



MUSICAL TERMS

YOU SHOULD KNOW

For proper understanding and interpretation of music, you must know the meaning of many terms which are in common use. There are hundreds of such terms, but the following may be considered a minimum which every music student should know.

Accelerando	Increase Speed	Pesante	Heavily; With Emphasis
Adagio	Slowly; Leisurely	Pianissimo (pp)	Very Softly
Allegretto	Moderately Fast	Piano (p)	Softly
Allegro	Lively; Brisk	Pizzicato	Pluck the Strings
Andante	Moderately Slow	Poco or Un Poco	A Little
Animato	With Animation	Piu Moso	Quicker
Arco	With the Bow	Poco Piu Mosso	A Little Faster
A Tempo	Original Tempo	Pomposo	Pompous, Grand
Coda	Supplement at End	Presto	Very Quick
Crescendo	Increasing Loudness	Rallentando	Gradually Slower
Da Capo (D.C.)	From Beginning	Ritardando	Gradually Slower
Dal Segno (D.S.)	From Sign	Scherzo	Playfully
Decrescendo	Decreasing Strength	Solo	For One Performer
Diminuendo	Gradually Softer	Soli	One Performer Each Part
Divisi	For Separate Instruments	Sordino	Mute
Dolce	Softly, Sweetly	Sostenuto	Sustained, Prolonged
Etude	A Study	Spirito	Spirited
Fermata	A Hold or Pause	Staccato	Detached, Separate
Fortissimo (ff)	Very Loud	Stringendo	Gradually Faster
Forzando (fz)	Strongly Accented	Tacet	"Is Silent"
Forte (f)	Loud	Tempo	Rate of Speed
Grandioso	Grand, Majestic	Tempo Primo	Original Tempo
Largo	Broad, Slow	Tenuto	Held Full Value
Legato	Smoothly	Trio	Three Performers
Lento	Very Slowly	Triplet	Group of Three Notes
Mezzo	Half, Moderately	Tutti	All Instruments
Moderato	Moderately	Veloce	Very Fast
Obbligato	Counter Melody	Vibrato	Wavering Tone Effect
Opus	A Work	Vivace	With Vivacity; Lively

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