

# Music Glossary

---

**Christian Mondrup**  
**François Pinard**  
**Han-Wen Nienhuys**  
**Jan Nieuwenhuizen**  
**Dadiv Gonzalez**  
**Bjoern Jacke**  
**Neil Jerram**  
**Mats Bengtsson**  
**Adrian Mariano**  
**Heikki Junes**

Copyright © 1999–2004 by the authors

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.1 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation, without Invariant Sections.

---

- ES - Spanish
- I - Italian
- F - French
- D - German
- NL - Dutch
- UK - British English
- DK - Danish
- S - Swedish
- FI - Finnish

This is an example reference, that points you to the ⇒ **accent** entry.

‘A’ ES: la, I: la, F: la, D: A, a, NL: a, DK: a, S: a, FI: A, a.

‘**accent**’ ES: acento, I: accento, F: accent, D: Akzent, NL: accent, DK: accent, S: accent, FI: aksentti, korostus.

The stress of one tone over others.

‘**accidental**’

ES: alteración, I: alterazione, accidente, F: altération D: Vorzeichen, Versetzungszeichen, NL: voorteken, DK: løst fortegn, S: tillfälligt förtecken, FI: tilapäinen etumerkki.

A sharp raises a tone by a ⇒ **semitone**, a double sharp raises it by a ⇒ **whole tone**, a flat lowers it by a semitone and a double flat lowers it by a whole tone. A natural cancels the effect of a previous accidental.



sharp db. sharp flat db. flat natural

‘**accelerando**’

ES: acelerando, I: accelerando, F: accelerando, en accélérant, D: accelerando, schneller werden, NL: accelerando, DK: accelerando, S: accelerando, FI: ac-celerando, kiihdyttäen.

Increase tempo.

‘**adagio**’ ES: adagio, I: adagio, F: adagio, lent, D: Adagio, Langsam, NL: adagio, DK: adagio, S: adagio, FI: adagio, hitaasti.

It. comfortable, easy. 1. Slow tempo, slower – especially in even meter – than ⇒ **andante** and faster than ⇒ **largo**. 2. A movement in slow tempo, especially the second (slow) movement of ⇒ **sonatas**, symphonies, etc.

‘**allegro**’ ES: allegro, I: allegro, F: allegro, D: Allegro, Schnell, Fröhlich, Lustig, NL: allegro, DK: allegro, S: allegro, FI: allegro, nopeasti.

It. cheerful. Quick tempo. Also used as a title for pieces in a quick tempo, especially the first and last movements of a ⇒ **sonata**.

‘alto’ ES: alto, I: contralto, F: alto, D: Alt, D: Alt, NL: alt, DK: alt, S: alt, FI: altto, matala naisääni.

A female voice of low range (*contralto*). Originally the alto was a high male voice (hence the name) which by the use of falsetto reached the height of the female voice. This type of voice is also known as  $\Rightarrow$  **counter tenor**.

‘alto clef’

ES: clave de do en tercera, I: chiave di contralto, F: clef d’ut troisième ligne, D: Altschlüssel, Bratschenschlüssel, NL: alt sleutel, DK: altnøgle, S: altklav, FI: altoavain.

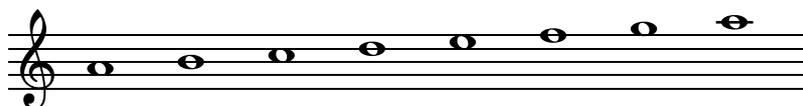
C clef setting middle C on the middle line of the staff  $\Rightarrow$  **C clef**.

‘ambit’ ES: ambitus, I: ambitus, F: ambitus, D: ambitus, NL: ambitus, DK: ambitus, S: ambitus, FI: ambitus, ääniala, soitinala.

The term ambit (from latin: ambitus, plural: ambitus) denotes a range of pitches for a given voice in a part of music. It also may denote the pitch range that a musical instrument is capable of playing.

‘ancient minor scale’

I: scala minore naturale, F: forme du mode mineur ancien, troisième mode, mode hellénique D: reines Moll, NL: authentieke mineurtoonladder, DK: ren mol, S: ren mollskala, FI: luonnollinen molliasteikko.



‘andante’ ES: andante, I: andante, F: andante, D: Andante, Gehend, NL: andante, DK: andante, S: andante, FI: andante, käyden.

Walking tempo/character.

‘appoggiatura’

ES: apoyatura, I: appoggiatura, F: appoggiature, (port de voix), D: Vorschlag, NL: voorslag, DK: forslag, S: förslag, FI: appoggiatura, etuhele.

Ornamental note, usually a second, that is melodically connected with the main note that follows it. In music before the 19th century a. were usually performed on the beat, after that mostly before the beat. While the short a. is performed as a short note regardless of the duration of the main note the duration of the long a. is proportional to that of the main note.



An appoggiatura may have more notes preceding the main note.



‘arpeggio’

ES: arpeggio, I: arpeggio, F: arpège, D: Arpeggio, Akkordbrechungen, gebrochener Akkord, NL: gebroken akoord, DK: arpeggio, akkordbrydning, S: arpeggio, FI: arpeggio, murtosointu.



‘ascending interval’

ES: Intervalo ascendente, I: intervallo ascendente, F: intervalle ascendant, D: steigendes Intervall, NL: stijgend interval, DK: stigende interval, S: stigande intervall, FI: nouseva intervalli.

A distance between a starting lower note and a higher ending note.

‘augmented interval’

ES: intervalo aumentado, I: intervallo aumentato, F: intervalle augmenté, D: übermäßiges Intervall, NL: overmatig interval, DK: forstørret interval, S: överstigande intervall, FI: ylinouseva intervalli.

⇒ **interval**.

‘autograph’

I: autografo, F: manuscrit, D: Autograph, Handschrift, NL: manuscript, DK: håndskrift, autograf, S: handskrift, FI: käsinkirjoitettu nuotti.

1. A manuscript in the composer’s own hand. 2. Music prepared for photoreproduction by freehand drawing, with only the aid of a straightedge ruler and T-square, which attempts to emulate engraving. This required more skill than did engraving.

‘B’

ES: si, I: si, F: si, D: H, h, NL: b, DK: h, S: h, FI: H, h.

‘backfall; forefall’

⇒ **appoggiatura**.

‘bar line’

ES: ?, I: stanghetta, barra (di divisione), F: barre (de mesure), D: Taktstrich, NL: maatstreep, DK: taktstreg, S: taktstreck, FI: tahtiviiva.

‘bar’

ES: compás, ⇒ **measure**.

‘baritone’

ES: barítono, I: baritono, F: bariton, D: Bariton, NL: bariton, DK: baryton, S: baryton, FI: baritoni, keskikorkuinen miesääni.

The male voice intermediate between the ⇒ **bass** and the ⇒ **tenor**.

## ‘baritone clef’

ES: clave de fa en tercera, I: chiave di baritono, F: clef d’ Ut cinquième ligne, clef de Fa troisième, D: Baritonschlüssel, NL: baritonsleutel, DK: barytonnøgle, S: barytonklav, FI: baritoniavain.

C or F clef setting middle C on the upper staff line. ⇒ **C clef**, ⇒ **F clef**.

