

WORD	DEFINITION
a	by
Accent	To play the note stronger
Adagio	A slow tempo slower than Andante
Aeolian	a mode that starts on the 6th degree of a major scale
Allegretto	to play in a lively, quick manner that is slower than allegro
Allegro	Tempo marking to indicate to play quickly
Andante	Tempo marking to indicate strolling along or walking speed
animato	Animated, Spirited
Aria	Song
arpeggio	the notes of a chord played one after another
Articulation	Term used to indicate how to play the note
Balance	When the ensemble controls the volume in order for the important musical line to be heard
Bar Line	is a single vertical line used to divide a musical staff into measures.
baroque	historic period of music roughly from 1600 - 1750
Beat	is a basic unit of time in music.
binary form	a musical form where one section is folled by a contrasting section
Breath Mark	To indicate when to take a breath
classical	historic period of music roughly from 1750 - 1820
Coda	Ending section of music can be varied in length.
codetta	a short coda

Composer	The person who wrote the original music
Con	With
contemporary	also known as modern music of the 20th century
Crescendo	To gradually get louder
Cut Time	Called Alla Breve meaning to play everything ½ the value
D. C.	Dal Capo – from the top or beginning
D. S.	Dal Segno – from the sign
Decrescendo	To gradually get softer – means the same as Diminuendo
Diminuendo	To gradually get softer
divisi	Two or more notes played at the same time by different players
dolce	sweetly
Dorian	Mode that starts on the second note of a major scale
Double Bar Line	vertical lines used to signify a new musical idea.
Duet	Composition for two players.
dur	a German word for Major
Dynamics	The range of volume used in music.
e	and
enharmonic	refers to two notes that sound the same and use the same fingering but are written differently
Entrances	When to start the musical idea
espressivo	Expressive
etude	an exercise that helps you practice s specific technique

Fermata	(Fur-ma-tah) to hold for at least twice the length of the note or until directed to stop.
Fine	(Fee-nay) Finish or Ending
Flat	Lowers pitch of a note one half step
Form	A method of arrangement of a musical composition
Forte	Loud
Fortissimo	Very Loud
fortissississimo	ffff - meaning very very very loud
fugue	a contrapuntal movement between two or more parts
Glissando	A rapid slide of consecutive tones
grace note	a small note played quickly before the beat
Grand Pause	To suddenly stop – often called “Railroad Tracks”
Grosso	Large or Great
Half Note	Held out for 2 beats when played in common time – 4/4
Ionian	Mode that starts on the first note of a major scale
Key Signature	To show what notes will be altered.
Largo	a slow tempo
leading tone	the 7th degree of a major scale that moves to the tonic
ledger lines	short horizontal lines used to extend a staff higher or lower
locrian	a mode that starts on the 7th degree of a major scale
lydian	a mode starts on the fourth degree of a major scale
Maestoso	Majestic

manuscript	original copy of a piece of music
Marcato	Heavy accent that is played loud and short
Measure	is a measurement of time that contains a specific number of pulses defined by a time signature.
Meno	Less
Mezzo Forte	Medium Loud
Mezzo Piano	Medium Soft
middle ages	also known as medieval music from 500 - 1450
Mixolydian	the fifth mode degree of a major scale
moll	minor
mosso	Moved
moto	motion
Multi-Measure Rest	Large black bar to indicate to rest for 2 or more measures
Mute	To soften or muffle the tone
Natural	Cancels a flat or sharp until the next bar line.
non	not
o	or
orchestra	a large group of instrumentalists usually consisting of stringed, woodwind, brass and percussion
Pentatonic Scale	A scale made up of 5 notes
Phrase	Like a musical sentence
phrygian	a mode starts on the third degree of a major scale
Pianissimo	Very Soft

Pianississimo	ppp very very soft
Piano	Soft
Piu	More
poco	little
Presto	Very rapid tempo
Publisher	The company who printed the music
Quarter Note	Held out for 1 beat when played in common time – 4/4
Rallentando	Slowing down with a more rolling stop effect similar to Ritardando
Releases	The point at which the musical idea ends
renaissance	historic period of music roughly from 1450 - 1600
Repeat	To go back and play again.
replica	repeat
Rest	is an interval of silence in music.
romantic	historic period of music roughly from 1820 - 1910
sforzando	Forceful accent
Sharp	Raises the pitch of a note one half step.
Sight-reading	To play a piece for the first time
simile	Continue to perform in the same style
Slur	Notes that are of different pitches that are not tongued with the exception of the first note of the pattern
Soli	Small group playing often with a soloist from each section
Solo	One person playing

Staccato	Play the note detached from the next note.
Staff	5 lines and 4 spaces used for writing music.
stem	a line that extends vertically from a note head
subito	suddenly
Tempo	set the speed the music is to be played.
Time Signature	To show how many notes are in a measure and what note will receive one beat or pulse.
Transition	Moving from one musical idea to another
transpose	changing a composition from one key to another
Trill	Rapid movement between two notes 1/2 or 1 step apart starting with the note above the original pitch
Trio	Piece for 3 players or can be the middle section of a concert march
triplet	three notes played in the time of two of the same value
troppo	too much
tutti	All
vivace	lively, quick
vivo	lively, spirited
waltz	a dance in 3/4 time
Whole Note	Held out for 4 beats when played in common time – 4/4