Vocabulary	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Definition
A													
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 nd and 3 rd scale degree and between 5 th and 6 th 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
В										

Barlines	1								Vertical lines that divide music into measures
Bass C			3						The 3 rd from the bottom on the Piano Keyboard
Bass Clef Sign	1								A symbol that indicates notes below Middle C
Bass Clef Sign		2							Identifies the F on the fourth line
Basso Continuo						10			Thorough bass; 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	1								Pulse
Beat Division							11		
Beat Subdivision							11		
Beat Unit					6				In simple meter, the number of beats in a measure $(2/4, 4/4 = $ quarter note, $3/8 = $ eighth note). In compound meter, three times the note value represented by the lower number $(6/8 \text{ or } 9/8 = 3x \text{ eighth note} = \text{dotted quarter note}, 3/16 = 3x \text{ sixteenth note} = \text{dotted eighth note}, 3/2 = 3x \text{ half note} = \text{dotted whole note})$
Binary				4					Two-part form (AB)
Bitonality								12	Harmony in two different keys
Blocked Chord		2							Three or more chord tones played at the same time
Brace		2							Symbol used to join two staves
Breve						10			A note twice as long as a whole note; Also called double whole note
Broken Chord			3						Three or more chord tones played one at a time

C										
Cadence			6							Notes or chords that end a phrase
Cadenza								11		An elaborate passage at the end of the first or last movement of a concerto
Calando									12	Growing softer and slower
Cantabile				7						In a singing manner
C Clef sign			6							Identifies the location of Middle C
Cedez									12	Slow down and become softer
Chord	2									Three or more chords tones played at the same time or
Chord Progression			6							Moving from one chord to another
Chord tone					8					A note that belongs to a chord
Chromatic Half Step						9				A half step with two notes that use the same letter name
Chromatic Scale						9				Scale that uses only half steps
Circle of Fifths			6							A way of organizing the 12 chromatic pitches as a sequence of Perfect 5ths
Classical 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 Courrente), Sarabande and Gigue
Clef Sign	2									Sign that fixes the pitch of the notes on a staff
Close Position						9				Notes of a triad are close to each other an octave or less apart
Coda			6							Ending section
Common Time		3								4/4 time signature; C

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
D								
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

Diatonic Half Step								10			Half step using two letter names
Diminished					7						Made smaller
Diminuendo				6							Gradually getting softer
Diminution										12	Melodies with note values halved
Dissonance								10			Discordant sounds or lack of harmony
Dolce			5								Sweetly
Doloroso									11		Expressive of pain or grief
Dominant		3									Fifth degree of a chord or scale
Dorian (Mode)								10			Half steps occur between 2 nd and 3 rd scale degree and between 6 th and 7 th scale degree
Dot				6							Adds half the value of the preceding note or rest
Dotted Half Note		3									A note with a hollow head, a stem, and a dot
Double Barline				6							Two vertical lines that separate sections of a piece
Double Dot									11		
Double Flat							9				Lowers a note 2 half steps
Double Sharp							9				Raises a note 2 half steps
Downbeat								10			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	1										Loudness or softness

E													
Eighth Note				4									Note with a filled-in head, a stem, and a flag
Ending Barline	1												Thin line and thick line that end a piece
Enharmonic						6							Sounds the same but is spelled differently
Episode											11		An element found in music that is a digression from the main structure of a composition
Escape Tone												12	An unaccented tone occurring between and not belonging to either of two different chords
Espressivo							7						With expression
Exposition									9				Statement of themes
Extended Tertian Harmony										10			Harmony using chords based on thirds, that extend beyond the 7th in a triadic chord (9-11-13)
F													
Facile								8					Easy
Fermata					5								Hold or pause
Figured Bass						6							A bass part to which Arabic numbers have been added to indicate accompanying harmonies
Fine				4									End
Flat			3										Lowers the tone a half step
Flat Sign		2											A symbol that indicates a note is to be flatted
Form				4									The arrangement of sections in a piece of music
Forte		2											Loud