## ‘bass clef’

ES: clave de fa en cuarta, I: chiave di basso, F: clé de fa quatrième ligne, D: Bassschlüssel, NL: bassleutel, DK: basnøgle, S: basklav, FI: bassoavain.

A clef setting with middle C on the first top ledger line. ⇒ **F clef**.

## ‘bass’

I: basso, F: basse, D: Bass, NL: bas, DK: bas, S: bas, FI: basso, matala miesääni.

1. The lowest of men’s voices. 2. Sometimes, especially in jazz music, used as an abbreviation for double bass. ⇒ **strings**.

## ‘beam’

I: coda, F: barre, D: Balken, NL: waardestrep, DK: bjælke, S: balk, FI: palkki.

Line connecting a series of notes (shorter than a quarter note). The number of beams determine the note value of the connected notes.



## ‘beat’

ES: tiempo, I: tempi, F: temps, D: Takt, Taktschlag, Zeit (im Takt), NL: tel, DK: (takt)slag, S: taktslag, FI: aika-arvo.

Note value used for counting, most often half-, fourth-, and eighth notes. The base counting value and the number of them per measure is indicated at the start of the music.



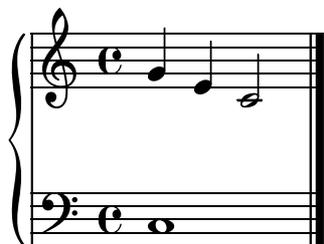
## ‘bind’

⇒ **tie**.

## ‘brace’

ES: llave, corchete, I: graffa, F: accolade, D: Klammer, Akkolade, NL: accolade, teksthaak, DK: klamme, S: klammer, FI: yhdistävä sulkumerkki.

Symbol at the start of a system connecting staves. Curly braces are used for connecting piano staves, angular brackets for connecting parts in an orchestral or choral score.





‘brass’ ES: metales, I: ottoni, D: Blechbläser, NL: koper (blazers), F: cuivres, DK: messingblæsere, S: brassinstrument, mässingsinstrument, FI: vaskisoitin.

A family of blown musical instruments made of brass all using a cup formed mouth piece. The brass instruments commonly used in a symphony orchestra are trumpet, trombone, french horn, and tube.

‘breath mark’

I: respiro, F: respiration, D: Atemzeichen, Trennungszeichen, NL: repercussieteken, DK: vejrtrækningstegn, S: andningstecken, FI: hengitysmerkki.

Indication of where to breathe in vocal and wind instrument parts.

‘breve’ ES: breve, I: breve, F: brève, D: Brevis, NL: brevis, DK: brevis, S: brevis, FI: brevis.

⇒ **note value** twice as long as a whole note. Mainly used in pre-1650 music.



‘C’ ES: do, I: do, F: ut, D: C, c, NL: c, DK: c, S: c, FI: C, c.

‘C clef’ ES: Clave de do, I: chiave di do, F: clé d’ut, D: C-Schlüssel, NL: C-sleutel, DK: c-nøgle, S: c-klav, FI: C-avain.

Clef symbol indicating the position of the middle C. Used on all note lines.



**Soprano Mezzosoprano Alto Tenor Baritone**

‘cadence’ ES: cadencia, I: cadenza, F: cadence, D: Kadenz, NL: cadens, DK: kadence, S: kadens, FI: kadenssi, lopuke.

⇒ **harmonic cadence**, ⇒ **functional harmony**.

‘cadenza’ ES: cadenza, I: cadenza, F: cadence, D: Kadenz, NL: cadens, DK: kadence, S: kadens, FI: kadenssi, lopuke.

An extended, improvisatory style section inserted near the end of movement. The purpose of a cadenza is to give the singer or player a chance to exhibit her technical skill and not the least her ability to improvise. Since the middle of the 19th century, however, most cadences have been written down by the composer.

‘**canon**’ ES: canon, I: canone, F: canon, D: Kanon, NL: canon, DK: kanon, S: kanon, FI: kaanon, tarkka jäljittely.

⇒ **counterpoint**.

‘**cent**’ ES: cent, I: cent, F: cent, D: Cent, NL: cent, DK: cent, S: cent, FI: sentti, puolisävelaskeleen sadasosa tasavireisessä viritysjärjestelmässä.

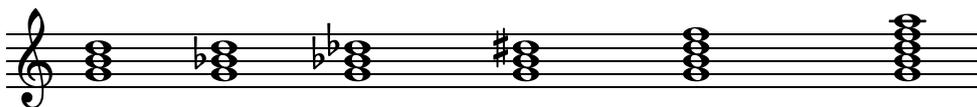
Logarithmic unit of measurement. 1 cent is 1/1200 of an octave (1/100 of an equally tempered ⇒ **semitone**). ⇒ **equal temperament**.

‘**central C**’

⇒ **middle C**.

‘**chord**’ ES: acorde, I: accordo, F: accord, D: Akkord, NL: akkoord, DK: akkord, S: ackord, FI: sointu.

Three or more tones sounding simultaneously. In traditional European music the base chord is a *triad* consisting of 2 thirds. *Major* (major + minor ⇒ **third**) as well as *minor* (minor + major third) chords may be extended with more thirds. Four-tone *seventh chords* and five-tone *ninth* major chords are most often used as dominants (⇒ **functional harmony**). A special case is chords having no third above the lower notes to define their quality as major or minor. Such chords are denoted open chords



major minor diminished augmented seventh-chord ninth-chord

‘**chromatic scale**’

ES: escala cromática, I: scala cromatica, F: gamme chromatique, D: chromatische Tonleiter, NL: chromatische toonladder, DK: kromatisk skala, S: kromatisk skala, FI: kromaattinen asteikko.

A scale consisting of all 12 ⇒ **semitones**.



‘**chromaticism**’

ES: cromatismo, I: cromatismo, F: chromatisme, D: Chromatik, NL: chromatiek, DK: kromatik, S: kromatik, FI: kromatiikka.

Use of tones extraneous to a ⇒ **diatonic scale** (minor, major).

‘**church mode; ecclesiastical mode**’

ES: modo eclesiástico, I: modo ecclesiastico, F: mode ecclésiastique, D: Kirchentonart, NL: kerktoonladder, DK: kirketoneart, S: kyrkotonart, FI: moodi, kirkkosävellaji.

⇒ **diatonic scale**.

‘clef’ ES: clave, I: chiave, F: clé, clef, D: Schlüssel, Notenschlüssel, NL: sleutel, DK: nøgle, S: klav, FI: avain, nuottiavain.

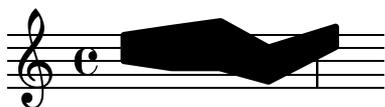
⇒ **C clef**, ⇒ **F clef**, ⇒ **G clef**.

‘cluster’

A *cluster* is a range of simultaneously sounding pitches that may change over time. The set of available pitches to apply usually depends on the acoustic source. Thus, in piano music, a cluster typically consists of a continuous range of the semitones as provided by the piano’s fixed set of a chromatic scale. In choral music, each singer of the choir typically may sing an arbitrary pitch within the cluster’s range that is not bound to any diatonic, chromatic or other scale. In electronic music, a cluster (theoretically) may even cover a continuous range of pitches, thus resulting in colored noise, such as pink noise.

