

Intermediate Musical Theory

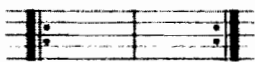
This document has been put together to help people with some musical knowledge, but would find a bit more to be helpful

Navigating through a Piece of Music

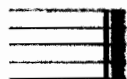
As well as the normal single bar lines which you will be used to there are several other types which give you different information, they can divide longer music up into sections, and to show you which bars to repeat, if any.



Double thin bar line. Shows the end of a section, or when there is a key signature change.



Repeat bar lines. On reaching the left-facing (second) pair of dots, the music should be repeated from the right-facing (first) pair of dots. If there are no right-facing dots, the music should be repeated from the beginning.



Double bar line, thin + thick. Only used at the very end of a piece.

Some other symbols which are used to help you navigate your way through the score:

D.C.

D.C. stands for Da Capo, which means “from the head”; or in other words, go back to the beginning.

D.S.

D.S. stands for Dal Segno (pronounced SEN-yo), which means “from the sign”; or go back to the sign.



This is the “sign” referred to by D.S.

al Coda

Sing until you see the Coda sign.



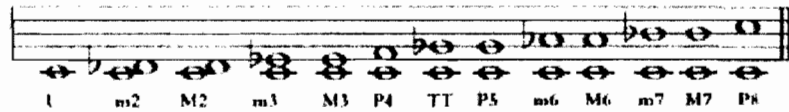
Coda sign. Jump from here to the Coda (at the end of the piece), which will also be marked with this sign.

al Fine

Sing until the end.

Intervals

An interval is the distance between two notes:



Semitones	0	1	2	3	4	5
Interval	Perfect Unison	Minor second	Major second	Minor third	Major third	Perfect fourth
Abbrev.	U	m2 (Semitone)	M2 (Whole tone)	m3	M3	P4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tritone	Perfect fifth	Minor sixth	Major sixth	Minor seventh	Major seventh	Perfect octave
TT	P5	m6	M6	m7	M7	P8

There are many lists on the internet which can help you remember what the intervals sound like by giving you songs which start with the interval (both going up and down). One of the best that I have found is at <http://www.earmaster.com/intervalsongs/> as they have links to youtube videos of the songs in question

Key Signatures

A key signature is a series of sharp or flat symbols placed on the staff, designating notes that are to be consistently sung one semitone higher or lower than the equivalent natural notes, unless altered with an accidental.



Tempo

The tempo (or speed) of a piece of music is usually indicated at the beginning of the piece, and changes might occur during the piece. Tempo can be indicated with foreign words such as *Andante* or English words such as *Briskly* (see Glossary for more), or symbols. Using symbols, tempo is indicated with a note value and the metronome marking it requires, for example like this:



A metronome marking of 60 means 60 clicks (or crotchets) per minute (or one every second).

Dynamics

Apart from the basic volume instructions like *pp* or *ff* and *decrescendo* there are some less common ones which are equally important

you might see *fp* which means sing loudly, but then immediately make the note quiet.

Or *Smorzando* Dying away in tone and speed

Further dynamic markings can be found in the glossary at the end of this document

Phrasing and Articulation

Phrase marks are curved lines which group together notes which belong in one phrase, like this:



Individual notes can be sung in a huge number of ways, and so there are several “articulation” indications to show what you need to do. Some articulation indications only apply to certain instruments, while others are pretty much universal.

Here are the main articulation markings:



Staccato Detached (distinctly separate from the next note), and short.



Staccatissimo Extremely detached and short.



Tenuto Hold the note for its full length.



Accent Attack the note with extra force.



Marcato Detach the note, but don't shorten it.

