

Tempo

In musical terminology, **tempo** is the speed or pace of a given piece. It is an extremely crucial element of sound, as it can affect the mood and difficulty of a piece. **The tempo of a piece will typically be written at the start of a piece of music.** In classical music it is customary to describe the tempo of a piece by one or more words. Most of these words are Italian, a result of the fact that many of the most important composers of the 17th century were Italian, and this period was when tempo indications were used extensively for the first time.

Common tempo markings from fastest to slowest:

- *Presto* - very fast
- *Vivace* - lively and fast
- *Allegro* - fast and bright
- *Allegro Moderato* - Moderately cheerful and quick
- *Allegretto* - moderately fast (but less so than Allegro)
- *Moderato* - moderately
- *Andantino* - Alternatively faster or slower than Andante.
- *Andante* - at a walking pace
- *Adagio* - slow and stately (literally, at ease)
- *Grave* - slow and solemn
- *Largamente/Largo* - "broadly", very slow

Dynamics

In music, **dynamics** normally refers to the **softness** or **loudness** of a sound or note. The two basic dynamic indications in music are:

- ***p*** or *piano*, meaning "soft" and
- ***f*** or *forte*, meaning "loud" or "strong".

More subtle degrees of loudness or softness are indicated by:

- ***mp***, standing for *mezzo-piano*, and meaning "medium-quiet" or "moderately-quiet" and
- ***mf***, standing for *mezzo-forte*, and meaning "medium-loud" or "moderately-loud".

Beyond ***f*** and ***p***, there are also

- ***ff***, standing for "fortissimo", and meaning "very loud" and
- ***pp***, standing for "pianissimo", and meaning "very quiet".

Dynamic markings are indicated below the staff!