Clusters can be denoted in the context of ordinary staff notation by engraving simple geometrical shapes that replace ordinary notation of notes. Ordinary notes as musical events specify starting time and duration of pitches; however, the duration of a note is expressed by the shape of the note head rather than by the horizontal graphical extent of the note symbol. In contrast, the shape of a cluster geometrically describes the development of a range of pitches (vertical extent) over time (horizontal extent). Still, the geometrical shape of a cluster covers the area in which any single pitch contained in the cluster would be notated as an ordinary note.

`\apply #notes-to-clusters { <c e > <b f'> <b g'> <c g> <f e> }|`



‘comma’ I: comma, F: comma, D: Komma, NL: komma, DK: komma, S: komma, FI: komma, korvinkuultava ero äänenkorkeudessa.

Difference in pitch between a note derived from pure tuning and the same note derived from some other tuning method. ⇒ **temperament**.

‘common meter’

⇒ **meter**.

‘compound interval’

ES: intervalo compuesto, I: intervallo composto, F: intervalle composé, D: weites Intervall, NL: samengesteld interval, DK: sammensat interval, S: sammansatt intervall, FI: oktaavia laajempi intervalli.

Intervals larger than an octave.

⇒ **interval**.

‘complement’

I: rivolto, F: intervalle complémentaire, D: Komplementärintervall, NL: complementair interval, DK: komplementærinterval, S: komplementärintervall (?), FI: täydentävä intervalli.

⇒ **inverted interval**.

## ‘conjunct movement’

ES: movimiento conjunto, I: moto congiunto, F: mouvement conjoint, D: schrittweise, stufenweise Bewegung, NL: stapsgewijze, tragsgewijze beweging, DK: trinvis bevægelse, S: stegvis rörelse, FI: asteittainen liike.

Melody moving in the narrow steps of the scale.



## ‘consonance’

ES: consonancia, I: consonanza, F: consonance, D: Konsonanz, NL: consonant, DK: konsonans, S: konsonans, FI: konsonanssi, sopusointi.

⇒ **harmony**.

## ‘contralto’

ES: contralto, I: contralto, F: contralto, D: Alt, NL: contralto, DK: alt, S: alt, FI: kontra-altto.

⇒ **alto**.

## ‘counterpoint’

ES: contrapunto, I: contrappunto, F: contrepoint, D: Kontrapunkt, NL: contrapunt, DK: kontrapunkt, S: kontrapunkt, FI: kontrapunkti, ääni ääntä vastaan.

From latin *punctus contra punctum*, note against note. The combination into a single musical fabric of lines or parts which have distinct melodic significance. A frequently used polyphonic technique is imitation, in its strictest form found in the canon needing only one part to be written down while the other parts are performed with a given displacement. Imitation is also the contrapuntal technique used in the *fugue* which, since the music of the baroque era, has been one of the most popular polyphonic composition methods.



## ‘counter tenor’

ES: contratenor, I: controtenore, F: contre-tenor, D: Countertenor, NL: contratenor, DK: kontratenor, S: kontratenor, counter tenor, FI: kontratenori.

⇒ **contralto**.

## ‘Copying, Music’

A music copyist did fast freehand scores and parts on preprinted staff lines for performance. Some of their conventions (e.g., the placement of note heads on stems) varied slightly from those of engravers. Some of their working methods were superior and could well be adopted by music typesetters. This required more skill than engraving.

## ‘crescendo’

ES: crescendo, I: crescendo, F: crescendo, D: Crescendo, lauter werden, NL: crescendo, DK: crescendo, S: crescendo, FI: cresendo, voimistuen.

Increasing volume. Indicated by a rightwards opening horizontal wedge or the abbreviation “cresc.”.



## ‘cue-notes’

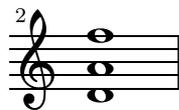
ES: notas guia, I: notine, F: petites notes précèdent l’entrée d’instrument, réplique, D: Stichnoten, NL: stichnoten, DK: stiknoder, S: inprickningar, FI: vihjenuotit.

In a separate part notes belonging to another part with the purpose of hinting when to start playing. Usually printed in a smaller type.

## ‘custos’

A custos is a staff symbol that appears at the end of a staff line with monophonic musical contents (i.e. with a single voice). It anticipates the pitch of the first note of the following line and thus helps the player or singer to manage line breaks during performance, thus enhancing readability of a score.

Custodes were frequently used in music notation until the 16th century. There were different appearances for different notation styles. Nowadays, they have survived only in special forms of musical notation such as via the editio vaticana dating back to the beginning of the 20th century



## ‘D’

ES: Re, I: re, F: ré, D: D, d, NL: d, DK: d, S: d, FI: D, d.

## ‘da capo’

ES: da capo, I: da capo, F: da capo, depuis le commencement, D: da capo, von Anfang, NL: da capo, DK: da capo, S: da capo, FI: da capo, alusta.

The term indicates repetition of the piece from the beginning to the end or to a certain place marked *fine*. Mostly abbreviated as “D.C.”.

## ‘dal segno’

ES: dal segno, I: dal segno, F: dal segno, depuis le signe, D: dal segno, NL: dal segno, DK: dal segno, S: dal segno, FI: dal segno, merkkiin asti.

Abbreviated “d.s.”. Repetition, not from the beginning, but from another place frequently near the beginning marked by a sign:



‘decrecendo’

ES: decrescendo, I: decrescendo, D: Decrescendo, leiser werden, NL: decrescendo, DK: decrescendo, S: decrescendo, FI: decresendo, hiljentyen.

Decreasing tone volume. Indicated by a leftwards opening horizontal wedge or the abbreviation “decresc.”.



‘descending interval’

ES: intervalo descendente, I: intervallo discendente, F: intervalle descendant, D: fallendes Intervall, absteigendes Intervall, NL: dalend interval, DK: faldende interval, S: fallande intervall, FI: laskeva intervalli.

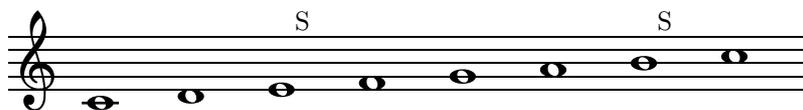
A distance between a starting higher note and a lower ending note.

‘diatonic scale’

ES: escala diatónica, I: scala diatonica, F: gamme diatonique, D: diatonische Tonleiter, NL: diatonische toonladder, DK: diatonisk skala, S: diatonisk skala, FI: diatoninen asteikko.

A scale consisting of 5  $\Rightarrow$  **whole tones** and 2  $\Rightarrow$  **semitones** (S). Scales played on the white keys of a piano keyboard are diatonic.

The church modes are used in gregorial chant and pre baroque early music but also to some extent in newer jazz music.



