

Musical Terminology

8eva – an octave higher A tempo – resume the normal speed after a diversion
 Accelerando (accel.) – gradually becoming faster
 Adagio – slowly, leisurely
 Ad libitum – at pleasure, quite freely
 Agitato – with agitation
 Allargando – broadening out, often with an increase of tone
 Allegretto – moderately fast; slightly slower than allegro
 Allegro – lively and reasonably fast
 Andante – at an easy walking pace
 Andantino – a little slower (or a little faster than Andante)
 Animato – with animation
 Arco – (for string players) with the bow
 Attacca – go on at once Ben marcato – well marked
 Brilliante – sparkling, brilliant
 Brio – vigour Calando – getting softer and slower
 Cantabile – in a singing style
 Capo – the beginning
 Con anima – with feeling
 Con brio – with spirit
 Con forza – with forza
 Con grazia – with grace
 Con moto – with movement
 Con sordini – with the mutes
 Crescendo (cresc.) – gradually becoming louder Da Capo (D.C) – from the beginning
 Dal capo al fine or D.C. al fine written under the last bar of a piece of section – the music is to be repeated right from the beginning until it reaches the word ‘fine (the end). Dal Segno – from the sign ; the music is to be repeated from where the sign occurs earlier in the piece, then carrying on to the end.

Decrescendo (decresc.) – gradually becoming softer
 Diminuendo (dim.) – gradually becoming softer
 Dolce – soft and sweet Forte (f) – loud
 Forte-piano (fp) – loud then immediately soft
 Fortissimo (ff) – very loud
 Forzando (fz or sfz) – with a strong accent Giocososo – gay, merry
 Grave – very slowly
 Grazioso – gracefully Largo – slowly and stately, broad
 Larghetto – slower than Largo
 Legato – smoothly
 Leggiero – lightly
 Lento – slowly
 Loco – at the normal pitch (generally after playing an octave higher) Maestoso – majestically
 Main droite (M.D.) – right hand
 Main gauche (M.G) – left hand
 Marcato – marked, accented
 Meno mosso – slower, less movement
 Mezzo forte (mf) – moderately loud
 Mezzo piano (mp) – moderately soft
 Mezzo staccato – moderately short and detached; shown by dots covered with a slur
 Misterioso – mysteriously
 Moderato – at a moderate speed
 Molto – very, much
 Morendo – dying away
 M.M – Maelzel's metronome Opus – a work or group of works
 Ossia – or (an alternative version) Ped. – depress the sustaining pedal of the pianoforte
 Perdendosi – dying away
 Pesante – heavily
 Piacevole – pleasing
 Piano (p) – soft
 Pianissimo (pp) – very soft
 Piu mosso – quicker
 Pizzicato (pizz.) – plucked (in string music)
 Poco – a little

Poco a poco – little by little (gradually)
 Presto – very fast
 Prestissimo – extremely fast, or as fast as possible Rallentando (rall.) – gradually becoming slower
 Risoluto – with resolution, boldly
 Ritardando (retard.) – gradually becoming slower
 Ritenuto (riten. or rit.) – immediately slower or hold back
 Ritmico – rhythmically Scherzando – playfully
 Sempre – always
 Senza – without
 Sforzando (sf) – a strong (sudden) accent
 Simile – in a similar manner
 Sostenuto – sustained
 Staccato – detached, short; note sustained for half the written length (shown by a dot above or below each note)
 Stringendo – gradually faster
 Subito – suddenly Tempo – the speed of the music
 Tenuto (ten.) – hold
 Tranquillo – quietly, calmly
 Tre corde – release the left, soft pedal of the pianoforte (with three strings)
 Troppo – too much Une corda – depress the left, soft pedal of the pianoforte (with one string) Vivace
 – lively
 Vivo – lively Signs:
 – accent; give prominence, play with force
 [Respectively, strong accent marcato, normal accent, and tenuto]
 – the music or passage between the dots is to be played again
 (fermata) – musical symbol placed over a note or rest to be extended beyond its normal duration
 – tie or bind, indicating that the note being played or sung sustained, unbroken, through the total time value of the notes
 – slur; a group of notes are played under a single bow stroke (string), or without retonguing (wind), or in one breath (singing), so that the notes move smoothly with no perceptible break
 – metronome mark, indicating the speed at which a piece is to be played; 60 crotchets to the minute
 – up-bow (bowed instrument – bow is pushed across the string); up-stroke (guitar – the string is plucked with the hand moving upwards)
 – down-bow (bowed instrument – bow is pulled across the string); down-stroke (guitar – the string is plucked with the hand moving downwards)
 - a less strong accent placed above or below the note meaning that it is to be stressed but not as strongly as when marked as > or