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## Note values

A note value does not stand for any absolute duration, but can only be understood in relation to other note values. In the table below, each symbol is exactly twice as long in duration as the symbol below it.

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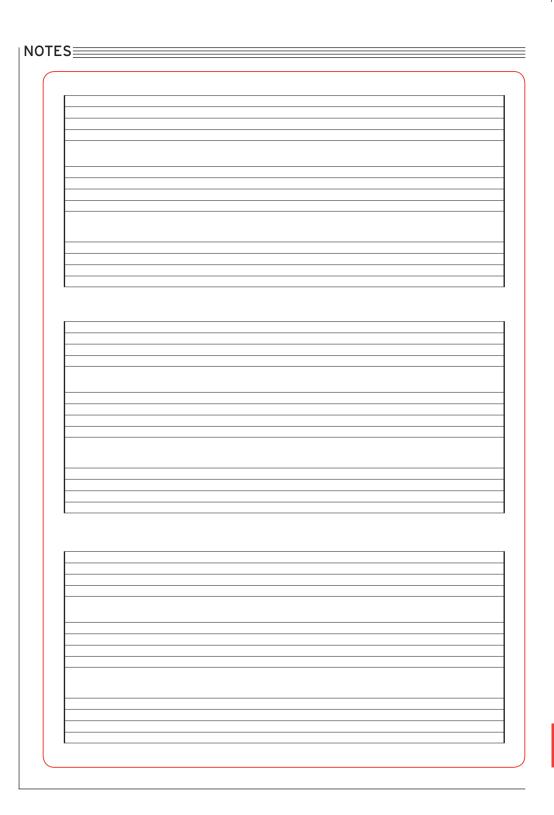


















TEMPO	
Tempo (time)	The speed of a piece of music
Largo (broad)	Slow and dignified
Larghetto (a little bit broad)	Not as slow as largo
Lento (slow)	Slow
Adagio (ad agio, at ease)	Slow, but not as slow as largo
Adagietto (little adagio)	Faster than adagio; or a short adagio composition
Andante (walking)	Moderately slow, flowing along
Moderato (moderately)	At a moderate speed
Allegretto (a little bit joyful)	Slightly slower than allegro
Allegro (joyful)	Moderately fast
Fermata (stopped)	Marks a note to be held or sustained
Presto (ready)	Very fast
Prestissimo (very ready)	Very very fast, as fast as possible
Accelerando (accelerating)	Accelerating
Affrettando (becoming hurried)	Accelerating
Rallentando (becoming progressively slower)	Decelerating
Rubato (robbed)	Extending a note or phrase, compensated by
	shortening another one nearby
Tenuto (sustained)	Holding or sustaining a single note
Accompagnato (accompanied)	The accompaniment must follow the singer who
	can speed up or slow down at will
Alla marcia (as a march)	In strict tempo at a marching pace (e.g. 120 bpm)
DYNAMICS - VOLUME	
Calando (quietening)	Becoming softer
Crescendo (growing)	Becoming louder
Decrescendo (shrinking)	Becoming softer
Diminuendo (dwindling)	Becoming softer
Forte (strong)	Loud
Fortissimo (very strong)	Very loud
Mezzo forte (half-strong)	Moderately loud
Piano (gentle)	Soft
Pianissimo (very gentle)	Very soft
Mezzo piano (half-gentle)	Moderately soft
Sforzando (strained)	Suddenly accented

MOODS	
Affettuoso (with feeling)	Tenderly
Agitato (agitated)	Excited and fast
Animato (animated)	Animated
Bruscamente (brusquely)	Brusquely
Cantabile (singable)	In a fashion suggesting singing
Comodo (easily)	Unrestrainedly
Con amore (with love)	With love
Con fuoco (with fire)	With fiery manner
Con brio/spirito (with spirit)	With spirit
Con moto (with movement)	With movement
Dolce (sweetly)	Sweet
Grazioso (graciously or gracefully)	With charm
Maestoso (majestic)	Stately
Misterioso (mysterious)	Mysteriously, secretively, enig <mark>matic</mark>
Scherzando (playfully)	Playfully
Sotto (subdued)	Subdued
Vivace (vivacious)	Lively

#### **MUSICAL EXPRESSION (GENERAL)**

Molto (very)	Used with other terms, such as <i>molto allegro</i>
Assai (very)	Used with other terms, such as allegro assai
Più (more)	Used with other terms, such as più mosso
Poco (little)	"A little". Used with other terms,
	such as poco diminuendo
Poco a poco (little by little)	"Little by little", "slowly but steadily".
	Used with other terms, such as poco a poco crescendo
Ma non troppo (but not too much)	But not too much, such as allegro ma non troppo
Meno (less)	Used with other terms, such as meno mosso

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## **CONTACTING US**

The Union is the representative organisation for musicians working in every area of the profession and this is one of a series of fact sheets and guidance notes being produced to assist members in their work as teachers. For further details please contact your nearest regional office.

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