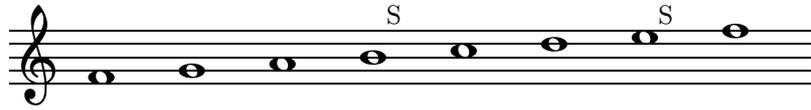
Ionian



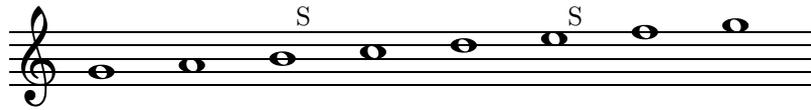
Dorian



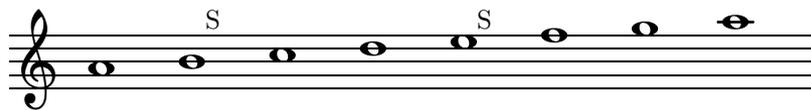
Phrygian



Lydian

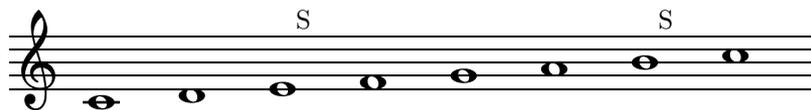


Mixolydian

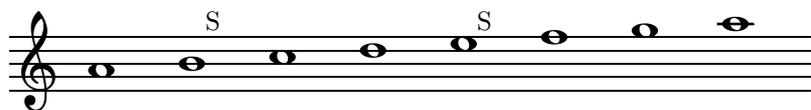


Aeolian

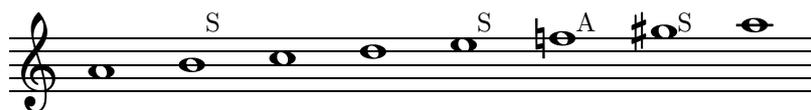
From the beginning of the 17th century the scales used in European compositional music are primarily the major and the minor scales. In the harmonic minor scale type an augmented second (A) occurs between the 6th and 7th tone.



Major



ancient minor



Harmonic minor



### Melodic minor

#### ‘diminished interval’

ES: intervalo disminuído, I: intervallo diminuito, F: intervalle diminué, D: vermindertes Intervall, NL: verminderd interval, DK: formindsket interval, S: förminskat intervall, FI: vähennetty intervalli.

⇒ **interval**.

#### ‘diminuendo’

ES: diminuendo, I: diminuendo, F: diminuendo, D: Diminuendo, NL: diminuendo, DK: diminuendo, S: diminuendo, FI: diminuendo, hiljentyen.

⇒ **decrecendo**.

#### ‘disjunct movement’

ES: movimiendo disjunto, I: moto disgiunto, F: mouvement disjoint, D: sprunghafte Bewegung, NL: sprongsgewijze beweging, DK: springende bevægelse, S: hoppande rörelse, FI: melodian hyppivä liike.

Melody moving in steps greater than those of the scale. Opposite of ⇒ **conjunct movement**.



#### ‘dissonant interval; dissonance’

ES: intervalo disonante, disonancias, I: intervallo dissonante, dissonanza, F: dissonance, D: Dissonanz, NL: dissonant interval; dissonant, DK: dissonerende interval, dissonans, S: dissonans, FI: dissonanssi, dissonoiva intervalli, riitasointi.

⇒ **harmony**.

#### ‘dominant ninth chord’

I: accordo di nona di dominante, F: accord de neuvième dominante, D: Dominantnoneakkord, NL: dominant non akkoord, DK: dominantnoneakkord, S: dominantnonakkord, FI: dominanttinoonisointu.

⇒ **chord**, ⇒ **functional harmony**.

#### ‘dominant seventh chord’

ES: acorde de séptima de dominante, I: accordo di settima di dominante, F: accord de septième dominante, D: Dominantseptakkord, NL: dominant septiem akkoord, DK: dominantseptimakkord, S: dominantseptimakkord, FI: dominanttiseptimisointu.

⇒ **chord**, ⇒ **functional harmony**.

#### ‘dominant’

ES: dominante, I: dominante, F: dominante, D: Dominante, NL: dominant, DK: dominant, S: dominant, FI: dominantti, huippusointu.

The fifth ⇒ **scale degree**, ⇒ **functional harmony**.

‘dorian mode’

ES: modo dórico, I: modo dorico, F: mode dorien, D: dorisch, dorischer Kirchen-ton, NL: dorische toonladder, DK: dorisk skala, S: dorisk tonart, FI: doorinen moodi.

⇒ **diatonic scale**.

‘dot (augmentation dot)’

ES: puntillo, I: punto (di valore), F: point, D: Punkt (Verlängerungspunkt), NL: punt, DK: punkt, S: punkt, FI: piste.

⇒ **dotted note**.

‘dotted note’

ES: nota con puntillo, I: nota puntata, F: note pointée, D: punktierte Note, NL: gepuncteerde noot, DK: punkteret node, S: punkterad not, FI: pisteellinen nuotti.

⇒ **note value**.

‘double appoggiatura’

ES: apoyatura doble, I: appoggiatura doppia, F: appoggiature double, D: dop-pelter Vorschlag, NL: dubbele voorslag, DK: dobbelt forslag, S: dubbelslag, FI: kaksoisappoggiatura, kaksoisetuhele.

⇒ **appoggiatura**.

‘double bar line’

I: doppia barra, F: double barre, D: Doppelstrich, NL: dubbele maatstreep, DK: dobbeltstreg, S: dubbelstreck, FI: kaksoistahtiviiva.

Indicates the end of a section within a movement.

‘double dotted note’

ES: nota con dos puntillos, I: nota doppiamente puntata, F: note doublement pointée, D: doppelt punktierte Note, NL: dubbelgepuncteerde noot, DK: dobbeltpunkteret node, S: dubbelpunkterad not, FI: kaksoispisteellinen nuotti.

⇒ **note value**.

‘double flat’

ES: doble bemol, I: doppio bemolle, F: double bémol, D: Doppel-B, NL: dubbel-mol, DK: dobbelt-b, S: dubbelbe, FI: kaksoisalennusmerkki.

⇒ **accidental**.

‘double sharp’

ES: doble sostenido, I: doppio diesis, F: double dièse, D: Doppelkreuz, NL: dubbelkruis, DK: dobbeltkryds, S: dubbelkors, FI: kaksoisylennysmerkki.

⇒ **accidental**.

‘double trill’

ES: trino doble, I: doppio trillo, F: trille double, D: Doppeltriller, NL: dubbele triller, DK: dobbelttrille, S: dubbeldrill, FI: kaksoistrilli.

A simultaneous trill on two notes, usually in the distance of a third.

## ‘duple meter’

ES: tiempo binario, I: tempo binario, F: temps binaire, D: in zwei, NL: tweedelige maatsoort, DK: todelt takt, S: tvåtakt, FI: kaksoistempo.

⇒ **meter**.

## ‘duplet’

ES: dosillo, I: duina, F: duolet, D: Duole, NL: duool, DK: duol, S: duol, FI: duoli.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘duration’

ES: duración, I: durata, F: durée, D: Dauer, Länge, NL: duur, lengte, DK: varighed, S: tonlängd, FI: kesto, aika-arvo.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘dydimic comma’

⇒ **syntonic comma**.

## ‘E’

ES: mi, I: mi, F: mi, D: E, e, NL: e, DK: e, S: e, FI: E, e.

