

POWER & TEMPO

Scope: Miscellaneous definitions for tempo, power, and style.

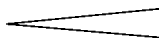
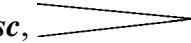
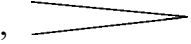

Power

The power, loudness or softness of tones, can be expressed by the author by use of terms or their signs or abbreviations. The terms are taken from the Italian language, where many of the names for musical terms were chosen.

<u>Term name</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Pianissimo	(Pee-ahn-ee-see-moe)	Very Soft	<i>pp</i>
Piano	(Pee-ahn-oe)	Soft	<i>p</i>
Mezzo Piano	(Med-zoe Pee-ahn-oe)	Half Soft	<i>mp</i>
Mezzo Forte	(Med-zoe Four-tay)	Half Loud	<i>mf</i>
Forte	(Four-tay)	Loud	<i>f</i>
Fortissimo	(For-tee-see-moe)	Very Loud	<i>ff</i>



Modified degrees of power

Modified degrees of power increase or diminish the loudness or softness when a song is being sung.

<u>Term name</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Crescendo	(Kre-shen-doe)	Gradually increase	<i>cresc,</i> 
Decrescendo	(Da-kre-shen-doe)	Gradually decrease	<i>decresc,</i> 
Diminuendo	(Di-min-u-en-doe)	Gradually decrease	<i>dimin,</i> 
Forzando	(Four-tsan-doe)	Heavy accent	<i>fz,</i> 
Sforzando	(Sfor-tsan-doe)	With force	<i>sf, fp</i>
Swell	(Swell)	Increase & decrease	<>
Pressure Tone	(Pressure Tone)	Suddenly increase	<

Style

Style has reference to the manner of execution of the song. Besides the four styles listed next, instructions may be given at the beginning or during a song by the author such as "reverently", etc.

<u>Term name</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Legato	(Leh-gah-toe)	Smooth and connected	
Staccato	(Stah-kah-toe)	Short and separated	.
Marcato	(Mar-kah-toe)	Accented	'
Portamento	(Pour-tah-men-toe)	Gliding downward	

Tempo

Tempo or movement is the speed at which a song is sung. Precise speeds are given as MM (Maelzel's metronome) = number of beats per minute. Sometimes the note equaling one beat will be shown in place of the MM. Many times, however, the tempo is referred to in more general terms which are listed below.

<u>Term Name</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>		<u>MM=</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Grave	(Grave)			Very slow and solemn
Largo	(Lar-go)	42-68		Very slow and broad
Larghetto	(Lar-get-oh)	68-98		Very slow
Adagio	(Ah-da-geo)	98-124		Slow and solemn
Lento	(Len-toe)			Slow without dragging
Andante	(Ahn-dawn-teh)	124-154		Slow
Andantino	(Ahn-dawn-teh-no)			Moderately slow
Moderato	(Mod-ah-rah-toe)			Medium
Allegretto	(Ah-la-gret-oh)			Medium and lively
Allegro	(Ah-leg-row)	154-180		Fast and lively
Animato	(Ahn-uh-maht-toe)			Fast and animated
Presto	(Pres-toe)	180-208		Very fast
Prestissimo	(Pres-tis-ee-mo)			Very, very fast

Modified degrees of tempo



Terms for modified degrees of tempo are used to change the tempo for certain parts of the song.

<u>Term name</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Accelerando	(Ak-cell-eh-rah-n-doe)	Gradually Faster	<i>accel</i>
Rallentando	(Rahl-in-tahn-doe)	Gradually slower & softer	<i>rall</i>
Ritardando	(Ri-tar-don-doe)	Gradually slower	<i>rit</i>
A tempo	(Ah Tem-poe)	Return to original tempo	<i>a tempo</i>

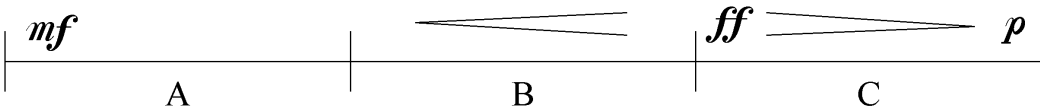
Summary: *Even though most of our music from songbooks does not use the international names for tempo or style, you may see them in choral arrangements. Also notice the definition difference between Ritardando and Rallentando. Usually "Rit." is found in a song and means to slow down only, and not get softer as does "Rall."*

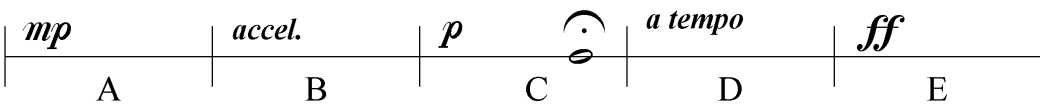
Exercises

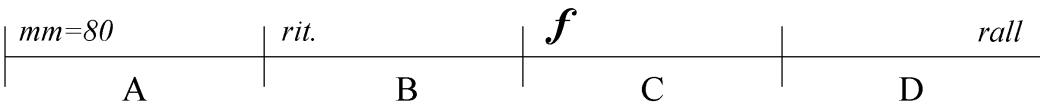
Write down the name and definition for each of the following:

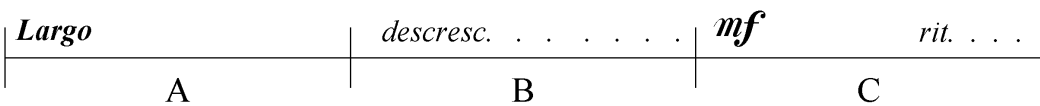
	Name	Definition
1.	<i>f</i>	_____
2.	<i>p</i>	_____
3.	<i>ff</i>	_____
4.	<i>pp</i>	_____
5.	<i>m</i>	_____
6.		_____
7.		_____
8.	<i>rall</i>	_____
9.	<i>rit.</i>	_____
10.	<i>a tempo</i>	_____

Describe what is to happen in each section:

11. 

12. 

13. 

14. 

15. 