

Vocabulary	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Definition
<b>A</b>													
Accelerando							7						Gradually getting faster
Accent						6							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
ad libitum												12	With liberty
Aeolian (Mode)										10			Half steps occur between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> scale degree and between 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> scale degree
Affettuoso												12	Tender
Agitato									9				Excited, agitated
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							7						Fast enough
Allegro				4									Fast speed
Alto Clef												12	C-clef on the third line of the staff
Anacrusis											11		A weak beat on which a piece or phrase may begin
Andante					5								Casual walking speed

Animato									9				Played in an animated manner
Answer									9				In a fugue, the answer to the motive is imitation of the subject or motive in another key. A real answer is the exact transposition of the subject; a tonal answer has modified intervals
Anticipation									9				An unaccented non-chordal 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
Arpeggiated									9				Notes of a chord played individually, “rolled chord”
Arpeggio				4									The notes of a chord played one after another from tonic to tonic
Arrhythmic											11		Without rhythm, lacking a steady beat or pulse
Articulation				4									The touch and release of a key with connected or separated
Assai									9				Very
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	Melodies with note values doubled
Augmented							7					Made larger	
Authentic Cadence					6								Dominant Chord to Tonic Chord
<b>B</b>													





Compound Meter							7						A time signature in which the basic pulse is divisible by three (6/8, 9/8, 12/8)
Con								8					With
Con Brio										10			Brightly, with vigor
Con Dolore, Doloroso										10			With sorrow, sorrowful
Con Fuoco										10			With fire
Con Moto										10			With motion
Consonance										10			Two or more notes that are harmonious or pleasing
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
Crescendo						6							Gradually getting louder
<b>D</b>													
Da Capo				4									“The head” Repeat from the beginning
Dal Segno					5								Repeat from the sign
Deceptive									9				Cadence that begins with Dominant chord, does not end on tonic
Decrescendo						6							Gradually getting softer
Delicato										10			Delicately
Détaché									9				Primarily used in string playing. Play each note with the bow separately
Development									9				Themes or motives presented in new keys





Fortepiano							8					Play loud and immediately change to play soft
Forte-Piano			3									Play first time loud, second time soft
Fortissimo				4								Very loud
Fortississimo					6							Extremely loud, triple forte
Fugue								9				Systematic imitation of a principal theme with counterpoint
Furioso										11		Furiously, wildly
<b>G</b>												
Giacoso										11		Humorous
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
Grand Staff		2										Treble and bass staff with connecting barline, brace and ending barline
Grand Staff			3									Two staves (a treble staff and a bass staff) connected by a brace, barline and ending barline
Grave										10		Slow and solemn
Grazioso							7					Graceful, elegant
<b>H</b>												
Half Cadence							7					Cadence that ends on the Dominant Chord





<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, with crescendo
Largo					6									Stately, broad, very slow
Leading Tone							8							Seventh degree of a chord or scale
Lebhaft											12			Lively
Ledger Lines		2												Short lines that add notes above or below the staff
Ledger Lines			3											Short horizontal lines that add notes above or below the staff
Legato		2												Smooth, connected
Leggiero								9						Lightly
Lento						7								Slow
L'istesso											11			Same tempo
Loco					5									Return to the original location
Locrian (Mode)										10				Half steps occur between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> scale degree and between 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> scale degree
Lower Neighbor							8							A non-chordal 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	Half steps occur between 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> scale degree and between 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> scale degree
<b>M</b>													
Maestoso							7						With majesty
Main Droite (fr)												11	Right hand
Main Gauche (fr)												11	Left hand
Major Scale			3										Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: Two whole steps, half step, three whole steps, half step; Scale formed by two
Mano Destra (It)												11	Right hand
Mano Sinestra (It)												11	Left hand
Marcato									9				Marked
MD Sotto												11	(Main droite) right under left
Measure	1												The space between barlines
Mediant								8					Third degree of a chord or scale
Melodic Interval			3										Two notes played one at a time
Melodic Minor Scale							7						Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: Whole step, half step, four whole steps, half step; the combination of a melodic minor scale ascending followed by a natural minor scale descending
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
Middle C	1														The 4 <sup>th</sup> C from the bottom of the Piano Keyboard
Misterioso					5										With mystery or hidden meaning
Mixed Meters										10					Music with multiple time signatures
Mixolydian (Mode)										10					Half steps occur between 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> scale degree and between 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> scale degree
Mode										10					A collection of notes that follow 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
Molto					6										Much
Mordent							7								A single rapid alternation from a principal tone to the note above (pralltriller) or below (uses tilde)
Morendo										10					Dying away
Mosso					6										Motion
Motive (Motif)										10					Short melodic or rhythmic pattern, also called Subject
Moto					6										Motion
MS Sorro											11				Left under right

Music Alphabet	1																				A, B, C, D, E, F, G	
<b>N</b>																						
Natural Minor Scale					5																	Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: whole step, half step, two whole steps, half step, two whole steps
Natural Sign			3																			A symbol that cancels a sharp or flat
Neopolitan 6															12							A Major triad built on the lowered supertonic of a Major or minor scale usually found in first inversion (N6)
Non						6																Not
Non-chordal Tones											8											A note that does not belong to a chord
Non Troppo											8											Not too much
Note	1																					A symbol that represents pitch, duration and beat
Note Head	1																					The oval part of a note
<b>O</b>																						
Open Position												8										Notes of the triad that are spaced larger than an 8 <sup>th</sup> ; the lowest note determines the inversion
Opus						6																Work
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																	Incessant repetition of a motive