## ‘eighth note’

ES: corchea, I: croma, F: croche, UK: quaver, D: Achtel, Achtelnote, NL: achtste noot, DK: ottendedelsnote, S: åttondelsnot, FI: kahdeksasosanuotti.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘eighth rest’

ES: silencio de corchea, I: pausa di croma, F: demi-soupir, UK: quaver rest, D: Achtelpause, NL: achtste rust, DK: ottendedelspause, S: åttondeldspaus, FI: kahdeksasosatauko.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘engraving’

ES: Grabar I: incisione, F: gravure, D: Notenstechen, Notendruck NL: steken, DK: nodelistik, S: nottryck, FI: painatus.

Engraving means incising or etching a metal plate for printing. Photoengraving means drawing music with ink in a manner similar to drafting or engineering drawing, using similar tools.

The traditional process of music printing is done through cutting in a plate of metal. Now also the term for the art of music typesetting.

## ‘enharmonic’

ES: enharmónico, I: enarmonico, F: enharmonique, D: enharmonisch, NL: enharmonisch, DK: enharmonisk, S: enharmonisk, FI: enharmoninen.

Two notes, intervals, or scales are enharmonic if they have different names but equal pitch.



**g sharp   a flat   dim fifth   augm fourth**

## ‘equal temperament’

ES: ?, I: temperamento equabile, F: tempérament égal, D: gleichschwebende Stimmung, NL: gelijkzwevende temperatuur, DK: ligesvævende temperatur, S: liksvävande temperatur, FI: tasavireinen.

Tuning system dividing the octave into 12 equal  $\Rightarrow$  **semitones** (precisely 100  $\Rightarrow$  **cents**).  $\Rightarrow$  **temperament**.

## ‘expression mark’

ES: ?, I: segno d’espressione, F: signe d’expression, indication de nuance, D: Vortragszeichen, NL: voordrachtsteken, DK: foredragsbetegnelse, S: föredragsbeteckning, FI: nyanssiosoitus, esitysmerkki.

Performance indications concerning 1. volume, dynamics (for example  $\Rightarrow$  **forte**,  $\Rightarrow$  **crescendo**), 2. tempo (for example  $\Rightarrow$  **andante**,  $\Rightarrow$  **allegro**).

## ‘F’

ES: fa, I: fa, F: fa, D: F, f, NL: f, DK: f, S: f, FI: F, f.

## ‘F clef’

ES: Clave de Fa, I: chiave di fa, F: clé de fa, D: F-Schlüssel, NL: F-sleutel, DK: F-nøgle, S: f-klav, FI: F-avain.

The position between the dots of the key symbol is the line of the F below central C. Used on the third, fourth and fifth note line. A digit 8 above the clef symbol indicates that the notes must be played an octave higher (for example bass recorder) while 8 below the clef symbol indicates playing an octave lower (for example on double bass  $\Rightarrow$  **strings**).



**baritone bass      sub-bass      octaved up      octaved down**

## ‘fermata’

ES: Calderón, I: corona, F: point d’orgue, point d’arrêt, D: Fermate, NL: fermate, DK: fermat, S: fermat, FI: fermaatti, pidäke.

Prolonged note or rest of indefinite duration.



## ‘fifth’

ES: quinta, I: quinta, F: quinte, D: Quinte, NL: kwint, DK: kvint, S: kvint, FI: kvintti.

$\Rightarrow$  **interval**.

## ‘figured bass’

ES: bajo cifrado,  $\Rightarrow$  **thorough bass**.

## ‘fingering’

ES: digitación, I: diteggiatura, F: doigté, D: Fingersatz, NL: vingerzetting, DK: fingersætning, S: fingersättning, FI: sormitus.

The methodical use of fingers in the playing of instruments.

## ‘flag, pennant’

ES: corchete, I: coda (uncinata), bandiera, F: crochet, D: Fahne, Fähnchen, NL: vlaggetje, DK: fane, S: flagga, FI: lippu, viiri.

Ornament at the end of the stem of a note used for notes with values less than a quarter note. The number of flags determines the  $\Rightarrow$  **note value**.



## ‘flat’

ES: bemol, I: bemolle, F: bémol, D: B, b, NL: mol, DK: b, S: beförtecken, FI: alennusmerkki.

$\Rightarrow$  **accidental**.

## ‘forefall; backfall’

$\Rightarrow$  **appoggiatura**.

## ‘forte’

ES: forte, I: forte, F: forte, D: forte, laut, NL: forte, DK: forte, S: forte, FI: forte, voimakkaasti.

Loud, abbreviated **f**, *fortissimo* (**ff**) very loud, *mezzoforte* (**mf**) medium loud.

## ‘fourth’

ES: cuarta, I: quarta, F: quarte, D: Quarte, NL: kwart, DK: kvart, S: kvart, FI: kvartti.

$\Rightarrow$  **interval**.

## ‘fugue’

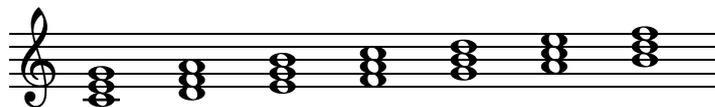
ES: fuga, I: fuga, F: fugue, D: Fuge, NL: fuga, DK: fuga, S: fuga, FI: fuuga.

$\Rightarrow$  **counterpoint**.

## ‘functional harmony’

ES: armonía funcional, I: armonia funzionale, F: étude des fonctions, D: Funktionslehre, NL: functionele harmonie, DK: funktionsanalyse, funktionsharmonik, S: funktionslära, FI: harmoniajärjestelmä.

A system of harmonic analysis. It is based on the idea that, in a given key, there are only three functionally different chords: tonic (T, the chord on the first note of the scale), subdominant (S, the chord on the fourth note), and dominant (D, the chord on the fifth note). Other are considered to be variants of the base chords.



T Sp Dp S D Tp Dp

## ‘G’

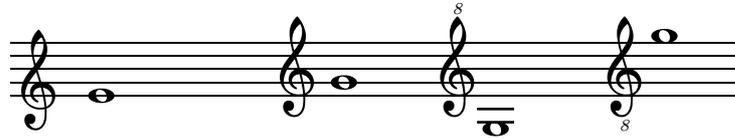
ES: sol, I: sol, F: sol, D: G, g, NL: g, DK: g, S: g, FI: G, g.

## ‘G clef’

ES: Clave de sol, I: chiave di sol, F: clé de sol, D: G-Schlüssel, Violinschlüssel, NL: G-sleutel, DK: g-nøgle, S: g-klav, FI: G-avain.

A clef symbol indicating the G above central C. Used on the first and second note lines. A digit 8 above the clef symbol indicates that the notes must be

played an octave higher while 8 below the clef symbol indicates playing or singing an octave lower (most tenor parts in choral scores are notated like that).



**french violin clef violin clef octaved up octaved down**

‘glissando’

ES: glissando, I: glissando, F: glissando, D: Glissando, NL: glissando, DK: glissando, S: glissando, FI: glissando, liukuen.

Letting the pitch slide fluently from one note to the other.

‘grace notes’

SP: ?, I: abbellimenti, F: fioriture, D: Verzierungen, Vorschläge, Vorschlagsnoten, NL: versieringen, DK: forsiringer, S: ornament, FI: korunuotit.

Notes printed in small types to indicate that their time values are not counted in the rhythm of the bar. ⇒ **appoggiatura**.

