

# Check Your Pulse: Lesson Four

## 12/8 groupings and interlocking claps

(relates to the song - Thulele Mama Ya)

[lisayoungmusic.com/music/check-your-pulse-resources](http://lisayoungmusic.com/music/check-your-pulse-resources)

Chant and clap both ascending and descending the juxtaposition of handclaps and the recitation of a 12/8 West African<sup>[1]</sup> bell pattern to show the accented 12/8 internal subdivided groupings of 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 12. Each of the internal accented groupings implies a new interpretation to the feel of the 12/8 rhythm. These shifts can be named as a 2-feel, 3-feel and 4-feel etc.

<sup>[1]</sup> This recited pattern has numerous names and is used in many Afro derived styles. As clarified by percussionist Alex Pertout (2012), it can be thought of as 12/8 or as 2 measures of 6/8. It has Ghanain and Yoriba Nigerian connections and therefore can be called a West African pattern (Pertout 2012 in Young 2015 (Phd exegesis).

♩. = 96

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12/8 west african bell pattern

accented groupings/sub-divisions

interlocking claps