

MUSICAL TERMS AND NOTATION

MOODS

Affettuoso	<i>with feeling</i>	Tenderly
Agitato	<i>agitated</i>	Excited and fast
Animato	<i>animated</i>	Animated
Brillante	<i>brilliant</i>	Brilliant, bright
Bruscamente	<i>brusquely</i>	Brusquely – abruptly
Cantabile	<i>singable</i>	In a singing style
Colossale	<i>colossal</i>	In a fashion which suggests immensity
Comodo	<i>convenient</i>	Comfortably, moderately
Con amore	<i>with love</i>	With love
Con fuoco	<i>with fire</i>	With fiery manner
Con brio	<i>with bright</i>	brightly
Con moto	<i>with movement</i>	With (audible) movement
Con spirito	<i>with spirit</i>	With spirit
Dolce	<i>sweetly</i>	Sweet
Espressivo	<i>expressive</i>	Expressively
Festoso	<i>happy</i>	With happiness
Furioso	<i>furious</i>	With passion
Grazioso	<i>graciously or gracefully</i>	With charm
Lacrimoso	<i>teary</i>	Tearfully, sadly
Maestoso	<i>majestic</i>	Stately
Misterioso	<i>mysterious</i>	Mysteriously, secretively, enigmatic
Pesante	<i>heavy</i>	Heavy, slowly, sadly
Risolto	<i>resolved</i>	Resolved, decisive
Scherzando	<i>playfully</i>	Playfully
Sotto	<i>subdued</i>	Subdued
Semplicemente	<i>simply</i>	Simply
Slancio	<i>enthusiastically</i>	With enthusiasm
Vivace	<i>vivacious</i>	Up-tempo

ADVERBS/MODIFIERS

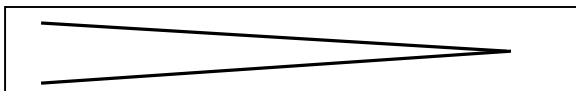
molto	<i>very</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>molto allegro</i>
assai	<i>very</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>allegro assai</i>
più	<i>more</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>più mosso</i>
poco	<i>little</i>	"A little". Used with other terms, such as <i>poco diminuendo</i>
poco a poco	<i>little by little</i>	"little by little", "slowly but steadily". Used with other terms, such as <i>poco a poco crescendo</i>
ma non tanto	<i>but not so much</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>adagio ma non tanto</i>
ma non troppo	<i>but not too much</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>allegro ma non troppo</i>
meno	<i>less</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>meno mosso</i>
subito	<i>suddenly, quickly</i>	Used with other terms, such as <i>subito fortissimo</i>

DYNAMICS

Calando	<i>quietening</i>	Becoming softer and slower
Crescendo	<i>growing</i>	Becoming louder (also see symbol below)
Decrescendo	<i>shrinking</i>	Becoming softer (also see symbol below)
Diminuendo	<i>dwindling</i>	Becoming softer
Forte (<i>f</i>)	<i>strong</i>	Loud
Mezzo forte (<i>ff</i>)	<i>half-strong</i>	Moderately loud
Fortissimo (<i>fff</i>)	<i>very strong</i>	Very loud
Marcato	<i>marked</i>	Forcefully
Piano (<i>p</i>)	<i>gentle</i>	Soft
Mezzo piano (<i>pp</i>)	<i>half-gentle</i>	Moderately soft
Pianissimo (<i>ppp</i>)	<i>very gentle</i>	Very soft
Sforzando (<i>sfz</i>)	<i>strained</i>	Initially loud, quickly draw back, then increase volume
Stentato	<i>ala Stentor</i>	Loud, boisterous
Tremolo	<i>trembling</i>	A rapid repetitive variation in the volume (or pitch) of a tone



Crescendo: Increase in volume from the beginning of this mark to end of the mark.



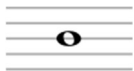
Decrescendo: Decrease in volume from the beginning of this mark to end of the mark.

TEMPO

Tempo	time	The speed of music, e.g. 120 beats per minute (120 BPM)
Grave	solemn	Slow and solemn, slower than largo
Largo	broad	Slow and dignified
Larghetto	a little bit broad	Not as slow as largo
Lentando	slowing	Becoming slower
Lento	slow	Slow
Tardo	slow	Slow
Adagio	adagio, at ease	Slow, but not as slow as largo
Adagietto	little adagio	Faster than adagio; or a short adagio composition
Andante	at a walking pace	Moderately slow, flowing along
Andantino	faster than andante	Slightly faster than andante
Moderato	moderately	At a moderate speed
Allegretto	a little bit joyful	Slightly slower than allegro
Largamente	broadly	Slow and dignified
Mosso	moved	Agitated
Allegro	joyful; lively and fast	Moderately fast
Sostenuto	sustained	A slowing of tempo
Fermata	stopped	Marked above a note to be held or sustained 
Presto	ready	Very fast
Prestissimo	very ready	Very, very fast; as fast as possible
Accelerando	accelerating	Accelerating
Affrettando	becoming hurried	Accelerating
Allargando	slowing and broadening	Becoming more stately and majestic, possibly louder
Ritardando	slowing down	Decelerating
Rallentando	becoming slower	Decelerating
Rubato	robbed	Free flowing and exempt from steady rhythm
Tenuto	sustained	Hold or sustain the note marked by a dash above it 
Accompagnato	accompanied	The accompaniment must follow the singer
Alla marcia	as a march	In strict tempo at a marching pace (e.g. 120 bpm)
A tempo	to time	Return to previous tempo
L'istesso tempo	Same speed	At the same speed

TIME VALUES

NOTE



TIME VALUE

Whole note/rest (usually 4 beats)

Half note/rest (usually 2 beats)

Quarter note/rest (usually 1 beat)

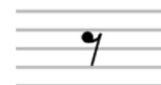
Eighth note/rest (usually 1/2 beat)

Sixteenth note/rest (usually 1/4 beat)

Dotted note

Increases the original time value of the note by one-half. This dotted quarter is held 1-1/2 beats. (*Another example: A dotted half note would be held 3 beats, rather than 2.*)

REST



Time Signature



Top number is the number of beats per measure. Bottom number is the time value of each beat. In this example, there are 3 quarter notes per measure. (Another common time signature is 6/8, which means 6 eighth notes per measure.)

ACCIDENTALS

Accidentals modify the pitch a note **within a measure**, unless cancelled by an additional accidental.



Flat

Lowers the pitch of a note by one semitone.



Sharp

Raises the pitch of a note by one semitone.



Natural

Cancels a previous accidental flat or sharp, or modifies the pitch of a sharp or flat as defined by the prevailing key signature (the example cancels the normally occurring F-sharp in the key of G major for one measure).

