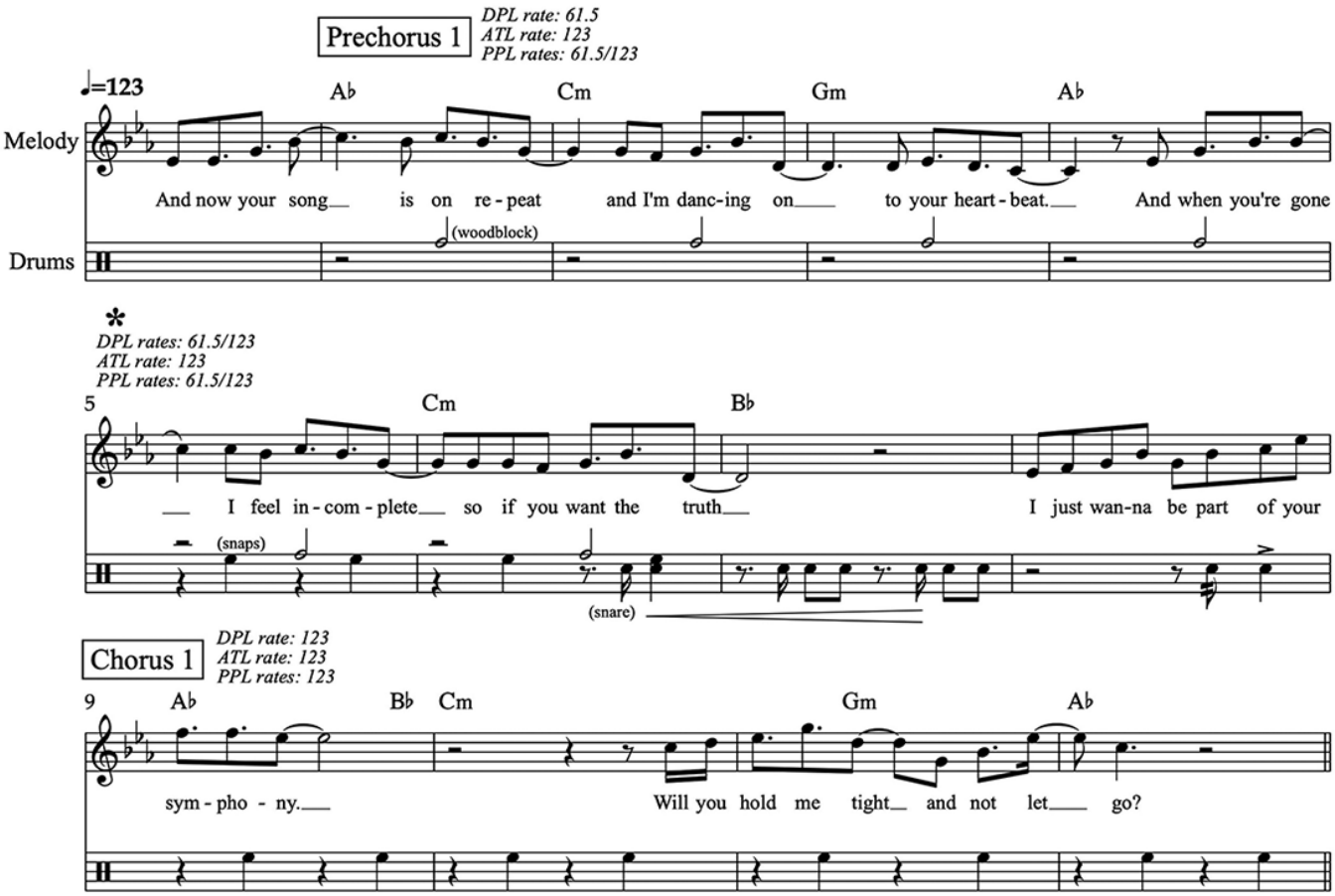








Example 10. Normal-time feel to normal-time+half-time feel groove change



Example 11. "Symphony" (Clean Bandit featuring Zara Larsson, 2018), Prechorus 1 to Chorus 1