

MUSIC DICTIONARY

* indicates Academic Vocabulary


Accent - > placed above single notes to indicate stress or emphasis; to sing/play it stronger


***Analyze**- examine methodically and in detail the structure of something, typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation (too interpret a piece of music before it is performed- key signature, tempo, voices etc.)

Andante- walking speed (tempo)


***Arrangement**- the action, process or result in arranging (music that has been adapted to the performer)

Bar line - The vertical line placed on the staff to divide the music into measures.

Bass clef -  The other name for the F clef.

Crescendo -  Gradually louder.

***Critique**- a detailed analysis and assessment of something (after listening or watching a performance, you should be able to write a positive or negative review)

Decrescendo -  Gradually softer.

Double bar - Two vertical lines placed on the staff to indicate the end of a section or a composition. Also, used with two dots to enclose repeated sections.

Dynamics - Varying degrees of loud and soft (see chart on the back of this page)

***Expression**- the process of making known one's thoughts or feelings

Fermata - Hold; pause 

***Inference**- a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning


***Interpret**- explain the meaning of (information, lyrics, or actions)

Interval- the difference between two pitches (the space between two notes)

Legato -  Smooth, connected.


Measure - A group of beats containing a primary accent and one or more secondary accents, indicated by the placement of bar lines on the staff. The space between two bar lines.


***Notation**- a series or system of written symbols used to represent numbers, amounts, or elements in something such as music or mathematics

Octave - The eighth tone above a given pitch, with twice as many vibrations per second, or below a given pitch, with half as many vibrations. 

***Pattern**- a repeated design

Repeat - The repetition of a section or a composition as indicated by particular signs. Dots are added to the already written double bar line.


Repeat of a section: 

Repeat from the beginning: 

Also D.C., repeat from the beginning and D.S., repeat from the sign.

Ritardando, rit. - Gradually slower.

***Summarize**- give a brief statement of the main points of something


Staccato -  Detached sounds, indicated by a dot over or under a note. The opposite of legato.

Staff - The most frequently used staff has five horizontal lines, with four spaces, upon which the notes and other musical symbols are placed.

Tempo - The rate of speed in a musical work.

***Texture**- the way the melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic materials are combined in a composition

Time Signature- an indication of rhythm following a clef, generally expressed as a fraction with the denominator defining the beat as a division of a whole note and the numerator giving the number of beats in each bar

Treble clef - The G clef  falling on the second line of the staff, usually sung by women's voices.

Dynamic Symbols:

Symbol	Term	Meaning
<i>ppp</i>	Pianississimo	Very Very Soft
<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo	Very Soft
<i>p</i>	Piano	Soft
<i>mp</i>	Mezzo Piano	Medium Soft
<i>mf</i>	Mezzo Forte	Medium Loud
<i>f</i>	Forte	Loud
<i>ff</i>	Fortissimo	Very Loud
<i>fff</i>	Fortississimo	Very Very Loud
 <i>cresc.</i>	Crescendo	Gradually becoming louder
 <i>decresc.</i>	Decrescendo	Gradually becoming softer
<i>dim.</i>	Diminuendo	Gradually becoming softer
	Messa di voce	Becoming louder then softer