

Vocabulary Level V

A tempo: Return to the original tempo after some deviation.

Accelerando: becoming faster.

Accent: Stress or emphasis on one pitch or chord.

Accidental: a sign written before a note indicating a chromatic alteration; a sharp raises a note by half a step; a flat lowers a note by a half step, and a natural sign cancels a previous alteration.

Adagio: a slow tempo, leisurely

Agitato: agitated, excited

Allargando: Broadening, becoming slower, sometimes with and accompanying crescendo.

Allegretto: moderately fast tempo, between allegro and andante. Often implying lighter texture or character.

Allegro: fast, lively, cheerfully.

Andante: Slowly, steady movement, walking.

Andantino: slightly faster than andante.

Animato: Animated, usually with the implication of increasingly rapid tempo.

Arpeggio: A chord whose pitches are sounded in succession from lowest to highest, rather than simultaneously.

Cadenza: An improvised or written-out ornamental passage performed by a soloist. It is typical before the final ritornello or coda.

Cantabile: Singable, Songlike

Chord: Three or more pitches sounded simultaneously.

Clefs: Signs placed at the beginning of a staff to indicate the position of the pitches on the lines and spaces.

Coda: Any concluding passage that can be understood as occurring after the structural conclusion of a musical selection.

Con moto: with more movement

Crescendo: increasing loudness

Da capo (d.c): From the beginning

Dal segno (D.S): From the sign

Decrescendo: decreasing loudness

Diminuendo: becoming softer

Divisi: players that normally play the same part are to be divided to play different parts.

Dolce: Sweetly, usually also soft.

Duplet: A group of two notes of equal duration to be played in the time normally taken up by three notes of the same type.

Enharmonic: pitches that are one and the same even though named or “spelled” differently. These pitches are equivalents of one another.

Expressivo: with expression

Fermata: The symbol placed over a note or rest to indicate that it is to be prolonged beyond its normal duration.

Fine: The end of a piece

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Flat: The symbol which lowers the pitch of a note by a semitone or half-step.

Glissando: A continuous or sliding movement from one pitch to another.

Grace note: a note printed in small type to indicate that its time value is not counted in the rhythm of the bar and must be subtracted from the value of its adjacent note.

Grave: slow, solemn, slowest form of musical expression.

Improvisation: The art of spontaneously creating music during the performance rather than performing what has already been written.

Interval: The relationship or distance between two pitches.

Intonation: The degree to which pitch is accurately produced.

L'istesso tempo: In the same tempo.

Largo: Very slow and broad.

Leading tone: the seventh degree of a major or minor scale.

Legato: Played smoothly with no separation between successive notes.

Leggiero: Light, nimble, quick

Lento: Slow

Marcato: Marked, stressed, emphasized.

Maestoso: Majestic, stately, dignified

Meno mosso: Less motion

Meter: The basic grouping of strong and weak beats.

Moderato: Moderate with respect to tempo.

Molto: Very, much

Morendo: Dying or fading away

Movement: any self-contained/independent section of a larger work.

Music: the art of sound in time.

Natural: a symbol that cancels previous flats or sharps.

Octave: The interval embracing eight diatonic tones.

Ostinato: A short musical pattern that is repeated persistently through out a performance or composition.

Pesante: Weighty, with emphasis

Phrase: A section of a melody forming a recognizable unit in itself.

Piu mosso: more motion

Poco: Little

Presto: Very Fast

Rallentando: slowing down

Refrain: A section of a song which recurs at the end of each stanza or verse; sometimes called the chorus.

Repeat: Repetition of a section of music within the sign.

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Rest: A span of time in which there is silence indicated by a notational symbol.

Rhythm: everything pertaining to the duration quality of musical sounds.

Ritardando: Slowing down gradually

Rubato: altering the relationship among written note-values and making the established pulse flexible by accelerating and slowing down the tempo for expression.

Segue: a direction to continue to the subsequent movement or section without a pause.

Segno: a sign used to mark the beginning or end of a repeated section of a work.

Sempre: Always, continuously

Senza: without

Sequence: the repetition of a phrase at different pitch levels using the same or similar intervals.

Sforzando: Forcing, Forced; accented with respect to the prevailing dynamic.

Sharp: The sign which raises the pitch of a note by a semitone or half-step.

