

Supplemental Musical Terms and References

Commonly Used Tempo Indications From Slowest to Fastest

Grave –Very slow.

Largo– Slow.

Lento – Slow.

Larghetto –A little faster than *largo* or *lento*.

Adagio –Moderately slow.

Andante –“Walking speed” (comfortable pace).

Andantino –A little faster than *andante*.

Moderato – Moderate.

Allegretto –A little slower than *allegro*.

Allegro – Fast.

Vivace – Lively.

Presto –Very fast.

Prestissimo – Very, very fast.

Changes Of Tempo

Accelerando - To increase the speed gradually.

Allargando - Slower and louder.

A Tempo - Return to original tempo after a ritardando, accelerando, or other tempo change.

Poco a poco – “Little by little;” used in combination with tempo markings. (Ex: *accelerando poco a poco* means “increase the speed gradually.”)

Rallentando - Slowing down gradually.

Ritardando- Slowing down gradually.

Rubato – Free from strict tempo, creating a sense of flexibility.

Stringendo –Increase intensity by increasing tempo.

Commonly Used Style Terms

Agitato - Agitated.

Alla marcia - In the style of a march.

Animato - With animation; spirited.

Appassionato - Passionate.

Brillante - Bright, sparkling, brilliant.

Cantabile - In a singing style.

Con brio – With brilliance.

Con fuoco - With fire or energy. (Ex: *allegro con fuoco* means “fast and with energy”).

Con grazia - With grace. (Ex: *andante con grazia* means “moderately slow and graceful”).

Dolce – Sweetly; softly.

Grandioso - In a noble, grand style.

Legato - Smooth and connected (the opposite of *staccato*).

Maestoso - With majesty and grandeur.

Marcato - In a marked and emphatic style.

Pesante – Heavily.

Scherzando - In a light and playful style.

Staccato - Short and detached (the opposite of *legato*).

Tranquillo - With tranquility.

Qualifiers

Molto – Very. (Ex: *Molto allegro* means “very fast;” *molto rubato* means “very flexible in tempo.”)

Meno – Less . (Also used in conjunction with another tempo word, such as *meno allegro* for “less fast.”)

Più – More. (Ex: *Più presto* means “more fast;” *più animato* means “more animated.”)

Non Troppo – Not too much. (Ex: *Allegro non troppo* means “not too fast;” *marcato non troppo* means “not too emphasized.”)

(These qualifiers must be used with an established tempo level or style.)