Glossary

Term	Translation	Term	Translation	Term	Translation
A tempo	In time	Et	And	Pochettino	Rather little
Aber	But	Etwas	Somewhat, rather	Poco	A little
Accelerando(Accel)	Gradually getting faster	Facile	Easy	Possibile	Possible
Ad libitum (Ad lib.)	At choice	Fine	The end	Presser	hurry
Adagietto	Rather slow	Forte (F)	Loud	Presto	Fast (faster than allegro)
Adagio	Slow	Fortepiano (FP)	Loud, then immediately soft	Prima volta	First time
Affettuoso	Tenderly	Fortissimo (FF)	Very Loud	Prima, primo	First
Affrettando	Hurrying	Forza	Force	Quasi	As if, resembling
Agitato	Agitated	Fruhlich	Cheerful, joyful	Ralentir	Slow down
Al, alla	In the style of	Fuoco	Fire	Rallentando(Rall.)	Gradually getting slower
Alla breve	With a minim beat	Giocoso	Playful, merry		Retenu Held back
Alla misura	In strict time	Giusto	Proper, exact	Rinforzando (RF, RFZ)	Reinforcing
Allargando	Broadening	Grave	Very slow, solemn		Risoluto Bold, strong
Allegretto	Fairly quick	Grazioso	Graceful	Ritardando (Rit.)	Gradually getting slower
Allegro	Fast	Immer	Always	Ritenuto (Rit.)	Held back
Allegro assai	Very fast	Incalzando	Getting quicker	Ritmico	Rhythmically
Allegro moderato	Moderately fast	Langsam	Slow	Ruhig	Peaceful
Amabile	Amiable, pleasant	Largamente	Broadly	Sans	Without
Amore	Love	Larghetto	Rather slow	Scherzando	Playfully, joking
Amoroso	Loving	Largo	Slow and stately	Schnell	Fast
Andante	At a walking pace	Lebhaft	Lively	Seconda volta	Second time
Andantino	Slightly faster than andante	Legato	Smoothly	Seconda, secondo	Second
Anima	Spirit	Legerement	Light	Segue	Go straight on without stopping
Animando	Becoming more lively	Leggiero	Light, nimble	Sehr	Very
Animato, Anime	Animated, lively	Lento	Slow	Semplice	Simple, plain
Appassionato	With passion	Lento	Slow	Sempre	Always
Assai	Very	Lunga	Long	Senza	Without
Assez	Enough	Lunga pausa	Long pause	Senza misura	In free time
Attacca	Go immediately to next section	Lusingando	Coaxing	Sforzando (SF)	Forced, accented
Ausdruck	Expression	Ma	But	Sforzato (SFZ)	Forced, accented
Avec	With	Maestoso	Majestic	Simile (sim.)	In the same way
Ben	Well	Mais	But	Smorzando	Dying away in tone and speed

Term	Translation	Term	Translation	Term	Translation
Bewegt	With movement, agitated	Marcato	Emphatic, accented	Sonoro	Resonant, with a rich tone
Breit	Broad, expansive	Marziale	In a military style	Sopra	Above
Brio	Vigour	Massig	At a moderate speed	Sostenuto	Sustained
Calando	Getting softer, dying away	Meno	Less	Sotto	Below
Cantabile	In a singing style	Mesto	Sad	Staccato (Stacc.)	Detached
Cantando	Singing	Mezzo	Half	Stringendo	Gradually getting faster
Cédez	Yield, relax the speed	Mezzo forte (MF)	Moderately loud	Subito	Suddenly
Come	As, similar to	Mezzo piano (MP)	Moderately quiet	Suss	Sweet
Comodo	At a comfortable speed	Misura	Measure	Tanta	So much
Con, col	With	Mit	With	Tempo	Speed, time
Crescendo (Cresc.)	Gradually getting louder	Moderato	Moderate speed	Teneramente	Tenderly
Da capo (DC)	Repeat from beginning	Moderate	At a moderate speed	Tenerezza	Tenderly
Dal segno (DS)	Repeat from "S" sign	Moins	Less	Tenuto	Held
Deciso	With determination	Molto	Very much	Tosto	Swift, Rapid
Decrescendo (Decresc.)	Gradually getting quieter	Morendo	Dying away	Tranquillo	Calm
Delicato	Delicate	Mosso	Movement	Traurig	Sad
Diminuendo (Dim.)	Gradually getting quieter	Nicht	Not	Tres	Very
Dolce	Sweet, soft	Niente	Nothing (silence)	Tristamento, Triste	Sorrowful
Dolente	Sad, mournful	Nobilmente	Nobly	Troppo	Too much
Dolore	Grief	Non	Not	Un, Une	One
Doloroso	Sorrowful	Non	Not	Und	And
Doppio movimento	Twice as fast	Ohne	Without	Veloce	Swift
Douce	Sweet	Ossia	Or, alternatively	Vif	Lively
E, ed	And	Perdendosi	Dying away	Vite	Quick
Ein	One	Pesante	Heavy	Vivace, vivo	Lively, quick
Einfach	Simple	Peu	Little	Voce	Voice
En dehors	Prominent	Piacevole	Pleasant	Volante	Flying, fast
En pressant	hurrying	Piangevole	Plaintive, like a lament	Voll	Full
En retenant	Holding back, slowing a little	Pianissimo (PP)	Very quiet	Wenig	Little
Energico	Energetic	Piano (P)	Quiet	Wieder	Again
Espressivo	Expressive	Piu	More	Zart	Tender, delicate
Estinto	As soft as possible	Plus	More	Zu	To, too