

I. BASIC MUSICAL TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH

4 spaces and 5 lines in staff notation

A natural

absolute name

absolute pitch / perfect pitch

absolute sol-fa solmization / fixed do

accelerating trill

accent displacement / syncopation

accidental

accompanied song

acoustic overtone series

adjacent space

alteration

altered chord

articulation / phrasing

ascending phrase

atonal / keyless

attack

augmented chord

augmented interval

bar

bar-line

beat

beat / metric unit

binary form

black key

blow

breath

breath mark

bridge

by ear / by rote

by heart

cadential gesture
cantus firmus / parent tone
chain of fifth
chest
chest voice
choral arrangement
chord inversion / harmonic inversion
chord of the second / four-two chord
chord set
chord turn / harmonic progression
chord, harmony
chordal outline
chorus / refrain
chromatic chord
chromatically raised note
circular breathing
clef
climax / peak
close harmony
clusters of adjacent notes
coda / outro
common chord
complementary interval
complete close
compound form
conclusion
conducting pattern
conducting score
consecutive fifths / parallel fifths
consecutive intervals
consonance
consonant chord
contrary motion

conventional notation
crab canon
crochet / quarter rest
declamation
decorate / ornament / figure
descending passage
descending phase
development
diaphragm
diatonic chord
diminish
diminished chord
dynamic gradation
dissonant chord
distant modulation
distant tonal relations
do-centred pentatonic
dominant chord
dominant degree
dominant of the dominant / secondary dominant / exchange dominant
dominant-tonic progression
double flat
double sharp
dress rehearsal
duration
early music ensemble
echo effects
enharmonic circle of fifth
entrance
equal temperament
equal voices
excessive vibrato
exercise / practise

exhale
exposition
extended cadence
fadeout
fall in pitch
fifth-change
figured bass
finger key / finger button
first line
five-tone scale
flag of the note
flat
force of tone / volume / intensity / strength of tone
foundation/basic chord
four-movement symphony
functional bases of chords
fundamental chord
fundamental note / keynote / primary note / tonic
half beat
half note
hammers
harsh
head register
home key / main key / basic key
homophonic style
humming
imitative entry
imitative movement
implied chord
inflection
inhale
inner part
instrumental improvisation

interlude
introduction / intro
introductory movement
inverted melody
isorhythm
key signature
key signature
keyboard genre
larynx / throat
leading note
legato phrasing
length of a note
long-held pedal mark
louder dynamic stress
low
lower lip
lowering of a note
main accent / primary stress
main key / principal key
Major
major seventh
mediant
medieval instrument
melodic line
melodic resource
metre / time / metric
minor
modal chord
monodic / unison / one part
monothematic sonata forms
movement
music desk / stand
natural

natural scale
note picture
note shape
off beat
one-part melodic dictation
ordinary / simple suspension
ornamented
out of tune / false / off pitch
overtone
parallel keys
passage
passing chord
passing notes
Pentatonic tonal system
perfect interval
pitch
polyphonic style
position of a chord
prevailing key
principal section
prosodic accent
published collection
quarter tone
recapitulation
recitativo
register of the voice
related chord
relative sol-fa / moving do
relative major
repeat mark / repeat sign
return modulation
root position chord
rounded binary form

rhythmic value
scale
secondary degree
secondary function
semibreve / whole note
semitone
seventh chord
seventh chord
seventh degree
sharp
sharp key
sharply dotted rhythm / inverted dotting / reversed dotting / Lombard rhythm
sigh motive
six chord
six-eight metre
six-five chord
six-five-three
six-four chord
six-four-three
soft palate
softly
solfa term / tone syllable name
song cycle
sound vibration
sounding of a chord
spacing of a chord
staff / stave
staff paper
standard pitch
stave
stem of the note
strumming / plucking
submediant /super dominant

subordinate part
substitute chord
supertonic
suspended note / delayed note
sustain a note
third-related chord
three-part form (ABA)
three-movement format
timbre
tonal
tonal deviation
tonal sequence
tone held over and delayed
tongue
traditional music form
transposed edition
triad
triad inversion
twelve-note scale
unfinished composition
unresolved chord
upper lip
urtext edition
verse
vocal cords
vocal interpretation
vocal organs
vocal part / vocal line
vocal type
vocalization
voce range
voice support
voiced consonant