‘grand staff’

I: accolatura, F: accolade, D: Akkolade, NL: piano systeem, DK: klaversystem, S: ackolad, böjd klammer, FI: kaksoisnuottiviivasto.

⇒ **brace**.

A combination of two staves with a brace. Usually used for piano music.

‘grave’

ES: grave, I: grave, F: grave, D: grave, langsam, NL: grave, ernstig, DK: grave, S: grave, FI: grave, raskaasti.

Slow, solemn.

‘half note’

ES: blanca, I: minima, F: blanche, UK: minim, D: Halbe, halbe Note, NL: halve noot, DK: halvnode, S: halvnot, FI: puolinuotti.

⇒ **note value**.

‘half rest’

SP: ?, I: pausa di minima, F: demi-pause, UK: minim rest, D: halbe Pause, NL: halve, rust, DK: halvnodespause, S: halvpaus, FI: puolitauko.

⇒ **note value**.

‘harmonic cadence’

ES: cadencia (armónica), I: cadenza (armonica), F: cadence harmonique, D: Schlusskadenz, NL: harmonische cadens, DK: harmonisk kadence, S: (harmonisk) kadens, FI: harmoninen kadenssi.

Sequence of chords that terminate a musical phrase or section. ⇒ **functional harmony**.

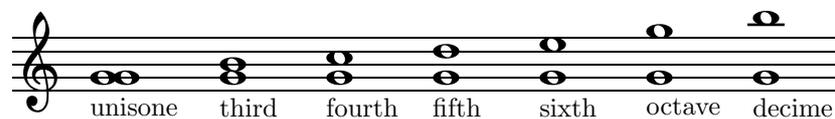


T S D T

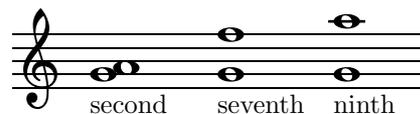
‘harmony’ ES: armonía, I: armonia, F: harmonie, D: Harmonie, Zusammenklang, NL: harmonie, DK: samklang, S: samklang, FI: harmonia, yhteisointi.

Tones sounding simultaneously. Two note harmonies fall into the categories *consonances* and *dissonances*.

Consonances:



Dissonances:



Three note harmony ⇒ **chord**.

‘homophony’

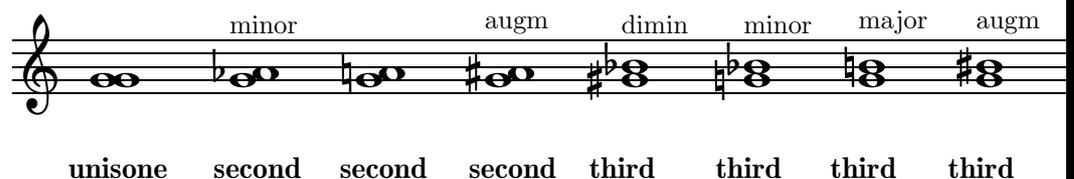
ES: homofonía, I: omofonia, F: homophonie, D: Homophonie, NL: homofonie, DK: homofoni, S: homofoni, FI: homofonia, yksiäänisyys.

Music in which one voice leads melodically followed by the other voices more or less in the same rhythm. In contrast to ⇒ **polyphony**.

‘interval’

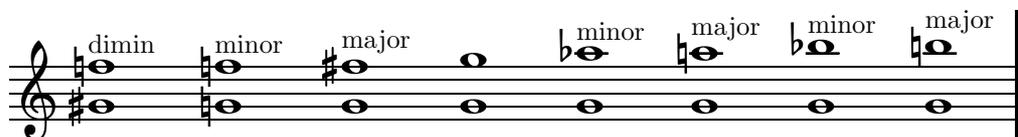
ES: intervalo, I: intervallo, F: intervaller, D: Intervall, NL: interval, DK: interval, S: intervall, FI: intervalli, kahden sävelen korkeusero.

Difference in pitch between two notes. Intervals may be perfect, minor, major, diminished, or augmented. The augmented fourth and the diminished fifth are identical (⇒ **enharmonic**) and are called *tritonus* because they consist of three ⇒ **whole tones**. The addition of such two forms an octave.





fourth fourth fifth fifth sixth sixth sixth sixth



seventh seventh seventh octave none none decime decime

‘inverted interval’

ES: intervalo invertido, I: intervallo rivolto, F: intervalle reversé, D: umgekehrtes Intervall, NL: interval inversie, DK: omvendingsinterval, S: intervalllets omvändning, FI: käänteisintervalli.

The difference between an interval and an octave.



‘just intonation’

I: intonazione giusta, F: intonation juste, D: reine Stimmung, NL: reine stemming, DK: ren stemming, S: ren stämning, FI: puhdas viritys.

Tuning system in which the notes are obtained by adding and subtracting natural fifths and thirds. ⇒ **temperament**.

‘key’

ES: tonalidad, I: tonalità, F: tonalité, D: Tonart, NL: toonsoort, DK: toneart, S: tonart, FI: tonaliteetti.

According to the 12 tones of the ⇒ **chromatic scale** there are 12 keys, one on c, one on c-sharp, etc. ⇒ **key signature**.

‘key signature’

ES: armadura de clave, I: armatura di chiave, F: armure, armature [de la clé], D: Vorzeichen, Tonart, NL: toonsoort (voortekens), DK: faste fortegn, S: tonartssignatur, FI: sävellajisoitus.

The sharps or flats appearing at the beginning of each staff indicating the key of the music. ⇒ **accidental**.

‘largo’

ES: largo, I: largo, F: largo, D: Largo, Langsam, Breit, NL: largo, DK: largo, S: largo, FI: largo, hitaasti, leveästi.

Very slow in tempo, usually combined with great expressiveness. *Larghetto* is less slow than largo.

‘leading note’

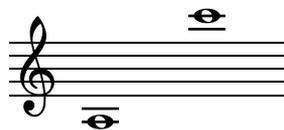
ES: sensible, I: sensibile, F: note sensible, D: Leitton, NL: leidtoon, DK: ledetone, S: ledton, FI: johtosävel.

The seventh ⇒ **scale degree**, a ⇒ **semitone** below the tonic; so called because of its strong tendency to “lead up” (resolve upwards) to the tonic scale degree.

## ‘ledger line; leger line’

ES: líneas adicionales, I: tagli addizionali, F: ligne supplémentaire, D: Hilfslinie, NL: hulplijntje, DK: hjælpelinie, S: hjälplinje, FI: apuviiva.

A ledger line is an extension of the staff.



## ‘legato’

ES: ligado, I: legato, F: legato, lié, D: legato, NL: legato, DK: legato, S: legato, FI: legato, sitoen.

To be performed (a) without any perceptible interruption between the notes unlike (b) *leggiero* or *non-legato*, (c) *portato* and (d) ⇒ **staccato**.



a b c d

## ‘legato curve’

⇒ **slur**, ⇒ **legato**.

## ‘lilypond’

ES: estanque de lilas, I: stagno del giglio, F: étang de lis, UK: lily pond, D: Seerosenteich, NL: lelievijver, DK: liliedam, S: liljedamm, FI: liljalampi.

A pond with lilies floating in it, also the name of a music typesetter.

