

Music Terms and Definitions...Italian

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|--------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| A, Alla, All' | To, according | Dolore | Sorrow |
| Accelerando | Becoming faster | Doloroso | Sorrowful |
| Agitato | Excited | Doppio | After |
| Al fine | To the end | Doppio | Double |
| Alla breve | Cut time, quick duple | Doppio movimento | Double speed |
| Allargando | Getting broader, therefore slower | Due | Two |
| Amabile | Lovingly | Due corde | Same tone sounded on two strings |
| Amoroso | Lovingly, warmly | E, ed | And |
| Animado | Becoming animated | Equale | Equal |
| Animato | Animated | Energico | With vigor, energetically |
| Appassionato | Impassioned | Espressione | Expression, feeling |
| Arco | Bow | Espressivo | Expressively |
| Assai | Very much | Estinguendo | Dying away |
| A tempo | Return to normal tempo | Facilmente | Lightly, easily |
| Attaca | Begin without pause, attack suddenly | Fermata | Pause, sustain |
| A una corda | Play on one string only | Feroce | Fierce |
| Bravura | Courage, boldness | Fine | End, close |
| Brio | Spirit | Fino | As far as |
| Calmato | Calm | Flautando, flautato | Flutelike effect achieved by bowing lightly over the fingerboard |
| Cantabile | Singing | Forte (f) | Loud, strong |
| Capriccioso | Capricious, whimsical | Forte-piano (fp) | Loud, then immediately soft |
| Coda, codetta | Concluding section | Fortissimo (ff) | Very loud |
| Col, colla, coll' | With the | Forza | Strength, vigor, force |
| Coll' Arco | With the bow | Forzando, forzato (fz) | Forced, accented |
| Colla punta d'arco | With the point of the bow | Fuoco | Fire, force |
| Colla Voce | With the voice | Furioso | Furious |
| Col legno | Strike the string with the stick of the bow | Giocoso | Playful, humorous |
| | | Glissando | Rapid scale-like passage produced by a series of minute movements of the left hand |
| Colpo d'arco | Stroke of the bow | | |
| Come | As, like | Gradatamente | Gradually |
| Come prima | As at first | Gran | Large, much |
| Come sopra | As above | Grandevole | Pleasant, pleasing |
| Commodo | Comfortable, easy, neither too fast nor too slow | Grandioso | In an imposing manner |
| | | Grave | Grave, solemn |
| Con | With | Grazioso | Gracefully |
| Con afetto | With tender emotion | Gusto | Style, zest |
| Con amore | Lovingly | Inciso | Incisive |
| Con anima | With spirit | In modo di | In the manner of |
| Con brio | Vigorously | Istesso | Same |
| Concertante | Eighteenth-century term for symphonies with one or more solo instrument | Lacrimoso | Mournful |
| | | Lamentando, Lamentoso | Lamenting |
| Concertino | Diminutive of Concerto | Lancio | Vigor |
| Concerto | A work for one or more solo instruments with instrumental accompaniment | Legato | Smoothly, connectedly |
| | | Leggiero | Light, graceful |
| Con fuoco | With fire | Legno | Wood |
| Con sordino | With the mute | Liberamente | Freely, at will |
| Con spirito | With spirit, lively | L'istesso tempo | The same tempo |
| Continuo | Bass part (harpsichord, cello or organ) | Lontano | Distant |
| Contra | Against | Lungo | Long |
| Corda | String | Ma | But |
| Corda, spora una | Play on one string only | Maestoso | Majestic |
| Crescendo | Increasing volume | Maggiore | Major |
| Da Capo (D.C.) | From the beginning | Magno | Great |
| Dal Segno (D.S.) | From the sign | Man, mano | Hand |
| Deciso | Decisively | Marcato | Emphasized, stressed marked |
| Declamato | Declamatory | Martellando, Martellato | Hammered. Detached strokes at the point of the bow |
| Decrescendo | Decrease in volume | | |
| Delicato | Delicate | Meno | Less |
| Di molto | Extremely (Allegro di molto...extremely fast.) | Meno mosso | Less quickly |
| Diminuendo | Diminishing, gradually getting quieter | Mesto | Sad, mournful |
