

# Italian Musical Terms

## Speed (or tempo) (from slow to fast)

adagio.....	slow
largo.....	slow and broad
lento.....	slow
andante.....	at a moderate walking speed
moderato.....	at a moderate pace
allegretto.....	fairly fast
allegro.....	fast and lively
vivace.....	fast and lively
presto.....	very fast

## Changes of Speed

accel. or accelerando.....	gradually getting faster
rall. or rallentando.....	gradually getting slower
rit. or ritardando.....	gradually getting slower
rit. or ritenuto.....	held back (slower at once)
a tempo.....	back to the previous speed

## Dynamics (from quiet to loud)

<i>pp</i> (pianissimo).....	very soft
<i>p</i> (piano).....	softly
<i>mp</i> (mezzo piano).....	moderately soft
<i>mf</i> (mezzo forte).....	moderately loud
<i>f</i> (forte).....	loud
<i>ff</i> (fortissimo).....	very loud

## Changes in Dynamics

cresc. (or crescendo).....	gradually getting louder
decresc. (or decrescendo)....	gradually getting quieter
dim. (or diminuendo).....	gradually getting quieter

## Other useful words

legato.....	smoothly
cantabile.....	in a singing style
da capo (or D.C.).....	from the beginning
dal segno (or D.S.).....	from the sign $\text{S}$
staccato.....	short and detached
fine.....	the end