

													<b>GMTA THEORY MASTER VOCABULARY LIST</b>	
<b>VOCABULARY</b>													<b>DEFINITION</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>		
<b>A</b>														
Accelerando							7							Gradually getting faster
Accent				4										Strong emphasis
Acciaccatura												12		A very quick grace note that has no time value and no emphasis
Accidental				4										Sharp, flat or natural sign not in the key signature
Accompaniment				4										Any part or parts that complement the melody
Adagio				4										Slow speed
Added Sixth Chord												11		Root position triad that contains an extra pitch a major 6th above the bass note
ad libitum													12	With liberty
Aeolian (Mode)										10				A mode in which half steps occur between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees
Affettuoso													12	Tender
Agitato									9					Excited, agitated
Agogic Accent													11	A stress or emphasis due to lengthening of duration, not increased volume
“A” Instrument									9					An instrument whose sounding pitch is a minor 3 <sup>rd</sup> lower than the notated pitch
Alberti Bass						6								Accompaniment pattern using a three note chord (bottom, top, middle, top)
Alla breve							7							2/2 time signature or Cut time
Allargando										10				Becoming gradually slower and more stately
Allegretto						6								Fast enough
Allegro				4										Fast speed
Allemande												10		An elegant court dance at a moderate tempo, in duple or quadruple time
Alto								8						A female voice; the second highest of the four standard singing voices
Alto Clef													12	C-clef on the third line of the staff; used by violists
Anacrusis (Upbeat, Pick-Up)													11	One or more unstressed notes before the first barline of a piece or passage
Andante					5									Casual walking speed
Animato									9					Played in an animated manner
Answer									9					In a fugue, the ‘answer’ is the second entry of the subject, imitating the subject or motive in another key
Anticipation									9					An unaccented non-chord tone that comes before the chord to which it belongs
Appassionato								8						With passion
Appoggiatura												10		A grace note that precedes and takes half the time value from the principal note
Arco					5									Bowed
Aria													12	An operatic (or oratorio) solo focusing on the character’s emotions
Arpeggiated Chord									9					Notes of a chord played individually, “rolled chord”
Arpeggio				4										The notes of a chord played one after another from tonic to tonic

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Arranging													12	Assigning specific pitches, chords or melodies to particular instruments; for solos or small ensembles
Arrhythmic													11	Without rhythm; lacking a steady beat or pulse
Articulation				4										The attack and release of a note with connected or separated sound
Art Song								8						Western vocal music composition, usually written for one voice with piano accompaniment, and usually in the classical art music tradition
Assai									9					Enough
Asymmetrical Meter										10				Meter in which beats are of unequal length (ex. 5/8, 7/8)
a tempo				4										Return to the original tempo
Atonality													12	Absence of tonal structure and key signatures
Attacca										10				To continue without pause
Augmentation													12	Lengthening, usually doubling, the time values of the notes of a melody or motive
Augmented							7							One of four sound qualities that is a half step larger than a major or perfect sound
Augmented Interval							7							An interval one-half step larger than a perfect or major interval
Augmented Sixth Chord														A chord containing the interval of an augmented 6 <sup>th</sup> , usually between scale degrees <i>b</i> 6 and #4. This chord typically occurs directly before the dominant
Augmented Triad							7							A triad made larger than a major triad by raising the 5 <sup>th</sup> one-half step
Authentic Cadence						6								Dominant chord to tonic chord that ends a phrase
<b>B</b>														
Baritone													10	The male singing voice pitched between tenor and bass singing voices
Barlines														Vertical lines that divide music into measures
Bass								8						A male singing voice; the lowest of the four standard singing voices
Bass C				3										The 3 <sup>rd</sup> "C" from the bottom on the piano keyboard
Bass Clef Sign														A symbol that indicates notes below Middle C
Bass Clef Sign (new def)		2												Identifies the F on the fourth line
Basso Continuo (Thorough Bass)													11	Lowest part in most Baroque music, functioning as both a melodic and harmonic bass
Bass Staff		2												Staff with a bass clef sign
Beam				4										A horizontal line that connects two or more notes
Beat														A steady pulse
Beat Division					5									To divide a beat into two or more parts
Beat Subdivision								8						To further divide an already divided beat
Beat Unit						6								What kind of note gets one beat in a measure [In simple meter, the number of beats in a measure (2/4, 4/4=quarter note, 3/8=8 <sup>th</sup> note). In compound meter, three times the note value represented by the lower number (6/8 or 9/8=3x 8 <sup>th</sup> note=dotted quarter note, 3/16=3x 16 <sup>th</sup> note=dotted 8 <sup>th</sup> note, 3/2=3x half note=dotted whole note)]

