

# Music Terms & Signs

*Basic Rudiments*

crescendo



decrescendo



diminuendo



*f*

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

*ff*

*pp*

becoming louder

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becoming softer

becoming softer

soft

loud

moderately soft

moderately loud

very soft

very loud

fine

legato



*gva*



*Ped.*  
con pedale

play smoothly

the end

*accent*

stress the note

*staccato*

sharply detached

*slur*

play legato

*fermata*

hold longer than  
the written value

*ottava*

interval of an octave

*tie*

hold for the value  
of both notes

with damper pedal

repeat sign

ritardando  
rit.

allegro

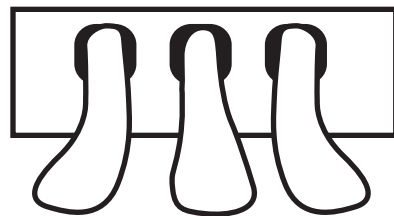
adagio

allegretto

marcato

maestoso

D.C. al fine



Name the pedals



fast

gradually slowing down

fairly fast

slow

majestic

marked or stressed

(left) - *una corda*  
(middle) - *sostenuto*  
(right) - damper

repeat from the  
beginning and end at  
the word *fine*

key signature

*tenuto*  
hold for the  
full value of the note

andantino

larghetto

tempo

tempo primo

lento

maestoso

A large, bold, black C-clef sign, commonly used for soprano or alto staves.A large, bold, black C-clef sign with a vertical line passing through its center, often used for tenor staves.

*8va* - - - - -

*8va* - - - - -

a little faster  
than largo

a little faster  
than andante

return to the  
original tempo

the speed

majestic

slow

cut time  $\frac{2}{2}$

common time  $\frac{4}{4}$

play the notes  
one octave *lower*  
than written

play the notes  
one octave *higher*  
than written

accelerando  
accel.

andante

dolce

cantabile

D.C.  
da capo

D.S.  
dal segno



at a walking pace

becoming faster

in a singing style

sweetly

from the sign  $\text{\textcircled{S}}$

from the beginning

*tenuto*  
held, sustained

dotted quarter note

eighth rest

eighth note

M.D.

M.S.

grazioso

largo

moderato

presto

vivace

prestissimo

a tempo

rallentando  
rall.

mano sinistra  
left hand

mano destra  
right hand

very slow and broad

gracefully

very fast

at a moderate tempo

as fast a possible

lively

slowing down

return to the  
original tempo