Tempo – Rate of speed; measured in BPM or tempo markings

BPM – beats per minutes; how tempo is measured

Largo - very slow tempo; ~50 BPM

Adagio – Slow tempo; ~70 BPM

Andante – walking tempo; ~90 BPM

Allegro – fast, lively tempo; ~140 BPM

Vivace – Brisk; very fast tempo; ~160BPM

Bow strokes

1. Marcato – Marked; stressed bowing. Louder than average accent. ^
2. Spiccato – Detached, light bow stroke. Bow bounces off the string.
3. Staccato – Detached, separated; abruptly disconnected.

Bow stops between notes but stays on the string.

1. Martele – Detached; heavier staccato. “Hammered” bow stroke
2. Legato – connected; no break between stroke; smooth.

Style

1. Dolce – Sweetly
2. Cantabile – singing; song-like.
3. Pesante – Heavy; ponderous or dragging.
4. Con Brio – with life
5. Con Fuoco – with fire
6. Sostenuto – sustained
7. Diminuindo – decrease in loudness or intensity
8. Intonation – the accuracy of pitch
9. Rallentando – Gradually slower (same as ritardando)

10.Portato – bowing technique where notes are gently rearticulated while being joined under a slurs or tie. Pulsating or undulating sound.

11. Maestoso - Majestically

Harmony

1. Tonal Center – The note within a piece that sounds most at home or final.
2. Consonance – A stable note within a chord.
3. Dissonance - An unstable note within a chord. This creates tension.
4. Resolution – The movement of dissonance to consonance.
5. Cadence – A point in music that sounds final because of a resolution.
6. Tonic – A chord built upon the first scale degree. Also called the I (one) chord
7. Dominate - A chord built upon the fifth scale degree. Also called the V (five) chord
8. Interval – The distance between two pitches.
9. Half Step – smallest distance between two pitches.
10. Whole step – combined distance of two half steps.
11. Enharmonic – one pitch that is spelled two different ways.
12. Major scale – A scale that has the following order of half and whole steps from the first note: (w, w, h, w, w, w, h)

Whole Whole Half Whole Whole Whole Half

1. Minor scale - A key that has the following order of half and whole steps from the first note: (w, h, w, w, h, w, w)

Whole Half Whole Whole Half Whole Whole

Scale Degree – The position of a note relative to the tonic. ^

Diatonic – All of the unaltered notes within a scale or key.

Major

W W H W W W H

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

C D E F G A B C

Natural Minor

W H W W H W W

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

A B C D E F G A

Form

1. Musical Form – the overall structure of a piece of music; it describes the layout of a piece as divided into sections using letters (A, B, C) for each new section.
2. Binary – (A B) Has two sections; each is usually repeated. (A A B B) (Greensleeves)
3. Ternary – (A B A) Has three sections; The A section is followed by the B section, and then the A section is played again.
4. Theme and variations – The main melody of a piece is followed by different versions of the melody. These “variations” are created by small changes in the rhythm or notes.

History

Medieval Period 500-1400

Hildegard of Binger

Renaissance Period 1400-1600

John Dowland

Baroque Period 1600-1750

Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Most music is written for small groups of musicians (fewer than 6)
2. Usually only one musician per part.
3. The leader of the orchestra is the harpsichordist or violinist in the group

Classical 1750-1825

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

1. The music is full of contrast. Contrasting movements form longer pieces.
2. Several musicians form “sections” that play each part
3. The leader of the orchestra often plays as a member of the group.

Romantic 1825-1900

Composer: Johannes Brahms

1. Instruments play a wider range of dynamics and notes
2. Larger orchestras with many musicians playing the same part.
3. The leader of the orchestra, the conductor,

now stands in front of the group

Meter –

Simple –

Compound –