Simile: To continue in the same manner

Slur: A curved line placed above two or more notes of different pitch to indicate that they are to be performed legato.

Sostenuto: sustaining in duration

Sotto Voce: in an undertone, subdued

Sound: the production of vibrations that occur when objects are struck, plucked, stroked, or agitated in some way. The vibrations are transmitted through the air, or another medium, and picked up by our ears.

Staccato: Shortened performance of a note, so that it sounds only for a moment; detached, separated indicated by a dot placed over the note.

Stringendo: Pressing, becoming faster, hurrying.

Subito: Suddenly, Quickly

Syncopation: a contradiction of the regular succession of strong and weak beats within a measure or a group of measures whose metrical context remains steady. Abnormal emphasis on the weak beats.

Tacet: indicated that a particular instrument is silent for an extended passage or movement.

Tempo: The speed at which a composition is to be performed as indicated in the score.

Tenuto: held or sustained for the full value of the note. In 19th century music, the note following is slightly delayed.

Tie: a curved line connecting to successive notes of the same pitch, indicating that the second note should not be played, adding its value to the first note.

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Time signature: the sign at the beginning of a composition indicating the meter of the piece. Consists of two numbers: top number indicates how many beats per measure, and the bottom number indicates what kind of note receives one beat.

Tone: The sound of well-defined pitch and quality

Trill: an ornament consisting of rapid alternation of a note with the one above it.

Triplet: Three notes of equal value to be played in the time normally occupied by two notes of the same value.

Turn: An ornament of stepwise descent of three notes beginning with the upper neighbor to the principal note-lower neighbor and returning to the principal note.

Tutti: In a concerto, the ensemble as distinct from the soloist; a passage for the ensemble.

Vivace: Lively, quick briskly, animated.

Strings

Arco: playing a stringed instrument with a bow, as opposed to pizzicato (plucking the strings).

Bass Bar: A long vertical strip of even grained spruce glued under tension to the inside of the table beneath the bass foot of the bridge to strengthen the table and aids the distribution and amplification of string vibration, especially in the lower register

Con Legno: with wood. To strike the string with the bow stick rather than with the bow hair

Con Sordino: With mute

Detache: Notes are taken one per bow; seamless flow of up and down bow strokes.

Double Stop: Playing of two notes simultaneously.

Pizzicato: the plucking of the strings on a string instrument

Sound post: a slender moveable dowel placed inside the instrument body behind the treble bridge foot connecting the table with the back. This supports string and bridge pressure while transmitting and balancing string vibrations between the table and back.

Chorus

Agility: ability to execute rapid passages nimbly and quickly; a phase of FLEXIBILITY

Aria: a tune or melody; usually a complex operatic or oratorio composition for solo voice which may be preceded by a recitative.

Art Song: a composed song in which the text, melody, and accompaniment are interrelated to create a unified effect.

Bel Canto: a style of singing characterized by lyricism, legato, pure vowels, and freedom of production which originated in Italy during the so called "Golden Age of Singing" (1685-1825).

Blending registers: the process of merging two overlapping but dissimilar types of vocal production so that there is no sudden change of tone quality, smoothing over the "break".

Catch Breath: a short or partial breath to renew lung supply quickly

Clavicular Breathing: characterized by an improper heaving upward of the chest, alternately raising and lowering the clavicle (collar bone); the breath of "exhaustion".

Diaphragmatic Breathing: costal breath control; implies proper coordination of the "holding back, resisting" muscles of the diaphragm and the "holding out" expansion muscles around the waist line.

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Chorus Cont.

Dramatic Soprano: a soprano whose volume, timbre, range and personality are best suited to interpretation of dramatic music.

Enunciation: one of the three elements of diction that deals principally with the vowels and syllables, their sound, accent and clarity.

Falsetto: usually signified by the thin, weak, undeveloped top range of the male voice. However, it occurs also in the top range of the female voice. In falsetto, only the extreme outer edge of the vocal folds appear to vibrate.

Forward Tone: focused tone; a tone with major frontal resonance of the mouth and vocal mask.

Band

Aperture: the opening formed by the lips when creating the embouchure for wind instruments.

Embouchure: The placement of the lips, facial muscles, and jaw in the playing of wind instruments

Ligature: Adjustable metal band that attaches the reed to the mouthpiece.

Tonguing: The use of the tongue for articulation in the playing of wind instruments.