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“Bb” Instrument									9					An instrument whose sounding pitch is one whole step lower than the notated pitch
Binary			4											Two-part form (AB)
Bitonality												12		The simultaneous use of two different keys
Blocked Chord		2												Three or more chord tones played at the same time
Blues Scale												11		Notes from which performers can choose when improvising a blues melody (1-3b-4-4# or 5b-5-7b)
Brace		2												Symbol used to join staves of the same instrument
Bracket													12	An additional vertical line joining staves to show grouping of instruments that function as a unit (i.e. string section)
Breve										10				A whole note with two vertical lines on either side that equals two whole notes
Bridge													11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After the answer in a fugue exposition, music that harmonically prepares for the subject to re-enter in the tonic</li> <li>2. In quaternary song form, the contrasting B section</li> <li>3. In popular music, the contrasting section that comes before the return of the chorus</li> </ol>
Broken Chord			3											Three or more chord tones played one at a time
<b>C</b>														
Cadence					6									Notes or chords that end a phrase
Cadenza									9					A virtuosic, ornamental solo passage that includes technical challenges
Calando													12	Growing softer and slower
Canon													11	A melody that is imitated by other voices at a specific interval
Cantabile							7							In a singing manner
Cantus Firmus													11	A given melody against which counterpoint is written
C Clef							7							A movable clef that identifies Middle C by the point on the staff at which the two curved lines join together in the middle allowing any one of the five lines to be identified as Middle C
C Clef Sign							7							Identifies the location of Middle C
Cédez													12	Slow down and become softer
Chorale													11	A single voice German hymn tune; 4-part chorales are harmonized versions of these tunes
Chord		2												Three or more chord tones played at the same time or separately
Chord Progression							7							Moving from one chord to another
Chord Tone			4											A note that belongs to a chord
Chromatic Half Step								8						A half step with two notes that use the same letter name
Chromatic Scale								8						Scale that uses only half steps
“C” Instrument									9					An instrument whose sounding pitch is the same as the notated pitch
Circle of Fifths						6								A circular diagram that shows the relationship between keys. It organizes the 12 chromatic pitches as a sequence of perfect 5 <sup>ths</sup>
Classical Suite (Baroque Suite)													10	A number of movements, each in the character of a dance, usually in the same key. Four standard movements are Allemande, Courante (or Corrente), Sarabande and Gigue

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Clef Sign		2												Sign that fixes the pitch of the notes on a staff
Close Position									9					Notes of a triad that are an octave or less between adjacent voices (may have a larger span between bass and tenor voices)
Coda						6								Ending section
Common Time			3											4/4 time signature; C
Compound Meter							7							Meters in which the beat divides into three and can further subdivide into six
Con								8						With
Con Brio										10				Brightly, with vigor
Concerto									9					A composition for solo instrument and orchestra
Con Dolore, (Doloroso)										10				With sorrow, sorrowful; expressive of pain or grief
Con Fuoco										10				With fire
Conjunct											11			Melodic line that moves primarily by step
Con Moto										10				With motion
Consonance									9					Opposite of dissonance; harmonious sounds
Contralto										10				The lowest female singing voice
Contrary Motion				4										Notes that move in opposite directions
Counterpoint							7							Combination of two or more independent melodies
Countersubject										10				In a fugue, contrasting melody to the subject
Counter Tenor (Contratenor)										10				The male voice higher than the tenor singing voice
Courante (Corrente)										10				A court dance in triple time characterized by a running or gliding step
Crescendo				4										Gradually getting louder
“C” Score												12		A score that shows the sounding pitches for transposing instruments; identified by a score in which all the key signatures are the same in all instruments
<b>D</b>														
Da Capo				4										“The head”; repeat from the beginning
Dal Segno					5									Repeat from the sign
Deceptive Cadence									9					Cadence that begins with the dominant chord and resolves to the submediant
Decrescendo				4										Gradually getting softer
Delicato										10				Delicately
Détaché									9					Primarily used in string playing and meaning to play each note with the bow separately
Development								8						A section of a sonata in which themes or motives are varied from the exposition
Diatonic Half Step								8						Half step using two letter names
Diminished							7							One of four sound qualities that is a half step smaller than a minor or perfect sound

