






Musicality, Articulation, Balance, and Tempo Quick Guide

Dynamics

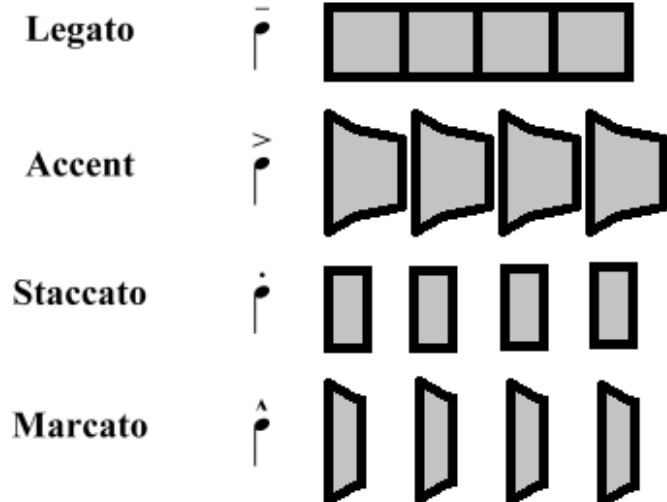
<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo	Very soft
<i>p</i>	piano	Soft
<i>mp</i>	mezzo piano	Medium-soft
<i>mf</i>	mezzo forte	Medium-loud
<i>f</i>	forte	Loud
<i>ff</i>	fortissimo	Very loud
<i>cresc or</i> 	crescendo	To gradually get louder
<i>dim, or decres, or</i> 	diminuendo or decrescendo	To gradually get softer
<i>sfz</i>	sforzando	Suddenly with great force (accented)
<i>fp</i>	forte piano	Loud on the initial articulation immediately followed by piano

Dynamics are essentially the volume of the music. Dynamic contrast is created by wind instruments by the speed of the air speed. The faster the air speed, the louder the instrument. The slower the air speed, the softer the dynamic. Dynamic contrast for percussionists is created by stick height. The higher the stick height, the higher the dynamic. The lower the stick height, the lower the dynamic.


Articulations

Articulation	normal	legato	staccato	marcato	accented
					
Syllable	dah	doo	dah	Dah	Dah
Difference from the normal enunciation	N/A	Smoother beginning and more connected	Same beginning as normal with half the length	Slightly more emphasis at the beginning with half the length	Slightly more emphasis at the beginning of the note, a slight decay

Visual Representation:



Articulation for winds is the act of using the tongue to initiate a musical tone or to separate notes from one another. The tongue should always be quick and light. The extra emphasis should be created through slightly faster air speed at the beginning of the note, not through the use of a harder tonguing.

When slurring () do not use the tongue except on the first note. Make sure you create good airflow that relates to phrasing. Trombones are the exception; they will tongue each note after the initial note with a legato tonguing. They must remember quick slides.

Legato means smooth and connected. The legato tonguing should be just light enough to interrupt the air steam. The articulation above the legato note is known as tenuto, which means to play full value.



Staccato means detached or separated. Generally, these notes are performed as half their notated value.

Marcato means detached, marked, and emphasized. Accented means emphasized.

For percussion, articulations are created through a combination of stick height, where the stick makes contact to the drum, the type of stick or mallet that is used, how the sound is pulled out of the instrument, and muffling. When encountering these articulations, it is often important to consult your director as to the proper technique per instrument.

When looking at musicality, think of the music as a work of literature. Each note is a word. Each phrase is a sentence. Your note names in relation to your fingerings, stickings, or slide positions are your alphabet. Scales and arpeggios are your vocabulary. Key signatures are your vocabulary definitions. The work as a whole is a story. If you are unaware of your alphabet or vocabulary, how will you say a sentence or tell the story? You have to know the language of music. Where would you put commas and periods (breathing)? How would the sentence flow and what words require emphasis (articulation and dynamics)? How do the sentences relate to one another to make the whole story?

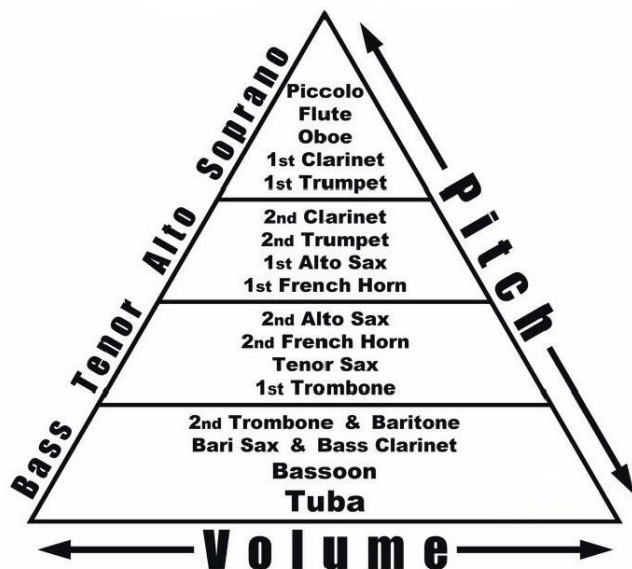
Slur vs. Tie

	Slur	A Curved line that indicates that the notes contained in the line are to be performed without separation.
	Tie	A curved line connecting the heads of two notes of the same pitch and name, indicating that they are to be played as a single note with a duration equal to the sum of the individual notes' note values. Percussionists will not rearticulate the second note of the tie unless there is a roll evolved.

Common Tempo Markings and Terms

Largamente		
Larghissimo	Very, Very Slow	24 BPM
Grave	Very Slow	25-45 BPM
Largo	Broadly	40-60BPM
Lento	Slowly	45-60 BPM
Larghetto	Rather Broadly	60-66 BPM
Adagio	Slow and stately	66-76 BPM
Adagietto	Slower than andante	72-76 BPM
Andante	At a walking pace	76-108 BPM
Andantino	Slightly faster than andante	80-108 BPM
Moderato	Moderately	108-120 BPM
Allegretto	Moderately Fast	112-120 BPM
Allegro Moderato	Close to but not quite allegro	116-120 BPM
Allegro	Fast, quickly, and bright	120-168 BPM
Vivace	Lively and fast	168-176 BPM
Allegro or Allegro vivace	Very Fast	172-176 BPM
Presto	Very, Very Fast	168-200 BPM
Prestissimo	Even faster than Presto	200 BPM and over
Ritardando or Rallentando	To gradually slow down	
Accelerando or Stringendo	To gradually speed up	
Rubato	To steal time values by holding back or speeding up as the phrase demands	
A Tempo	In tempo; reestablishes the previous tempo	
A poco a poco	Little by little	
Meno mosso	Less motion; slower	
Con brio	With Spirit	
Allargando	Broadening	

There are numerous other tempo markings and terms. If you have a tempo or term that you are not familiar with, do the research: Look it up.



Blend within the section. Balance within the band.