




Music Symbols and Definitions

Dynamics

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<i>ppp</i>	Pianississimo	Very Very Soft
<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo	Very Soft
<i>p</i>	Piano	Soft
<i>mp</i>	Mezzo Piano	Medium Soft
<i>mf</i>	Mezzo Forte	Medium Loud
<i>f</i>	Forte	Loud
<i>ff</i>	Fortissimo	Very Loud
<i>fff</i>	Fortississimo	Very Very Loud
 <i>cresc.</i>	Crescendo	Gradually becoming louder
 <i>decresc.</i>	Decrescendo	Gradually becoming softer
<i>dim</i>	.Diminuendo	Gradually becoming softer
	Messa di voce	Becoming louder then softer

Tempo

Grave - Very Slow

Largo, Lento - Slow

Larghetto - A little faster than Largo

Adagio - Moderately Slow

Andante - "Walking" Tempo

Andantino - A little faster than Andante

Allegretto - A little slower than Allegro

Allegro - Fast

Vivace - Lively

Presto - Very Fast

Prestissimo - Very Very Fast

Moderato - Moderate(ly)

Molto - Very

Accel., Accelerando - Gradually

Symbols



Fermata - a pause in the music, indicated by this sign.

rit. (ritardando)- gradually slower

rubato - Free tempo, left up to the interpretation of the director or performer

subito - suddenly

poco a poco - little by little

// (**caesura**) a silent pause between sections of the music, also called a break