



# Italian Musical Terms For Band

## DYNAMICS

<i>ff</i>	<b>Fortissimo</b>	– very loud
<i>f</i>	<b>Forte</b>	– loud
<i>mf</i>	<b>Mezzo Forte</b>	– medium loud
<i>mp</i>	<b>Mezzo Piano</b>	– medium soft
<i>p</i>	<b>Piano</b>	– soft
<i>pp</i>	<b>Pianissimo</b>	– very soft

 **Crescendo** (*cresc.*) – gradually louder

 **Decrescendo** – gradually softer


*fp* **Forte Piano** – loud, then suddenly soft

## OTHER

<b>Simile</b>	–	the same
<b>Poco a Poco</b>	–	little by little
<b>Subito</b>	–	suddenly
<b>Molto</b>	–	much, very
<b>Piu</b>	–	more
<b>Non</b>	–	not
<b>Divisi</b>	–	divide the part
<b>Solo</b>	–	one player
<b>Tutti</b>	–	all, everyone play together
<b>Tacet</b>	–	be silent, do not play

## TEMPO

<b>Presto</b>	–	very fast	168-200 bpm
<b>Allegro</b>	–	fast	120-168 bpm
<b>Allegretto</b>	–	medium fast	112-124 bpm
<b>Moderato</b>	–	moderate	108-120 bpm
<b>Andante</b>	–	medium slow	76-108 bpm
<b>Adagio</b>	–	slow	66-76 bpm
<b>Largo</b>	–	very slow	40-60 bpm

<b>A Tempo</b>	–	resume previous tempo
<b>L'istesso Tempo</b>	–	keep the same tempo
<b>Rubato</b>	–	flexible with the tempo
<b>Ritardando</b> ( <i>rit.</i> )	–	gradually slower
<b>Ritentuto</b>	–	suddenly slower
<b>Meno Mosso</b>	–	less motion
<b>Con Moto</b>	–	with motion
<b>Accelerando</b> ( <i>accel.</i> )	–	gradually faster
<b>Doppio Movimento</b>	–	twice as fast
<b>Fermata</b> 	–	sustain longer than printed
<b>Caesura</b> //	–	short pause in the music

## INTERPRETATION

<b>Cantabile</b>	–	in a singing style
<b>Dolce</b>	–	sweetly
<b>Espressivo</b>	–	expressively
<b>Leggiero</b>	–	lightly
<b>Pesante</b>	–	heavily
<b>Maestoso</b>	–	majestically

# Articulations



Ties and slurs (legato) connect two or more notes together. Ties connect notes of the same pitch, forming essentially one longer note. Slurs connect notes of different pitch.

**Staccato:**  
detached,  
separated

**Marcato:**  
strong  
emphasis and  
detached

**Tenuto:**  
sustained  
full value

*sfz*

**Staccatissimo:**  
very short

**Accent:**  
emphasis  
on the note

**Sforzando:**  
a sudden  
strong accent

## Repeats

**Da Capo al Fine** (*D.C. al fine*) - Go back to the beginning and play to the **fine** (the end)

**Da Capo al Coda** (*D.C. al coda*) - Go back to the beginning, play until the indicated **to Coda**, jump to the **Coda**  $\oplus$  and play to the end.

**Dal Segno al Fine** (*D.S. al fine*) - Go back to the sign  $\%$  and play to the **fine** (the end)

## Rehearsal Terms

Tone –	a musical sound or the quality of a musical sound
Melody –	an arrangement of single tones in a meaningful sequence
Harmony –	sound resulting from simultaneous sounding of two or more tones
Accompaniment -	music that goes along with a more important part; often harmony
Phrase –	a small section of a composition comprising a musical thought
Syncopation –	rhythmic accents on weak beats or weak portions of beats
Ostinato –	a repeated melodic or rhythmic fragment
Interval –	the distance between two tones
Chord -	three or more tones combined and sounded simultaneously