



<i>rallentando</i>	rall.	gradually slower
<i>ritardando</i>	rit., ritard.	gradually slower
<i>ritenuto</i>	riten.	immediately slower
<i>rubato</i>		in free time, no steady beat
<i>stringendo</i>		gradually faster, literally "tightening"
<i>accelerando</i>	accel.	gradually faster
<i>tenuto</i>	ten.	hold a note for its full length or a little longer.

## Dynamics

Dynamic markings that indicate the relative variation in loudness and do not refer to specific volume levels. Dynamic markings are usually written below the staff or centered between the two staves in the grand staff.

Term	Symbol	Meaning
<i>pianississimo</i>	<b><i>ppp</i></b>	as soft as possible
<i>pianissimo</i>	<b><i>pp</i></b>	very soft
<i>piano</i>	<b><i>p</i></b>	soft
<i>mezzo piano</i>	<b><i>mp</i></b>	moderately soft
<i>mezzo forte</i>	<b><i>mf</i></b>	moderately loud
<i>forte</i>	<b><i>f</i></b>	loud
<i>fortissimo</i>	<b><i>ff</i></b>	very loud
<i>fortississimo</i>	<b><i>fff</i></b>	as loud as possible

## Dynamic changes

List of dynamic changes. The hairpins ( ) are used for dynamic changes over just a few bars, while *cresc.* and *dim.* are used for changes over a longer period. Word directions can be extended with dashes to indicate the duration of the change.

Term	Symbol	Meaning
<i>crescendo</i>	<b><i>cresc.</i></b> or	gradually louder
<i>diminuendo</i>	<b><i>dim.</i></b> or	gradually softer
<i>fortepiano</i>	<b><i>fp</i></b>	loud, then immediately soft
<i>sforzando, forzando, sforzato</i>	<b><i>sfz, sf</i></b> or <b><i>fz</i></b>	suddenly accented (applied to a note or chord)
<i>rinforzando</i>	<b><i>rfz</i></b> or <b><i>rf</i></b>	reinforced (applied to a note, chord or phrase)

<b>Techniques</b>		
Common terms for playing techniques. The terms instruct the performer to use a certain playing technique in order to produce the desired sound.		
<b>Term</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<i>arpeggio</i>	arp.	chord notes played in succession rather than simultaneously
<i>glissando</i>	gliss.	a continuous slide from one note to another
<i>legato</i>		notes played with a smooth connection between them
<i>mano destra</i>	m.d.	right hand
<i>mano sinistra</i>	m.s.	left hand
<i>con sordino</i>		with a mute or (on piano) without the sustain pedal
<i>senza sordino</i>		without a mute or (on piano) with the sustain pedal pressed
<i>pizzicato</i>	pizz.	plucked with the finger rather than bowed
<i>portamento</i>	port.	a smooth slide from one note to another
<i>tutti</i>		performed by the entire ensemble
<i>staccato</i>	stacc.	shortened and sharply separated notes
<i>staccatissimo</i>	staccatiss.	shortened and extremely separated notes
<i>vibrato</i>		a rapid repeated slight change in the pitch of a note
<b>Moods</b>		
The terms help the performer to capture the mood of a piece through variations in tempo, dynamics and articulation.		
<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	
<i>agitato</i>	agitated	
<i>animato</i>	animated, lively	
<i>cantabile</i>	in a singing style	
<i>con amore</i>	with love	
<i>con brio</i>	with spirit, with vigor	
<i>con fuoco</i>	with fiery manner	
<i>con moto</i>	with movement	

<i>dolce</i>	sweet	
<i>doloroso</i>	sorrowful	
<i>energico</i>	energetic	
<i>espressivo</i>	expressive	
<i>grazioso</i>	graceful	
<i>leggiere</i>	light, nimble	
<i>maestoso</i>	majestic	
<i>marcato</i>	marked, accented	
<i>risoluto</i>	decisive, strong	
<i>scherzando</i>	playful	
<i>sostenuto</i>	sustained	
<i>tenuto</i>	held, sustained	
<i>tranquillo</i>	calm	
<b>Repeats</b>		

The directions are used as navigation markers to tell the performer to repeat a certain section of the piece.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<i>Fine</i>		the end of a piece
<i>Coda</i>		the concluding passage of a piece
<i>Segno</i>		the beginning or end of a repeat
<i>Da Capo</i>	D.C.	repeat from the beginning
<i>Da Capo al Fine</i>	D.C. al Fine	repeat from the beginning to the word <i>Fine</i>
<i>Da Capo al Coda</i>	D.C. al Coda	repeat from the beginning to the sign (sometimes replaced by <i>To Coda</i> ), then skip to the concluding Coda passage
<i>Da Capo al Segno</i>	D.C. al Segno	repeat from the beginning to the sign
<i>Dal Segno</i>	D.S.	repeat from the sign
<i>Dal Segno al Fine</i>	D.S. al Fine	repeat from the sign to the word <i>Fine</i>
<i>Dal Segno al Coda</i>	D.S. al Coda	repeat from the sign to the sign (sometimes replaced by <i>To Coda</i> ), then skip to the concluding Coda passage

General		
The terms are commonly used in conjunction with other terms, such as: <i>allegro molto</i> (very fast) and <i>con amore</i> (with love).		
Term	Meaning	
<i>ad libitum</i>	at pleasure (often in regard to tempo and style)	
<i>assai</i>	very	
<i>con</i>	with	
<i>ma</i>	but	
<i>ma non tanto</i>	but not so much	
<i>ma non troppo</i>	but not too much	
<i>meno</i>	less	
<i>molto</i>	very	
<i>non</i>	not	
<i>più</i>	more	
<i>poco</i>	little	
<i>poco a poco</i>	little by little	
<i>senza</i>	without	
<i>simile</i>	in a similar way	
<i>subito</i>	suddenly, quickly	