## ‘ligature’

A ligature is a coherent graphical symbol that represents at least two distinct notes. Ligatures originally appeared in the manuscripts of Gregorian chant notation roughly since the 9th century to denote ascending or descending sequences of notes. In early notation, ligatures were used for monophonic tunes (Gregorian chant) and very soon denoted also the way of performance in the sense of articulation. With the invention of the metric system of the white mensural notation, the need for ligatures to denote such patterns disappeared.

## ‘line’

ES: línea, I: linea, F: ligne, D: Linie, Notenlinie, NL: lijn, DK: nodelinie, S: notlinje, FI: viiva, nuottiviiva.

⇒ **staff**.

## ‘long appoggiatura’

ES: apoyatura larga, I: appoggiatura lunga, F: appoggiature longue, D: langer Vorschlag, NL: Lange voorslag, DK: langt forslag, S: långt förslag, FI: pitkä appoggiatura, pitkä etuhele.

⇒ **appoggiatura**.

## ‘longa’

ES: longa, I: longa, F: longa, D: Longa, NL: longa, DK: longa, S: longa, FI: longa.

Note value: double length of  $\Rightarrow$  **breve.**  $\Rightarrow$  **note value.**



‘lyrics; song texts’

ES: ., I: ., F: ., D: ., NL: liedtekst, DK: ., S: ., FI: sanoitus,

‘major interval’

ES: intervalo mayor, I: intervallo maggiore, F: intervalle majeur, D: großes Intervall, NL: groot interval, DK: stort interval, S: stort intervall, FI: suuri intervalli.

$\Rightarrow$  **interval.**

‘major’

ES: mayor, I: maggiore, F: [mode] majeur, D: Dur, NL: majeur, DK: dur, S: dur, FI: duuri.

$\Rightarrow$  **diatonic scale.**

‘meantone temperament’

I: accordatura mesotonica, F: tempérament mésotonique, D: mitteltönige Stimmung, NL: middenstemming, middentoonstemming, DK: middeltonetemperatur, S: medeltonstemperatur, FI: keskisävelviritys.

Temperament yielding acoustically pure thirds by decreasing the natural fifth by 16  $\Rightarrow$  **cents.** Due to the non-circular character of this  $\Rightarrow$  **temperament** only a limited set of keys are playable. Used for tuning keyboard instruments for performance of pre-1650 music.

‘measure, bar’

ES: compás, I: misura, battuta, F: mesure, D: Takt, NL: maat, DK: takt, S: takt, FI: tahti.

A group of  $\Rightarrow$  **beats** (units of musical time) the first of which bears an accent. Such groups in numbers of two or more recur consistently throughout the composition and are marked from each other by bar-lines.  $\Rightarrow$  **meter.**

‘mediant’

ES: mediate, I: mediate, modale, F: médiate, NL: mediant, D: Mediate, DK: mediant, S: mediant, FI: keskisävel.

1. The third **scale degree.** 2. A  $\Rightarrow$  **chord** having its base tone a third from that of another chord. For example, the tonic chord may be replaced by its lower mediant (variant tonic).  $\Rightarrow$  **functional harmony,**  $\Rightarrow$  **relative key.**

‘melisma’

NL: melisma, FI: melisma, laulettavan tavun sävelkuvio.

A melisma (plural: melismata) is a group of notes or tones sung on one syllable in plainsong

‘melodic cadence’

$\Rightarrow$  **cadenza.**



‘minor’ ES: menor, I: minore, F: mode mineur, D: Moll, NL: mineur, DK: mol, S: moll, FI: molli.

⇒ **diatonic scale**.

‘minor interval’

ES: intervalo mayor, I: intervallo minore, F: intervalle mineur, D: kleines Intervall, NL: klein interval, DK: lille interval, S: litet intervall, FI: pieni intervalli.

⇒ **interval**.

‘mode’

ES: modo, I: modo, F: mode, D: Modus, NL: modus, DK: skala, S: modus, skala, FI: moodi, kirkkosävelasteikko.

⇒ **church mode**, ⇒ **diatonic scale**.

‘modulation’

ES: modulación, I: modulazione, F: modulation, D: Modulation, NL: modulatie, DK: modulation, S: modulering, FI: modulaatio, sävellajin vaihdos.

Moving from one ⇒ **key** to another. For example, the second subject of a ⇒ **sonata form** movement modulates to the dominant key if the key is major and to the ⇒ **relative key** if the key is minor.

‘mordent’

I: mordente, F: mordant, D: Mordent, NL: mordent, DK: mordent, S: mordent, FI: mordent, korukuvio.

⇒ **ornament**.

‘motive; motif’

ES: tema, I: inciso, F: incise, D: Motiv, NL: motief, DK: motiv, S: motiv, FI: teema, sävelaihe.

The briefest intelligible and self-contained fragment of a musical theme or subject.



‘movement’

ES: movimiento, I: movimento, F: mouvement, D: Satz, NL: deel, DK: sats, S: sats, FI: osa.

Greater musical works like ⇒ **symphony** and ⇒ **sonata** most often consist of several – more or less – independent pieces called movements.

‘multibar rest’

ES: compases de espera, I: pausa multipla, F: pause multiple, NL: meermaats rust, D: mehrtaktige Pause, DK: flertaktspause, S: flertaktspaus, FI: usean tahdin mittainen tauko.



‘mixolydian mode’

⇒ **diatonic scale.**

‘natural sign’

ES: becuadro, I: bequadro, F: bécarre, D: Auflösungszeichen, NL: herstellings-  
steken, DK: opløsningstegn, S: återställningstecken, FI: palautusmerkki.

⇒ **accidental.**

‘neighbour tones’

⇒ **appoggiatura.**

‘ninth’

ES: novena, I: nona, F: neuvième, D: None, NL: noon, DK: none, S: nona, FI: nooni.

⇒ **interval.**

‘non-legato’

⇒ **legato.**

‘note’

ES: nota, I: nota, F: note, D: Note, NL: noot, DK: node, S: not, FI: nuotti.

Notes are signs by means of which music is fixed in writing. The term is also used for the sound indicated by a note, and even for the key of the piano which produces the sound. However, a clear distinction between the terms tone and ⇒ **note** is strongly recommended. Briefly, one sees a note, and hears a tone.

‘note head’

ES: oval, I: testa, testina, capocchia, F: tête de la note, D: Notenkopf, NL: nootballetje, DK: nodehovede, S: nothuvud, FI: nuotin pää.

A head like sign which indicates pitch by its position on a ⇒ **staff** provided with a ⇒ **clef**, and duration by a variety of shapes such as hollow or black heads with or without ⇒ **stems**, ⇒ **flags**, etc. For percussion instruments (often having no defined pitch) the note head may indicate the instrument.

‘note value’

ES: valor, I: valore, durata, F: durée, valeur (d’une note), D: Notenwert, NL: nootwaarde, DK: nodeværdi, S: notvärde, FI: nuotin aika-arvo.

Note values (durations) are measured as fractions, normally  $1/2$ , of the next higher note value. The longest duration normally used is called *brevis*, but sometimes (mostly in pre baroque music) the double length note value *longa* is used.

An augmentation dot after a note multiplies the duration by one and a half. Another dot adds yet a fourth of the duration.



