

## Theory

**Chord** - A combination of three or more tones sounded simultaneously, most commonly the first, third and fifth degrees.

**Arpeggio** - A term used to describe the pitches of a chord as sung or played one after the other, rather than simultaneously.

**Scale** - A succession of tones. The scale generally used in Western music is the "diatonic scale," consisting of whole and half steps in a specific order. Usually major or minor in classical music.

**Major** - The designation for certain intervals and scales resulting in a "happy" feel. A key based on a major scale is called a major key. The pattern for the major scale is:

*whole step- whole step - half - whole - whole - whole - half*

**Minor** - Like Major, but with a "dark" or "sad" feel. The three types of minor scales include natural, harmonic, and melodic. Below is the natural minor scale pattern:

*whole step- half step - whole - whole - half - whole - whole*

♭ **Flat** - A symbol which lowers a note's pitch one half step.

♮ **Natural** - A symbol which cancels a previous sharp or flat.

♯ **Sharp** - A symbol which raises a note's pitch one-half step.


## Flow

**Al** - "To."


**Coda** - Closing section of a composition. An added ending.

**Da capo, D. C.** - Return to the beginning.

**Dal segno, D. S.** - Repeat from the sign. Often followed by *al Fine*.


**Endings** - Alternating measures which occur at the end of the stanza or stanzas. Indicated: 

**Fine** - "The end."

**Repeat** - The repetition of a section or a composition as indicated by particular signs: 


♯ **Segno** - "Sign."

## Notation

 **Treble clef** - The G clef falling on the second line of the staff.


**Key signature** - The sharps or flats placed at the beginning of the staff to denote the scale upon which the music is based.

**Tempo** - The rate of speed in a musical work.

 **Time signature** - The numbers placed at the beginning of a composition to indicate the meter of the music. The upper number indicates the beats in a measure; the lower number tells what kind of a note will receive one beat.

**Staff** - The most frequently used staff has five horizontal lines, with four spaces, upon which the notes and other musical symbols are placed. (With violin in first position, the lines indicate fingers 1 or 3, the spaces indicate open strings or fingers 2 or 4)

**Ledger lines** - Short lines placed above and below the staff for pitches beyond the range of the staff.


 **Fermata** - Hold; pause.

**est** - A symbol used to denote silence.

## Ornaments

*Melodic embellishments, either written or improvised.*

**tr. Trill** - An ornament performed by the rapid alternation of a given note with a major or minor second above.

 **Turn** - An ornament characterized by the rapid performance of a given note, the major or minor second above and below, and a return to the given note.

## Bowings

▣ **Down bow** - Drawing the bow downward from its frog.

▽ **Up bow** - Drawing the bow upwards from the tip.

**Slur** - A curved line placed above or below two or more notes of different pitch to indicate that they are to be performed in a connected style and bowing.

**Tie** - A curved line over or below two or more notes of the same pitch. The first pitch is played and held for the duration of the notes affected by the tie as if they are one note.

**Staccato** - Detached sounds, indicated by a dot over or under a note head. The opposite of tenuto.

**Tenuto** - Smooth, connected. Indicated by a line over or under a note head.

*pizz* **Pizzicato** - "Pinched." To pluck the string with a fingertip.

## Tempo

**Grave** - Very Slow

**Largo, Lento** - Slow

**Larghetto** - A little faster than Largo

**Adagio** - Moderately Slow

**Andante** - "Walking" Tempo

**Andantino** - A little faster than Andante

**Allegretto** - A little slower than Allegro

**Allegro** - "Colourful," Fast and/or upbeat

**Vivace** - Lively

**Presto** - Very Fast

**Prestissimo** - Very Very Fast

**Moderato** - Moderate(ly)

**Molto** - In use with other phrases, means "Very"

**Accel., Accelerando** - Gradually becoming faster

**Rit., Ritardando** - Gradually becoming slower

## Dynamics: *Varying degrees of volume*

*pp* **Pianissimo** - Very Soft


*p* **Piano** - Soft


*mp* **Mezzo Piano** - Medium Soft


*mf* **Mezzo Forte** - Medium Loud


*f* **Forte** - Loud

*ff* **Fortissimo** - Very Loud

 **cresc.** **Crescendo** - Gradually becoming louder

 **decresc.** **Decrescendo** - Gradually becoming softer

 **dim.** **Diminuendo** - Gradually becoming softer

 **Messa di voce** - Becoming louder then softer (nicknamed "hairpins")