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Diminished Interval							7						An interval one-half step smaller than a minor or perfect interval
Diminished Seventh Chord								8					A diminished triad with an added diminished 7 <sup>th</sup> interval; each interval is a minor 3 <sup>rd</sup> apart; divides the octave into 4 equal parts
Diminished Seventh Interval								8					An interval produced by reducing a minor 7 <sup>th</sup> by one-half step; enharmonically equivalent to a major sixth
Diminished Triad							7						A triad made smaller than a minor triad by lowering the 5 <sup>th</sup> one-half step
Diminuendo				4									Gradually getting softer
Diminution												12	Shortening, usually by half, the time values of the notes of a melody or motive
“D” Instrument									9				An instrument whose sounding pitch is one whole step higher than the notated pitch
Disjunct												11	Melodic line that moves primarily by skip or leap
Dissonance									9				The opposite of consonance; discordant sounds
Dolce					5								Sweetly
Dominant			3										The 5 <sup>th</sup> degree of a scale
Dominant Seventh Chord								8					A chord that begins on the 5 <sup>th</sup> step of a scale, comprised of a major triad and minor 7 <sup>th</sup>
Dorian (Mode)												10	A mode in which half steps occur between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees
Dot						6							Rhythmic notation that adds half the value of the preceding note or rest; notated by a dot to the immediate right of the head of a space note, and to the right and the space above the head of a line note
Dotted Half Note			3										A note with a hollow notehead, a stem, and a dot beside the notehead
Double Barline						6							Two vertical lines that separate sections of a piece
Double Dot												11	Rhythmic notation that adds a half plus a quarter of the value of the preceding note or rest
Double Flat									9				Lowers a note 2 half steps
Double Sharp									9				Raises a note 2 half steps
Downbeat				4									An accented beat, usually the first beat of the measure
Duple Meter					5								Two beats to a measure
Duplet								8					Two equal notes to be played in the time of three notes of the same value
Dynamics													Loudness or softness
<b>E</b>													
“Eb” Instrument									9				An instrument whose sounding pitch is a major 6 <sup>th</sup> lower or minor 3 <sup>rd</sup> higher than the notated pitch
Eighth Note				4									Note with filled-in notehead, stem, and flag
Ending Barline													Thin line and thick line that indicate the end of a piece
Enharmonic						6							Sounds the same but is spelled differently
Episode												11	A modulating passage in a fugue; a contrasting section in a rondo
Escape Tone												12	An unaccented non chord tone approached by step and resolved by leap in the opposite direction

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Espressivo							7						With expression	
Exposition								8					Statement of themes in a sonata	
Extended Tertian Harmony										10			Harmony using chords built in thirds, that extend beyond the 7 <sup>th</sup> in a triadic chord (9 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> )	
													<b>F</b>	
Facile								8					Easy	
Fermata					5								Hold or pause	
Figured Bass						6							Arabic numbers representing the intervals to be played above the bass that indicate accompanying harmonies	
Fine				4									End	
“F” Instrument									9				An instrument whose sounding pitch is a perfect 5 <sup>th</sup> lower than the notated pitch	
First Inversion						6							A chord in which the root is the highest note	
Fixed <i>do</i> (Solfege)											11		In fixed <i>do</i> , the syllables are equivalent in meaning to letter names (i.e. <i>do</i> =C, <i>re</i> =D, etc.)	
Flag				4									A wavy line attached to the stem of a single notehead to shorten its duration	
Flat			3										A symbol that means to lower a tone a half step	
Flat Sign		2											A symbol to the left of the note, on the same line or space as the notehead	
Folk Song								8					Song that originates in a traditional popular culture of a country or that is written in such a style, often transmitted through an oral tradition	
Form				4									The arrangement of sections in a piece of music	
Forte		2											Loud	
Fortepiano								8					Play loudly and immediately change to play softly	
Forte-Piano			3										Play first time loud, second time soft	
Fortissimo				4									Very loud	
Fortississimo						6							Extremely loud; triple forte	
Fugue									9				A piece that includes the systematic imitation of a principal theme with counterpoint (polyphonic)	
Full Score												12	Musical notation showing each instrumental part of a piece on separate staves	
Furioso											11		Furiously, wildly	
													<b>G</b>	
Giocoso												11	Humorous	
Gigue										10			A lively Baroque dance in 6/8 time, usually the last movement in a suite	
Giusto												12	In strict tempo	
Glissando								8					“To glide” (fr), a glide from one pitch to another	
Grace Note									9				An embellishment not essential to the harmony or melody	
Grandioso									9				With grandeur, majestically	

