

Articulation

Articulation refers to the length of a note or sound. It is often determined by when the music was composed. The articulation is what happens in between the notes. The attack - the beginning of a note - and the amount of space in between the notes are particularly important.

Common Articulations

Staccato notes are short, with plenty of space between them. The staccato notes sound shorter than written only because of the extra space between them.

Staccato

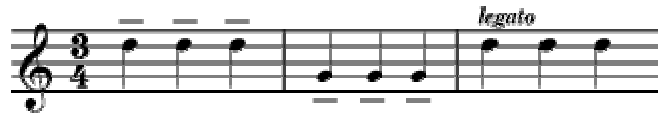


"Staccato" may be written into the part or marked with dots above or below the notes. These staccato quarter notes would sound approximately like eighth notes and eighth rests:



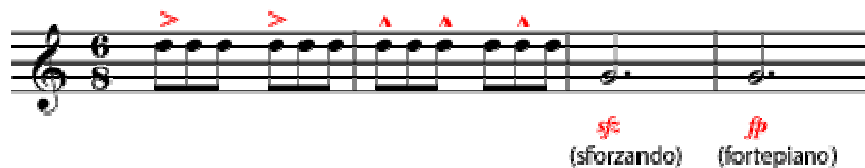
Legato is the opposite of staccato. The notes are very connected; there is no space between the notes at all.

Legato



Accents - An accent requires that a note stand out more than the unaccented notes around it. Accents are usually performed by making the accented note, or the beginning of the accented note, louder than the rest of the music. The extra loudness of the note often requires a stronger, more definite attack at the beginning of the accented note, and it is emphasized by putting some space before and after the accented notes.

Accents



A **slur** is marked by a curved line joining any number of notes. When notes are slurred, only the first note under each slur marking has a definite articulation at the beginning. The rest of the notes are so seamlessly connected that there is no break between the notes.

Slurs



Only the first note under each slur has a definite articulation.