

Dictionary Of Musical Terms

Accelerando - gradually get faster

Accidental - a sharp or flat not given in the key signature

Alla Marcia - like a march

Alle breve - 2 strong beats to the measure

Agilmente - Lively

Amoroso - loving

Animato - animated, with energy

A tempo - return to the original tempo

Accent - play the note louder

Adagio - slowly

Andante - at a walking speed

Andantino - slightly faster than andante

Allegretto - quickly, but not as fast as allegro

Allegro - quickly, lively

Brio - vigor, spirit

Cantabile - in a singing style

Common time - (C) 4 beats to the measure

Con moto - with movement

Crescendo- gradually get louder

D.C. al Coda - return to the beginning and play to the first coda sign, then skip to the next coda sign

D.C. (Da Capo) - al Fine return to the beginning (capo) and play to the end (fine)

D.S. (Dal Segno) al Fine - return to the segno sign and play to the end

Decrescendo - gradually get softer

Diminuendo (dim.) - gradually get softer

Dolce - sweetly

Dolore - sorrow

Dynamics - how loud or soft to play

Espressivo - expressively, with feeling

Flat sign (\flat) lowers the note one half step

Fermata - hold a note or rest longer than its value

Fine - the end

Forte - (f) loud

Fortissimo - (ff) very loud

Fuoco - fire

Grazioso - gracefully

Giocososo - with humor, a joke

Interval - the distance between two pitches/notes

Largo - very slowly

Legato - smoothly

Leggiero - lightly

Lento - slowly

Loco - return to written pitch (literally "the place")

Maestoso - majestically

M.M. - metronome marking

Mezzo forte - (mf) moderately loud

Mezzo Piano - (mp) moderately soft

Molto - much, very

Morendo - dying away in time and tone

Natural Sign - (♮) cancels a sharp or flat

Piano - (p) soft

Pianissimo - (pp) very soft

Più - more

Poco - little

Portamento - slightly disconnected

Presto - very fast

Prestissimo - as fast as possible

Repeat Sign - return to the beginning and play again

Ritardando - (rit.) gradually get slower

Ritenuto - suddenly slower, held back

Rubato - borrowed time

Scherzando - playfully

Sempre - always

Senza - without

Sforzando - (sfz) a sudden strong accent on one note or chord

Sharp Sign - (#) raises the note a half step

Simile - in a similar manner

Sostenuto - sustained

Spirito - spirit

Staccato - sharply detached, bouncy

Subito - suddenly

Tempo - rate of speed

Tenuto - hold the note for its full value

Upbeat note(s) - that come before the first full measure

Vivace - quick, lively, vivacious

Vivo - with life, energy

8va - one octave higher



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