vowel

weak cadence

whole-tone scale

II. BASIC MUSICAL TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS IN ITALIAN

Musical Term	Abbreviation	English Meaning
a capella		unaccompanied
accelerando	(accel.)	gradually getting faster
accento		accented; emphasised
ad libitum	(ad lib.)	at choice; freely
adagietto		rather slow
adagio		slowly
affettuoso		tenderly
agitato		agitated; restless
al; alla		in the manner of
alla breve		with a minim beat
allargando		broadening
allegretto		fairly quick
allegro		fast
andante		walking speed
andantino		like walking speed
anima		soul; spirit con anima = with spirit
appassionato		with passion
appoggiatura		a musical ornament, a grace note which delays the next note of the melody, taking half or more of its written time value
arioso		like an aria
assai		very allegro assai = very fast
attacca		go straight on
cantabile		in a singing style
cantando		singing
capriccioso		in a whimsical or fanciful style
col; colla; colle		with colla voce = with the voice
comodo		convenient tempo comodo = at a comfortable speed
crescendo	(cresc.)	gradually getting louder
da capo	(D.C.)	from the beginning
dal segno	(D.S.)	from the sign
decrescendo	(decresc.)	gradually getting softer
diminuendo	(dim.)	gradually getting softer
dolce		sweetly dolcissimo = as sweet as possible
dolente		sad; mournful
dolore		grief

doloroso		sorrowful
espressivo	(espr.)	expressive
facile		easy
fermata		pause
fine		the end al fine = to the end
forte	(f)	loud; strong
fortepiano	(fp)	loud then immediately soft
fortissimo	(ff)	very loud
giocos0		playful; humorous
giusto		proper; exact
grandioso		grandly
grave		very slow; solemn
grazioso		graceful
lacrimoso		sad
largamente		broadly
larghetto		rather slow
largo		rather slow; stately
legato		smoothly
leggiero		light; nimble
lento		slow
liberamente		freely
l'istesso		the same l'istesso tempo = at the same speed
loco		at the normal pitch
lunga		long
maestoso		majestic
marcato	(marc.)	emphatic; accented
meno		less meno mosso = less rapidly
mezzoforte	(mf)	moderately loud
mezzopiano	(mp)	moderately soft
misterioso		mysterious
misura		measure alla misura = in strict time; senza misura = in free time
moderato		moderate speed allegro moderato = moderately fast
molto		very; much
morendo		dying away
mosso		movement
niente		nothing
obbligato		obligatory
ossia		alternatively
ostinato		persistent
parlando		speaking
pausa		pause
perdendosi		dying away
pesante		heavy

pianissimo	(pp)	very soft
piano	(p)	soft
più		more più mosso = more motion
pizzicato		plucked
placido		calm; peaceful
poco		a little poco a poco = little by little
presto		very fast
prima		first prima volta = first time
quasi		as if; resembling
rallentando	(rall.)	gradually getting slower
rinforzando	(rf; rfz)	reinforcing
risoluto		bold; strong
ritardando	(rit.)	gradually getting slower
ritenuto	(rit.)	held back
ritmico		rhythmically
rubato		with some freedom of time
scherzando		playful; joking
scherzo		joke; jest
semplice		simple; plain
sempre		always sempre staccato = always detached
senza		without senza misura = freely (not in time)
sforzando	(sf; sfz)	forced; accented
simile	(sim.)	in the same way
smorzando	(smorz.)	dying away
soave		gentle; smooth
solenne		solemn; grave
sonoro		resonant; with rich tone
sopra		above
sostenuto		sustained
sotto		below sotto voce = in an undertone
staccato		detached
stretto		quickening the speed
stringendo		gradually getting faster
subito		suddenly
tacet		silent
tempo		speed
teneramente		tenderly
tenuto		held
tranquillo		calm
triste		sad; sorrowful
troppo		too much allegro ma non troppo = fast, but not too fast.
tutti		all; everyone

vivace		lively
vivo		lively
voce		voice
volta		time prima volta = first time