


## Music Terms to know



<u>term</u>	<u>symbol</u>	<u>definition</u>
accelerando	<i>accel.</i>	look up and gradually increase tempo
adagio		a tempo having slow movement, restful, at ease
allegro		a tempo meaning to play lively and fast
alto		the lowest female singing voice, the 2nd of a four part harmony
andante		a moderate, graceful tempo
bass		the lowest male singing voice, the 4th of a four part harmony
carol		a song or hymn celebrating Christmas
chord		3 or 4 notes played simultaneously
Chromatic scale		includes all twelve notes of an octave
classical period		period of music history which dates from mid 1700's to mid 1800's. The music was emotionally reserved, especially when compared to Romantic music
Coda		closing section of a movement
composer		the person who wrote (composed) a piece of music
crescendo	<i>cresc.</i>	gradually becoming louder
D.C. =Da Capo	<i>D.C.</i>	go back to the beginning
decrescendo	<i>decresc.</i>	look up and gradually becoming softer
diminuendo	<i>dim.</i>	gradually becoming softer, same as decrescendo
encore		piece of music played at the end of a performance responding to audience desire for more music
ensemble		small group
fermata		Look up and hold a note or rest beyond the written value
finale		movement or passage that concludes the musical composition
flat	<i>b</i>	indicates that the note is to be lowered by a half note
forte	<i>f</i>	indicates to play loud
fortissimo	<i>ff</i>	indicated to play very loud
Fugue		a composition written for 3 to 6 voices, with each voice beginning at different times
hymn		a song of praise and glorification, most often to honor God
interval		the distance in pitch between two notes
introduction		the opening section of a piece of music
key signature		the flats and sharps at the beginning of each staff line indicating the key of music the piece is to be played
legato		play music smoothly
Major		type of scale. Music written in major keys sound positive and happy
March		a form of music written for marching in two-step time. Originally the march was used for military processions.

measure		the unit of measure where the beats on the lines of the staff are divided up into two, three, four, (or more) beats to a measure
medley		a composition that uses passages from other songs
mezzo forte	<i>mf</i>	medium loud
mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>	medium soft
minor		a type of scale. Music written in minor keys sound dark and melancholic
nationalism		a type of music from Romantic period (18th-19th centuries) meant to emphasize and glorify the features of a nation
natural		neither flat nor sharp
phrase		a single line of music played or sung, a musical sentence.
pianissimo	<i>pp</i>	play very softly
piano	<i>p</i>	play softly
presto		a tempo for very fast
quartet		a set of four musicians who perform together
quintet		a set of five musicians who perform together
recapitulation		a reprise
Renaissance		a period of music history dating from 14th to 16th centuries.
Rhythm		the element of music pertaining to time
ritardando	<i>rit.</i>	look up and become gradually slower
Romantic Period		period of music history during the 18th and early 19th centuries where the focus shifted to an emotional, expressive, and imaginative style
Rubato	<i>rubato</i>	strict tempo is temporarily abandoned for a more emotional tone. Look up and "bend" the tempo.
scale		successive notes of a key either ascending or descending
sharp	<i>#</i>	indicates the note is to be raised by 1/2 step
slur		indicated the phrase is to be played legato
soprano		highest female voice, the 1st of a four part harmony
staccato	<i>Stac.</i>	short, detached notes, opposite of legato
tango		a dance for couples which originated in South America, with long, gliding steps and dips, usually in 2/4 or 4/4 time
tempo		indicates the speed music is to be played
Tenor		the highest male voice, the 3rd part in a four part harmony
tenuto		hold the note for the full value; sustained
time signature		numeric symbol in sheet music determining the number of beats to a measure
Triad		three note chord consisting of a root, third, and fifth
Trio		a set of three musicians who perform together
tuning		raising or lowering a pitch of an instrument to produce the correct tone of a note
vivace		tempo for a brisk, lively, spirited music