| Divisi (div.) | Divided | Mezza, Mezzo | Half, moderate |
| Dolce | Sweetly, softly | Minore | Minor |
| Dolcissimo | Very sweet | Misterioso | Mysterious |
| Dolente | Sorrowfully | Modo | Manner, style |
| | | Molto | Very, much |
| | | Mosso | Moved, lively |
| | | Morendo | Dying |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Moto | Motion | Spiccato | Clearly articulated. The bow is thrown on the string and rebounds or is lifted producing a very short tone. |
| Niente | Nothing | | |
| Non | Not | | |
| Nuovo | New | Spirito | Spirit |
| O | Or | Spiritoso | Detached, separated |
| Obbligato | An independent accompanying part | Stentando | Holding back each note, laboring |
| Ondeggiando | Undulating tremolo indicated by a wavy line over repeated notes | Steso | Slow |
| | | Stesso | Same |
| Ordinario | Ordinary, normal | Stile | Style |
| Ossia | Or, alternative | Strepitoso | Noisy |
| Ottava | Octave | Stretto | Quickening of pace |
| Parte | Part, voice | Stringendo | Accelerating the tempo |
| Per | By, in order to | Su | On, near |
| Perendosi | Dying away | Subito | Suddenly |
| Pesante | Heavy | Sul, sull, sulla | On, at |
| Piacevole | Agreeably | Sul ponticello | Bow near the bridge producing a glassy tone |
| Più | More | | |
| Pleno | Full | Sul tasto, sulla tastiera | Bow lightly over the fingerboard |
| Pochettino | Very little | Suono | Sound |
| Poco | Little | Tacet, tacent | Silent |
| Poco a poco | Little by little | Tallone | Frog |
| Poi | Later, then | Al Tallone | At the frog |
| Ponderoso | Heavy, ponderous | Tanto | Much, so much |
| Ponticello, sul | Bow near the bridge producing a glassy tone | Tasteria | Fingerboard |
| | | Tardo | Slow |
| Portamento | Carried over, smooth | Tempo | Speed of the basic pulse |
| | Sliding between two pitches without distinguishing the intermediate tones. | Teneramente | Tenderly |
| | | Tenuto | Sustained, held |
| Portato | Somewhat detached | Tirato | Down-bow |
| Precipitando | Impetuously | Tosto | Quick |
| Preciso | Precise | Tranquillo | Calm |
| Pressante, Pressando | Urgent, hurrying | Trattenuto | Holding back with a sustained quality |
| Prima | First | Tremolo, tremolando | Reiteration of the same tone by rapid alternation of the bow direction |
| Punta, Punto | Point | | |
| Quasi | As if, almost | Tristo | Sad |
| Quieto | Quiet, clam | Troppo | Too much |
| Rallentando | Becoming gradually slower | Tutti | All, everyone |
| Ravvivando | Quickening | Un poco | A little |
| Replica | Repeat | Veloce | Fast |
| Resoluto | Resolutely | Via | Away |
| Rinforzando (rf., rfz.) | Reinforced | Vibrato | Minute fluctuations of pitch produced by oscillations of the left hand |
| Ripieno | Full orchestra | | |
| Ripresa | Repeat, recapitulation | Vigore | Vigorous |
| Risoluto | Resolute, determined | Vivace | Lively |
| Ritard, ritardando | Slowing gradually | Voce | Voice |
| Ritenuto | Slowing immediately | Volti | Turn over (the page) |
| Ritmico | Rhythmically | Vuota | Empty |
| Rubato | Flexible tempo | | (Corda vuota...open string.) |
| Saltato, saltando | Bouncing bow, a rapid staccato | | |
| Scala | Scale | | |
| Scherzando | Playful, joking | | |
| Secco | Dry | | |
| Segno | Sign | | |
| Segue | Follow without pause | | |
| Semplice | Simply | | |
| Sempre | Always, continuously | | |
| Senza | Without | | |
| Senza sordino | Take off the mute | | |
| Sforzando, sforzato | Suddenly accented, force | | |
| Simile, simili | In a like manner | | |
| Sinfonia | Symphony. Overture | | |
| Sinfonia concertante | An orchestral work with one or more solo instruments | | |
| | | | |
| Sinfonietta | A short symphony | | |
| Sopra | Above | | |
| Sordino | Mute | | |
| Sostenuto | Sustained | | |
| Sotto | Under, below | | |
| Sotto Voce | in an undertone | | |