

Vocabulary for Musical Elements

English

Volume

Very soft
Soft
Medium soft
Medium loud
Loud
Very loud
Gradually louder
Gradually softer
A certain note is louder

Speed of beat

Medium
Fast
Slow
Very slow
Very fast

Timbre (Orchestral families)

Strings
Woodwinds
Brass
Percussion

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 at the same time

Meter

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

Italian

Dynamics

pianissimo
piano
mezzo piano
mezzo forte
forte
fortissimo
crescendo
decrescendo
accent

Tempo

andante
allegro
adagio
largo
presto

Instruments

violin
cello
string bass
flute
clarinet
Oboe
Trumpet
Trombone
Tuba
Cymbals
Bass drum
Snare drum
Harp
Piano