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Grand Staff		2											Treble and bass staff with connecting barline, brace and ending barline
Graphic Notation											11		Notation in which both pitch and duration are indicated with non-standard symbols
Grave										10			Slow and solemn
Grazioso							7						Graceful, elegant
<b>H</b>													
Half Cadence							7						Cadence that ends on the dominant chord
Half-Diminished Seventh Chord								8					A diminished triad with an added minor 7 <sup>th</sup> interval
Half Note													A note that has a hollow notehead and a stem
Half Step			3										From one note to the very next note, up or down
Harmonic Analysis							7						Identifying and/or labeling the function of chords in a progression
Harmonic Interval			3										Two notes played at the same time
Harmonic Minor Scale						6							Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: (begin) whole step, half step, two whole steps, half step, one-and-a-half steps, half step
Harmonize								8					To add intervals, chords or progressions of chords to complement the melody
Harmony				4									Intervals, chords or progressions of chords that complement the melody
Hemiola								8					Shifting between two groups of three beats and three groups of two beats
Homophonic									9				A melody supported by accompanying harmonies
<b>I</b>													
"I" (Twelve-tone Row)												12	Inversion: the prime form of the row with all intervals of the row inverted
Imitation							7						The immediate restatement of a melody or motive in another voice or part
Imperfect Authentic Cadence								8					A V-I cadence weakened by ending without the root in the bass of either chord and/or without the tonic in the top voice
Improvisation							7						Extemporized musical performance
Interval													The distance between two notes
Invention							7						A short composition in two-part counterpoint
Inversion					5								To change the position of the notes of a chord
Ionian (Mode)										10			A mode in which half steps occur between the 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees; sounds the same as a major scale
<b>J</b>													
Jeté												12	(Fr: 'thrown') In string playing, a bow stroke that bounces or ricochets off the strings. Composers specify the number of rebounds, usually between 2 and 6

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<b>K</b>														
Key Signature				4										Sharps or flats between the clef sign and time signature that alter the notes in the piece
<b>L</b>														
Langsam												12	Slow	
Largamente												11	Largely, broadly	
Largando												12	Growing broader, slower and more marked	
Largo					6								Stately, broad, very slow	
Leading Tone								8					The 7 <sup>th</sup> degree of a scale	
Leap		2											Note movement by more than a third	
Lebhaft												12	Lively	
Ledger Lines		2											Short horizontal lines that add notes above or below the staff	
Legato		2											Smooth, connected	
Leggiero									9				Lightly	
Lento							7						Slow	
Libretto												11	The text of a work such as an opera or other long vocal work	
L'istesso												11	Same tempo	
Loco				5									Return to the original location	
Locrian (Mode)												10	A mode in which half steps occur between the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees	
Lower Neighbor								8					A non-chord tone that goes down a step from the first chord and up a step to the next	
Lunga												12	Linger	
Lustig												12	Merry, cheerful	
Lydian (Mode)												10	A mode in which half steps occur between the 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees	
<b>M</b>														
Madrigal												11	A type of secular vocal music typical of the Renaissance and early Baroque periods. It is usually unaccompanied, through-composed, and features from two to six voices	
Maestoso							7						With majesty	
Main Droite (fr)												11	Right hand	
Main Gauche (fr)												11	Left hand	
Major				4									One of four sound qualities establishing the character of a piece, generally described as happy, bright or cheerful	
Major Interval				4									The distance of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , or 7 <sup>th</sup> measured from the tonic; the intervals are a part of the tonics' major scale	
Major Pentascale				4									Five stepwise notes using the pattern: (begin) whole step, whole step, half step, whole step	



