

MUSIC TERMINOLOGY

TEMPO MARKINGS – (in order of speed)

Slow Markings

Grave – extremely slow
Larghissimo – very slow
Largo – slow
Lento – slow
Adagio – slow
Adagietto – slow
Andante – walking speed
Andantino – moderately slow

Medium Markings

Moderato – medium speed

Fast Markings

Allegretto – rather fast
Allegro – fast
Vivace – lively
Presto – very fast
Prestissimo – extremely fast

TEMPO ALTERATIONS

Slowing Down

Allargando – growing broader
(allarg.)
Ritard – gradually slower (rit.)
Rallentando – gradually slower (rall.)

Speeding Up

Accelerando – gradually faster
(accel.)

Others

A Tempo – return to previous tempo
Tempo I – return to first tempo
Rubato – vary the tempo freely

ROAD MAP TERMS

D.C. – da capo – back to the beginning
al Fine – to the fine (end)

D.S. – del segno – back to the sign
al Coda – to the coda (ending)

ADJECTIVES

molto – much
sempre – always

poco – little
simile (sim.) – the same

poco a poco – little by little
subito – suddenly

NUTS AND BOLTS

Key signature – number of sharp or flats (or lack thereof) marked at the beginning of a piece or section

Time signature – a.k.a. meter – determines length of measure; top no.=# of beats, bottom no.=what note gets 1 beat

Balance – hearing all parts in the proper proportion

Blend – all members of a section together to sound as one instrument

Attack – beginning of a note

Pitch – refers to how high or low a note sounds

Tone – quality of sound (can be described with words like full, harsh, thin, pinched, etc.)

Intonation – how in tune one is playing or singing – adjustments should be made constantly to have good intonation

When tuning a major chord, the “third of the chord” should be adjusted slightly flat to have good intonation

When tuning a minor chord, the “third” should be adjusted slightly sharp to have good intonation

A diminished chord should have the “third” adjusted slightly sharp and the “fifth” slightly flat

Tuning – adjusting the pitch of an instrument to match an accepted standard

When you are “flat” = your pitch is too low; you should make your instrument shorter

When you are “sharp” = your pitch is too high; you should make your instrument longer

A common measurement of tuning is “cents” – i.e. 10 cents flat, or 25 cents sharp

DYNAMIC MARKINGS

Standard Dynamics

pp – pianissimo – very soft

p – piano – soft

mp – mezzo piano – medium soft

mf – mezzo forte – medium loud

f – forte – loud

ff – fortissimo – very loud

Adjustments

cresc. – crescendo – gradually louder

delesc. – decrescendo – gradually softer

dim. – diminuendo – gradually diminish

sf – sfortzando – played with emphasis

sfz – sfortzato – played with emphasis

fp – forte piano – attack the note loud, quickly down to piano

ARTICULATIONS



= marcato – heavy and separated



= staccato – light and separated



= tenuto – play full value



= accent – emphasis



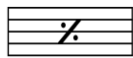
= slur – connects 2+ notes of different pitch



= tie – connects 2 notes of same pitch

legato – smooth and connected

OTHER SYMBOLS



= measure repeat – repeat the previous measure



= two measure repeat – repeat the previous two measures



= repeat signs – repeat the music between the signs



= sharp – raises a pitch 1/2 step



= flat – lowers a pitch 1/2 step



= natural – cancels flat or sharp



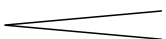
= fermata = hold longer than written value



= Coda – symbol marking the ending



= segno – symbol meaning “sign”



= crescendo (meaning above)



= decrescendo (meaning above)

STYLE MARKINGS

Animato – animated, lively

Cantabile – song like, in a singing style

Con brio – with vigor and spirit

Dolce – sweetly

Furioso – furious

Grandioso – with grandeur

Maestoso – majestically

Marzial – in the style of a march

Sostenuto – sustained