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
G											
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
Н											
Half Cadence					7						Cadence that ends on the Dominant Chord

Half Note	1									A note that has a hollow head and a stem
Half Step		3								From one note to the very next note, up or down
Harmonic				6						Identifying and/or labeling the function of chords in a
Harmonic Interval		3								Two notes played at the same time
Harmonic Minor Scale				6						Eight stepwise notes using the pattern: Whole step, half step, two whole steps, half step, one-and-a-half steps, half step
Hemiola						8				Two groups of three beats are replaced by three groups of two beats
Homophonic							9			Music with melody and accompaniment
I										
"I"									1	2 After the Prime note, every successive interval is inverted
Imitation					7					The immediate restatement of a melody or motive in another voice or part
Imperfect Authentic Cadence						8				A V-I cadence ending without the root in the bass of either cho and/or without the tonic in the top voice
Improvisation				6						Extemporized musical performance
Interval	1									The distance between two notes
Invention					7					A short composition in two-part counterpoint
Inversion			5							Chord where the root is not the lowest note
Ionian (Mode)								10		Half steps occur between 3 rd and 4 th scale degree and between 7 th and 8 th scale degree; sounds the same as a Major scale

K												
Key Signature			4									Sharps or flats between the clef sign and time signature that alter the notes in the piece
L												
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 1st and 2nd scale degree and between 4th and 5th 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 4th and 5th scale degree and between 7th an 8th scale degree
M										
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 4th 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 rd and 4 th scale degree and between 6 th and 7 th 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
N							
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
O							
Open Position					8		Notes of the triad that are spaced larger than an 8th; 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

P												
"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 1st and 2nd scale degree and between 5th and 6th 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 ⁷)
Q									
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
R									
"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
S									
Scherzo (Scherzando)					8				In a playful and humorous manner
Schnell								12	Fast
Secco							11		Dry, without expression
Secondary Chords					8				ii, iii, vi, vii [°]
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

Sempre								8					Always
Senza								8					Without
Sequence										10			Repetition of a pattern at a higher or lower pitch
Serialism												12	Using musical elements to organize the structure of a composition; takes the place of a traditional concept of key relationship and thematic development
Seventh Chords							7						Chords that contain a root, third, fifth and seventh
Sforzando								8					Sudden, strong accent
Sharp													Raises a tone a half step
Sharp Sign		2											A symbol that indicates a note is to be sharped
Sharp Sign			3										Raises a tone a half step
Simile							7						Continue in the same manner
Simple Meter					6	5							A time signature in which the basic pulse is divisible by two (2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/2)
Slur				4									Curved line over or under different notes, played legato
Smorzando												12	Fading away
Sonata-Allegro Form											11		First movement which has Exposition, Development and Recapitulation, and may also include an Introduction and Coda
Sostenuto									9				Sustained, legato
Sotto											11		Under
Sound	1												Created by vibrations; sound vs. silence; duration of sounds
Spiritoso											11		Played in a spirited manner
Staccato				4									Separated, detached

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					8			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
T								
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 5th 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 4th or diminished 5th
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
U								
Una Corda						10		Depress soft pedal
Upbeats				6		10		Note or notes that come before the first full measure of a piece
-				0				•
Upper Neighbor					8			A non-chordal tone that goes up a step from the first chord and down a step to the next

V										
Variation							9			Music where material is repeated in an altered form
Vivace					6					Lively, quick
Vivo								11		Lively
Volante									12	Rushing
W										
Whole Note	2									A note with only a hollow head (no stem)
Whole Rest			4							A rest that last for a whole measure in any time signature
Whole Step		3								Two half steps
Whole Tone Scale							9			Scale that uses only whole steps
8va				5						One octave higher or lower
15ma						7				Two octaves higher or lower
-etto						7				(suffix) Enough
-ino						7				(suffix) Little
-issimo						7				(suffix) Enough