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Major Scale			3										Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: (begin) two whole steps, half step, three whole steps, half step; Scale formed by two tetrascales
Major Seventh Chord								8					A chord consisting of a major triad and major seventh (MM7; common name M7)
Major Triad				4									The root, third and fifth of a major pentascale or scale
Mano Destra (It)												11	Right hand
Mano Sinestra (It)												11	Left hand
Marcato									9				Marked
MD Sotto												11	Right hand under left hand
Measure													The space between barlines
Mediant								8					The 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree of a scale
Melismatic												12	Texted music in which a single syllable is stretched out over multiple notes
Melodic Interval			3										Two notes played one at a time
Melodic Minor Scale							7						Eight stepwise notes, ascending, using the pattern: (begin) whole step, half step, four whole steps, half step; followed by a descending natural minor scale
Meno						6							Less
Meno Mosso						6							Less motion
Meter			3										The grouping of rhythm in a repeated pattern of strong and weak beats
Mezzo			3										Middle, medium, moderate or half
Mezzo Forte			3										Moderately loud
Mezzo Piano			3										Moderately soft
Mezzo Soprano												10	The female voice pitched between the soprano and alto singing voices
Middle C													The 4 <sup>th</sup> "C" from the bottom of the piano keyboard
Minor				4									One of four sound qualities establishing the character of a piece, generally described as sad, dark, mysterious or spooky
Minor Interval					5								An interval one-half step smaller than a Major interval
Minor Pentascale					5								Five stepwise notes using the pattern: (begin) whole step, half step, whole step, whole step
Minor Scale					5								Eight stepwise notes using the Natural, Harmonic or Melodic scale pattern
Minor Seventh Chord								8					A chord consisting of a minor triad and a minor seventh (mm7; common name m7)
Minor Triad					5								The root, third and fifth of a minor pentascale or scale
Misterioso					5								With mystery or hidden meaning
Mixed Meters												10	Music with multiple time signatures
Mixolydian (Mode)												10	A mode in which half steps occur between the 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees
Mode												10	A type of scale, neither major nor minor, that follows a distinct whole and half step pattern; modes include Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian and Locrian
Moderato					5								Moderate or medium speed
Modulate (Modulation)												10	Leaving one key to establish a new key

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Molto						6							Much
Mordent							7						A single rapid alternation from a principal tone to the note below and returning to the principal tone
Morendo										10			Dying away
Mosso						6							Motion
Motive (Motif)										10			A recurring, short melodic or rhythmic pattern, also called the subject
Moto						6							Motion
Movable <i>do</i> (Solfege)											11		In movable <i>do</i> , the syllables indicate the scale degree of a major scale (i.e. in D major, <i>do</i> =D, <i>re</i> =E, <i>mi</i> =F#, etc.)
MS Sorro											11		Left hand under right hand
Music Alphabet													A, B, C, D, E, F, G
<b>N</b>													
Natural Minor Scale					5								Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: (begin) whole step, half step, two whole steps, half step, two whole steps
Natural Sign			3										A symbol that cancels a sharp or flat
Neapolitan 6th Chord												12	A major triad built on the lowered supertonic of a major or minor scale usually found in first inversion (N6)
Neutral Clef												12	Clef used for the notation of rhythm only
Ninth (9 <sup>th</sup> ) Chord											11		Triad or 7 <sup>th</sup> chord with the 9 <sup>th</sup> added above the bass
Non						6							Not
Non-Chord Tone								8					A note that does not belong to a chord
Non Troppo								8					Not too much
Note													A symbol for sound that represents pitch, duration and beat
Notehead													The oval part of a note
<b>O</b>													
Offbeat						6							A weak beat in a measure
Open Position									9				Notes of the triad that are spaced larger than an 8 <sup>th</sup> ; the lowest note determines the inversion
Opus							7						Work; usually a number indicating the chronological order of music written by a composer
Orchestration												12	Assigning specific pitches, chords or melodies to particular instruments; for large ensembles
Order of Flats					5								B, E, A, D, G, C, F
Order of Sharps					5								F, C, G, D, A, E, B
Ornament (Ornamentation)						6							Added notes that embellish principal notes in the melody line
Ostinato					5								Repetition of a musical pattern
<b>P</b>													

