

## Musical Elements Glossary and Vocabulary List

### Dynamics/Volume

#### English

#### Italian

Very soft	pianissimo
Soft	piano
Medium soft	mezzo piano
Medium loud	mezzo forte
Loud	forte
Very loud	fortissimo
Gradually louder	crescendo
Gradually softer	decrescendo
A certain note is louder	accent

### Tempo /Speed of Beat

Medium	Andante
Fast	Allegro
Slow	Adagio
Very slow	Largo
Very fast	Presto

### Instruments/Timbre (Orchestral families)

Strings (violins, viola, cello, double bass, harp)  
Woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon)  
Brass (horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba)  
Percussion (timpani, snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, piano)

### Mood

calm  
joyful  
mysterious  
energetic  
dreamy  
menacing  
triumphant  
melancholy

### Texture

Many instruments play at the same time  
A few instruments play at the same time  
Changing between many and a few instruments playing at the same time

### Meter

Duple – beats grouped in 2s  
Compound – beats grouped in 3s