<b>P</b>															
“p”												12		Original 12-tone row; prime	
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-chordal tone that moves by step between two different chords without changing direction	
Pedale											10			Use the damper pedal	
Pedal Sign					5									Shows when to press and lift the damper pedal	
Pedal Point												11		A note that begins as a chord tone and becomes a non-chord tone as harmonies change around it. It becomes a chord tone again as harmonies resolve	
Pentascale		2												Five stepwise notes	
Pentascale			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 pattern on any key	
Perdendosi													12	Getting gradually softer and dying away	
Perfect Authentic Cadence								8						The roots of both chords are in the bass, and the tonic is in the highest voice of the final chord	
Pesante										9				Heavy	
Phrase Modulation													12	A sudden change of key	

Phrygian (Mode)									10			Half steps occur between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> scale degree and between 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> scale degree
Pianissimo			4									Very soft
Pianississimo				6								Extremely soft, or triple piano
Piano	2											Soft
Piu					7							More
Piu Mosso					7							More motion
Pivot Chord									10			Chord used to transition from one key to a new key in
Pizzicato				5								To pluck the string on a stringed instrument
Plagal Cadence						8						Subdominant Chord to Tonic Chord
Poco				6								Little
Poco a poco				6								Little by little
Polyphonic							9					Music with two or more independent parts
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 (V <sup>7</sup> )
<b>Q</b>															
Quadruple Meter					5										Four beats to a measure
Quality					5										Character of sound
Quartal Harmony								8							Harmony in which chords are built on fourths
Quarter Note	1														A note that has a filled-in notehead and a stem
<b>R</b>															
“R”													12		Retrograde; prime in reverse order
Rallentando							7								Becoming slower
Realization					6										To fill in the harmonic accompaniment to the figured bass
Recapitulation								9							Restatement of themes
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	1														Play again from the beginning
Repetition							7								Repeat of a melodic or rhythmic pattern
Retenu													11		Holding back
Rhythm	1														Pattern of long and short sounds



Rhythmic Pulse					5										A pattern of strong and weak beats in different time signatures
“RI”														12	Inversion of the Retrograde
Ritardando					4										Deliberate slowing
Ritenuto														11	Held back, suddenly slower
Robusto														11	Firmly, boldly
Roman Numerals												8			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)
Rubato														10	Freely, slight accelerando and ritardando used for expression
<b>S</b>															
Scherzo (Scherzando)												8			In a playful and humorous manner
Schnell														12	Fast
Secco														11	Dry, without expression
Secondary Chords												8			ii, iii, vi, vii <sup>o</sup>
Secondary Dominant														10	Dominant of a scale degree other than the tonic. Labeled with Roman Numerals, e.g. V/ii, or V of IV, etc.
Section Repeat Sign		2													Indicates to play this section again
Secundal												8			The quality of a chord made up of seconds
Segue												8			To continue without a pause



Staff	1																				Five parallel, horizontal lines						
Standard Accidental Placement						6																Standard accepted order in which sharps or flats are placed in the key signature					
Stem	1																					A vertical line attached to a notehead					
Stretto																						11	Imitation of a subject in close succession				
Stringendo																							11	Pressing ahead			
Subdominant						5																			Fourth degree of a chord or scale		
Subito																									Suddenly		
Subject																									9	Short melodic or rhythmic pattern; also called motive	
Submediant																									8	Sixth degree of a chord or scale	
Suite																									9	An ordered set of pieces	
Supertonic																									8	Second degree of a chord or scale	
Suspension																									9	A chord tone that is held into a chord to which it does not belong	
Syncopation																									6	Emphasis or accents on weak beats	
<b>T</b>																											
Tempo	1																									Speed	
Tenuto																										6	Hold for full value, slight emphasis
Ternary																										4	Three part form (ABA)
Tertian (Tertiary) Harmony																										8	Harmony using chords built on thirds

Tetrascale		2											Four stepwise notes
Tetrascale			3										Four notes using the pattern: 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									The main musical idea of a composition
Theme and Variation							8						A form in which a melody is followed by multiple altered restatements
Thorough Bass									10				Basso continuo; lowest part in most Baroque music, functioning as both a melodic and harmonic bass
Tie			4										Curved line connecting notes of the same pitch that 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			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										First degree of a chord or scale
Transpose					6								To play or write the same intervallic and rhythmic pattern beginning on a different note
Tranquillo								9					Calmly, peacefully
Treble C			3										The 5 <sup>th</sup> C from the bottom of the Piano Keyboard
Treble Clef sign	1												Identifies the G on the second line

Treble Clef Sign		2										Identifies the G on the second line
Treble Staff		2										Staff with a treble clef sign
Tremolo							8					Multiple alternations of a principal tone at an interval larger than a second for the duration of a note
Tres Corde									10			Release soft pedal
Tres Lager										12		Very smoothly
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>
Turn							8					A four note ornament that includes one note above and one note below a principal note
Twelve Tone Row										12		A serial technique which uses all 12 notes of the chromatic scale in a fixed order. No tone may be repeated until all others have been used. There is no tonal center (See “P”, “R”, “I”, and
<b>U</b>												
Una Corda									10			Depress soft pedal
Upbeats				6								Note or notes that come before the first full measure of a piece
Upper Neighbor							8					A non-chordal tone that goes up a step from the first chord and down a step to the next