													<b>GMTA THEORY MASTER VOCABULARY LIST</b>	
VOCABULARY													DEFINITION	
Levels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
“P” (Twelve-tone Row)												12	Prime form: the original tone row	
Parallel Major Scale						6							Major scale that starts on the same note as its parallel minor scale	
Parallel Minor Scale						6							Minor scale that starts on the same note as its parallel major scale	
Parallel Motion				4									Notes that move in the same direction	
Passing Tone							7						A non-chord tone that moves by step between two different chords without changing direction	
Pedale										10			Use the damper pedal	
Pedal Point												11	A sustained tone, typically in the bass, that begins as a chord tone and becomes a non-chord tone as harmonies change around it.	
Pedal Sign					5								Shows when to press and lift the damper pedal	
Pentascale		2											Five stepwise notes	
Pentascale (new def)			3										Five stepwise notes using the pattern: whole step, whole step, half step, whole step	
Pentatonic Scale									9				Scale on all black keys or the same intervallic pattern on any key	
Perdendosi												12	Getting gradually softer and dying away	
Perfect Authentic Cadence								8					A V-I (or V <sup>7</sup> -I) cadence where the roots of both chords are in the bass, and the tonic chord doubles the root in the soprano	
Perfect Interval							7						The distance of the unison, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> measured from the tonic; the intervals are part of the tonics' major scale; a perfect interval cannot be major or minor	
Period								8					A musical unit of two phrases	
Pesante									9				Heavy	
Phrase						6							A basic unit of music that ends in a cadence	
Phrase Modulation												12	A type of modulation where a phrase ends in one key and the next phrase begins in another key without any transition material	
Phrygian (Mode)										10			A mode in which half steps occur between the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> scale degrees	
Pianissimo				4									Very soft	
Pianississimo						6							Extremely soft; triple piano	
Piano		2											Soft	
Picardy Third												12	A change from minor to major in the final cadence of a minor composition, indicated by a sharp sign in the figured bass	
Pitch				4									A tone sounding in a particular octave	
Pitch Class							7						A group consisting of all pitches that share the same letter name (plus its harmonic equivalents)	
Piu							7						More	
Piu Mosso							7						More motion	
Pivot Chord										10			A chord used to modulate from one key to a new key	
Pizzicato					5								To pluck the string on a stringed instrument	
Plagal Cadence								8					Subdominant chord to a tonic chord that ends a phrase	
Poco						6							Little	

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Poco a poco						6								Little by little
Polyphonic									9					Music with two or more independent melodies
Portamento										10				A touch in between staccato and legato for pianists; a slide from one note to another in singing or playing a bowed string instrument
Portato											11			In an unconnected manner, not as short as staccato
Preciso												12		Precise, exact
Prelude									9					A musical composition that serves as an introduction to something else
Pressez (fr)												11		Accelerate, go faster
Prestissimo										10				Very, very fast
Presto									9					Very fast
Primary Chords					5									I, IV, V
<b>Q</b>														
Quadruple Meter					5									Four beats to a measure
Quality				4										Character of sound (i.e., major, minor, etc.)
Quartal Harmony								8						Harmony in which chords are built on fourths
Quarter Note														A note that has a filled-in notehead and a stem
Quaternary Song Form												11		A song form usually consisting of four 8-bar phrases (AABA)
<b>R</b>														
“R” (Twelve-tone Row)													12	Retrograde; the prime form of the row in reverse order
Rallentando							7							Becoming slower
Realization							7							To fill in the harmonic accompaniment to the figured bass
Recapitulation								8						Restatement of themes in a sonatina or sonata
Recitative														An operatic style of singing in which the singer uses the rhythms of speech
Reinforzando													12	A sudden increase of force
Relative Major Scale						6								Major scale that has the same key signature as its relative minor scale
Relative Minor Scale						6								Minor scale that has the same key signature as its relative major scale
Repeat Sign														Play again from the beginning
Repetition							7							Repeat of a melodic or rhythmic pattern
Resolve (Resolution)									9					To go from a dissonant interval or chord to a consonant interval or chord
Rest			3											A duration or unit of silence
Retenu												11		Holding back
Rhythm														Pattern of long and short sounds

