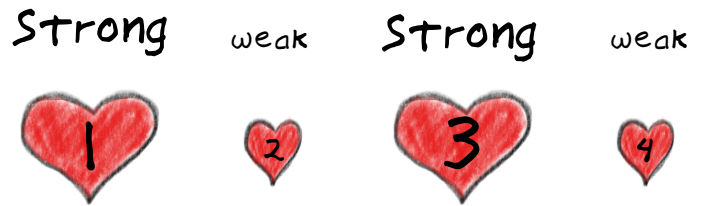


B E A D Guides Chord Flow

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Falling Slowly by The Swell Season is a beautiful song. It's simple and exquisitely crafted, expressing a yearning for love and loss at the same time. How does it do that? One way is using the pulse of strong and weak beats impeccably.

In 4/4 time, 1 and 3 are strong beats. 2 and 4 are weak beats. This creates a kind of musical pulse, something like a beating heart:



take a look at how the words fall within the pulse of the song:



Throughout the song the most important words fall on the strongest beats.

Here's another example, the first line of the chorus. Check out which words are highlighted by strong beats versus the words that fall on weak ones.



The highlighting of the word time deserves special attention. No word is sung for more than a single beat in the verse. The word "time" gets four in the chorus! In the verse, every line is 12 beats, with 4 beats of rest. In the chorus, what had been a resting space is filled by the word "time."