

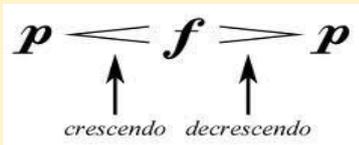


Musical Symbols



There are many symbols and words used in music. They are like shorthand for musicians. They give a visual guide to how the music should be played.

DYNAMICS



Crescendo—the music gets gradually louder. The symbol is a crocodile mouth opening.

Decrescendo or diminuendo—the music gets gradually quieter.

Forte—play loudly. 'F' means forte (say for-tay)

Piano—play quietly. 'P' means piano (say pee-ah-no)

Mezzo-forte (mf) - medium loud

Mezzo-piano (mp) - medium soft

Pianissimo (pp) - very quiet

Fortissimo (ff) - very loud

DOTS and CURVED LINES

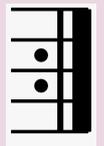
Staccato—a dot under the note—play *jumpy*. The note is short



Dotted note—dot after the note. This means to play the note longer by half its value. For eg, a crotchet is worth one beat. Its value is one beat. A dot after it means it is half as long again so the note value becomes 1 and half beats



Repeat sign—two dots at the end of the music. This means to repeat and play again from the beginning or from another repeat sign



A Slur or a Phrase—this is a curved line either under or above the music. It indicates that the music should be played **legato**—you should play *smoothly*. A phrase tends to be longer. I think of a phrase like a sentence. The end of a phrase is where you take a musical breath

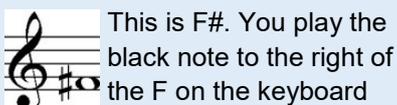


A Tie—this is a short curved line either under or above the music and attaches two of the *same* notes together. You do not need to play the notes tied to the first. The first note is played for the value of all tied notes

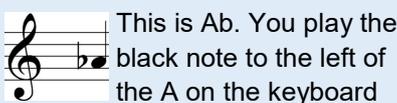


ACCIDENTALS

Sharps (#) and flats (b) are accidentals. They are written into the music



This is F#. You play the black note to the right of the F on the keyboard



This is Ab. You play the black note to the left of the A on the keyboard

A key signature at the beginning saves writing all the accidentals into the music. If the key signature shows F#, then all the Fs in the music are played sharp



OTHER SYMBOLS



This symbol might be above or below the note—play the note accented—emphasise it

This curve and dot is the symbol for a musical pause



Tr is short for a trill. A trill means to play the notes next to each other really quickly. This is called an ornament.

There are other ornaments. They make the music sound pretty as you play extra notes either side of the main note



ITALIAN TERMS—there are many!

Accelerando—gradually getting faster

Adagio—play slowly with expression

Allegro—play quickly

Andante—play at a walking pace

Cantabile—play in a singing style

Dolce—play sweetly

Giocoso—play joyfully

Lento—play slowly—slower than adagio

Presto—play quickly—faster than allegro