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Levels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Rhythmic Notation										10			The beaming of notes to reflect the beat unit	
Rhythmic Pulse					5								A pattern of strong and weak beats in different time signatures	
“RI” (Twelve-tone Row)												12	Retrograde Inversion: the inverted form of the row in retrograde	
Ritardando				4									Deliberate slowing	
Ritenuato												11	Suddenly slowing down	
Ritornello												11	A recurring instrumental passage that occurs between sections of a composition	
Robusto												11	Firmly, boldly	
Roman Numerals				4									Numeral symbol originating in ancient Rome used in music to indicate major (upper case) or minor (lower case) chords	
Rondo						6							Form with a recurring theme between contrasting sections (ex. ABACA)	
Round								8					A song form in which three or more voices sing a simple melody in unison or octaves starting at different times, often with each voice beginning two measures after the previous voice	
Rubato										10			Freely; slight accelerando and ritardando used for expression	
<b>S</b>														
Sarabande										10			A slow, stately dance in $\frac{3}{4}$ time with emphasis on the second beat	
Scherzo (Scherzando)								8					In a playful and humorous manner	
Schnell												12	Fast	
Secco												11	Dry, without resonance	
Secondary Chords								8					ii, iii, vi, vii <sup>o</sup>	
Secondary Dominant										10			The dominant of a scale degree other than the tonic, labeled with Roman numerals (e.g. V/ii, or V of IV, etc.)	
Second Inversion							7						A chord in which the root is the middle note	
Section Repeat Sign		2											A symbol that indicates to play this section again	
Secundal Harmony								8					The quality of a chord made up of seconds	
Segue								8					To continue without a pause	
Sempre								8					Always	
Senza								8					Without	
Sequence							7						Repetition of a pattern at a higher or lower pitch	
Serialism												12	A method of composition in which a recurring, ordered series of pitches or pitch classes is used and manipulated throughout a piece to create unity. Twelve-tone technique is a type of serialism.	
Seventh Chords							7						Chords that contain a root, third, fifth and seventh	
Sforzando (sfz)								8					Sudden, strong accent	
Sharp			3										A symbol that means to raise a tone a half step	

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Sharp Sign		2											A symbol to the left of the note, on the same line or space as the notehead	
Simile							7						Continue in the same manner	
Simple Meter						6							Meters whose beats divide into two parts	
Sinfonia											11		A short composition in three-part counterpoint	
Skip		2											Note movement by thirds	
Slur			4										Curved line over or under different notes, played legato	
Smorzando												12	Fading away	
Solfège												11	A system of syllables used to identify pitches in a scale— <i>do, re, mi, fa, sol, la ti (si, shi)</i> . These are applied to notes in two different ways: fixed <i>do</i> , and movable <i>do</i>	
Solfège – Ascending Chromatic Scale													12	<i>Do, di (“i” pronounced “ee”), re, ri, mi, fa, fi, sol, si, la, li, ti, do</i>
Solfège – Descending Chromatic Scale													12	<i>Do, ti, te (“e” pronounced “ay”), la, le sol, se, fa, mi, me re, ra, do</i>
Sonata-Allegro Form								8					First movement of a sonata which has an exposition, development and recapitulation, and may also include an introduction and coda	
Soprano								8					A female voice; the highest of the four standard singing voices	
Sostenuto									9				Sustained, legato	
Sotto voce												11	Under the breath, in an undertone, very softly	
Sound													Created by vibrations; sound vs. silence; duration of sounds	
Spiritoso												11	Played in a spirited manner	
Staccato			3										Separated, detached; notated by a dot under or over the notehead	
Staff													Five parallel, horizontal lines	
Standard Accidental Placement						6							Standard accepted order in which sharps or flats are placed in the key signature	
Stem													A vertical line attached to a notehead	
Strain												12	A series of musical phrases that create a distinct melody of a piece, often repeated to instill the melody clearly	
Step		2											Note movement by a half or whole step	
Stretto												11	Overlapping statements of a subject; a concluding passage to a piece in a faster tempo	
Stringendo												11	Pressing ahead	
Strophic Form												12	A song form in which each verse or stanza is sung to the same music	
Subdominant				5									The 4 <sup>th</sup> degree of a scale	
Subito								8					Suddenly	
Subject									9				A recurring, short melodic or rhythmic pattern, also called the motive	
Submediant								8					The 6 <sup>th</sup> degree of a scale	
Suite									9				An ordered set of pieces	
Supertonic								8					The 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree of a scale	
Suspension									9				A chord tone that is held into a chord to which it does not belong	
Syllabic												12	Texted music that mostly uses one syllable of text per note	

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Symmetrical										10			Meter in which beats are of equal length	
Syncopation						6							Emphasis or accents on weak beats	
System												12	A line of music in a score, created by a vertical line drawn to the left of all staves and including all the instruments/parts playing or singing at that time	
<b>T</b>														
Tempo													Speed	
Tenor								8					A male voice; the second lowest of the four standard singing voices	
Tenor Clef												12	C-clef on the fourth line of the staff; sometimes used by bassoon, cello or double bass	
Tenuto							7						Hold for full value with a slight emphasis	
Ternary				4									Three part form (ABA)	
Tertian (Tertiary) Harmony								8					Harmony using chords built in thirds	
Tetrascale		2											Four stepwise notes	
Tetrascale (new def)			3										Four notes using the pattern: (begin) whole step, whole step, half step	
Texture					5								The overall sound of a piece of music created by the number or timbre of voices	
Theme					5								A recurrent melody	
Theme and Variation								8					A form in which a melody is followed by multiple altered restatements	
Third Inversion										9			A chord in which the root is the second note from the bottom	
Thorough Bass (Basso Continuo)												11	Lowest part in most Baroque music, functioning as both a melodic and harmonic bass	
Through Composed Form												12	A form without repetition of or return to previous musical material	
Tie				4									Curved line connecting notes of the same pitch that are played once and held for the value of both notes	
Time Signature		2											Two numbers written at the beginning of a piece (top number=beats per measure)	
Time Signature (new def)			3										Two numbers written at the beginning of a piece (top number=beats per measure, bottom number=what kind of note gets one beat)	
Tone Cluster												12	Three or more adjacent tones played at the same time	
Tonic			3										The 1 <sup>st</sup> degree of a scale	
Tonicization												12	The temporary treatment of a non-tonic harmony as the tonic	
Tranquillo										9			Calmly, peacefully	
Transpose				4									To play or write the same intervallic and rhythmic pattern beginning on a different note	
Transposed Score												12	A score that contains the written notes each instrumentalist must play in order to create the correct sounding pitch; identified by a score where the key signatures are not the same in all instruments	
Treble C			3										The 5 <sup>th</sup> "C" from the bottom of the piano keyboard	

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Treble Clef Sign														A symbol that indicates notes above Middle C
Treble Clef Sign (new def)		2												Identifies the G on the second line
Treble Staff		2												Staff with a treble clef sign
Tre Corde										10				Release soft pedal
Tremolo									9					Multiple alternations of a principal tone at an interval larger than a 2 <sup>nd</sup> for the duration of a note
Triad			3											A chord of three tones consisting of a root with its third and fifth
Trill					6									Multiple alternations of a principal tone and a neighboring pitch for the duration of a note
Triple Meter					5									Three beats to a measure
Triplet					5									A group of three equal notes to be played in the time of two notes of the same value
Tritone								8						Augmented 4 <sup>th</sup> or diminished 5 <sup>th</sup> interval
Tuplets												12		A grouping of notes that would not normally occur within a beat of the given time signature: duplet, triplet, quintuplet, septuplet, etc
Turn								8						A four note ornament that includes one note above and one note below a principal note
Tutti									9					With all voices or instruments together
Twelve-Bar Blues												11		Standard blues format of three 4-measure phrases played in the following pattern: I-I-I-I, IV-IV-I-I, V-IV-I-I. Any triad can be changed to minor or can add a minor 7 <sup>th</sup>
Twelve-Tone Row													12	A specific ordering of the 12 chromatic pitch classes in which each of the pitch classes occurs exactly once. The resulting row can appear in a composition in prime form, inversion, retrograde, and retrograde inversion "RI")
<b>U</b>														
Una Corda										10				Depress soft pedal
Unison					5									The interval of one pitch to itself
Upbeat (Anacrusis, Pick-Up)						6								One or more unstressed notes before the first barline of a piece or passage
Upper Neighbor								8						A non-chord tone that goes up a step from the first chord and down a step to the next chord
<b>V</b>														
Variation								8						Music in which material is repeated in an altered form
Vibrato												11		Slight fluctuations of the pitch of a note
Vivace							7							Lively, quick
Vivo									9					Lively
Volante													12	Rushing
<b>W</b>														
Whole Note		2												A note with only a hollow notehead (no stem)



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Whole Rest				4									A rest that lasts for a whole measure in any time signature	
Whole Step			3										Two half steps	
Whole Tone Scale									9				Scale that uses only whole steps	
<b>Z</b>														
Zart												12	(Gr) Delicate, tender, sensitive, subdued	
8va (ottava)				5									One octave higher or lower than written	
15ma							7						Two octaves higher or lower	
-etto							7						(suffix) Enough	
-ino							7						(suffix) Little	
-issimo							7						(suffix) Enough	