Alternatively note values may be subdivided by other ratios. Most common is subdivision by 3 (*triplets*) and 5 (*quintuplets*). Subdivisions by 2 (*duplets*) or 4 (*quadruplets*) of dotted notes are also frequently used.



‘octave sign’

⇒ **G clef**, ⇒ **F clef**.

‘octave’

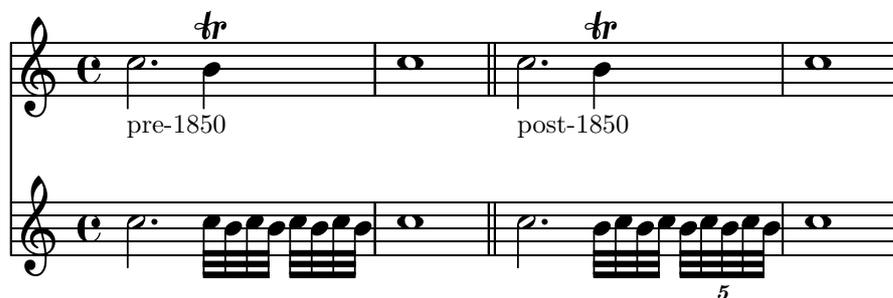
ES: octava, I: ottava, F: octave, D: Oktave, NL: octaaf, DK: oktav, S: oktav, FI: oktaavi.

⇒ **interval**.

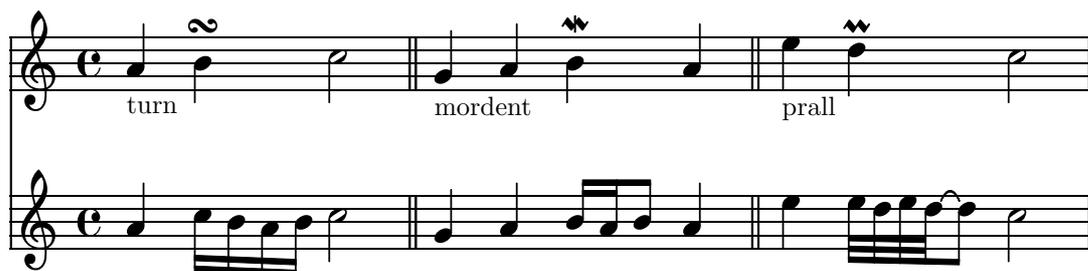
‘ornament; embellishment; accessory’

ES: adorno, I: abbellimento, fioriture, F: agrément, ornement, D: Verzierung, Ornament, NL: versiering, DK: forsiring, S: ornament, FI: koru, hele.

Most commonly used is the *trill*, the rapid alternation of a given note with the diatonic ⇒ **second** above it. In the music from the middle of the 19th century and onwards the trill is performed with the main note first while in the music from the preceding baroque and classic periods the upper note is played first.



Other frequently used ornaments are the *turn*, the *mordent* and the *prall* (inverted mordent).



⇒ **appoggiatura**.

‘**ossia**’ ES: ossia, I: ossia, F: ossia, D: Ossia, NL: alternatief, DK: ossia, S: ossia, FI: ossia, vaihtoehtoinen esitystapa.

Ossia (otherwise) marks an alternative. It is an added staff or piano score, usually only a few measures long, which presents another version of the music, for example for small hands.

‘**part**’ ES: parte, I: voce, parte, F: partie, D: Stimme, NL: partij, DK: stemme, S: stämma, FI: stemma, instrumenttiosuus.

1. In instrumental or choral music the music for the single instrument or voice.  
2. in contrapuntal music ⇒ **counterpoint** the single melodic line of the contrapuntal web.

‘**percussion**’

ES: percusión, I: percussioni, F: percussion, D: Schlagzeug, Schlagwerk, NL: slagwerk, DK: slagtøj, S: slagverk, FI: lyömäsoittimet.

A family of musical instruments which are played on by striking or shaking. Percussion instruments commonly used in a symphony orchestra are kettle-drums (I: *timpani*, D: *Pauken*), snare drum, bass drum, tambourine, cymbals, chinese gong (tam-tam), triangle, celesta, glockenspiel, and xylophone.

‘**perfect interval**’

ES: intervalo justo, I: intervallo giusto, F: intervalle juste, D: reines Intervall, NL: rein interval, DK: rent interval, S: rent intervall, FI: puhdas intervalli.

⇒ **interval**.

‘**phrase**’ ES: frase, I: frase, F: phrase, D: Phrase, NL: frase, zin, DK: frase, S: fras, FI: fraasi, lause.

A natural division of the melodic line, comparable to a sentence of speech.

‘**phrasing**’

ES: fraseo, I: fraseggio, F: phrasé, D: Phrasierung, NL: frasering, DK: frasering, S: frasering, FI: fraseeraus, jäsentäminen.

The clear rendering in musical performance of the ⇒ **phrases** of the melody. Phrasing may be indicated by a ⇒ **slur**.

‘**piano**’ ES: piano, I: piano, F: piano, D: piano, leise, NL: piano, DK: piano, S: piano, FI, piano, hiljaa,

*piano* (**p**) soft, *pianissimo* (**pp**) very soft, *mezzopiano* (**mp**) medium soft.

‘**pitch**’ ES: altura, I: altezza, F: hauteur, D: Tonhöhe, NL: toonhoogte, DK: tonehøjde, S: tonhöjd, FI: sävelkorkeus.

## ‘pizzicato’

ES: pizzicato, I: pizzicato, F: pizzicato, D: pizzicato, NL: pizzicato, getokkeld, DK: pizzicato, S: pizzicato, FI: pizzicato, näppäillen.

Play by plucking the strings.

## ‘polyphony’

ES: polifonía, I: polifonia, F: polyphonie, D: Polyphonie, NL: polyfonie, DK: polyfoni, S: polyfoni, FI: polyfonia, moniäänisyys.

Music written in a combination of several simultaneous voices (parts) of a more or less pronounced individuality. ⇒ **counterpoint**.

‘portato’ ⇒ **legato**.

‘presto’ ES: presto, I: presto, F: presto, D: Presto, Sehr schnell, NL: presto, Sehr schnell, DK: presto, S: presto, FI: presto, hyvin nopeasti.

Very quick, i.e. quicker than ⇒ **allegro**. *prestissimo* denotes the highest possible degree of speed.

## ‘Pythagorean comma’

ES: coma pitagórico, I: comma pitagorico, F: comma pythagoricien, D: Pythagoräisches Komma, NL: komma van Pythagoras, DK: pythagoræisk komma, S: pytagoreiskt komma, FI: pytagorinen komma.

A sequence of fifths starting on C eventually circles back to C, but this C, obtained by adding 12 fifths, is 247 octaves. The difference between those two pitches is called the Pythagorean comma.

## ‘quadruplet’

ES: cuatrillo, I: quartina, F: quartolet, D: Quartole, NL: kwartool, DK: kvartol, S: kvartol, FI: kvartoli.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘quarter note’

ES: negra, I: semiminima, nera, F: noire, UK: crotchet, D: Viertel, Viertelnote, NL: kwartnoot, DK: fjerdedelsnote, S: fjärdedelsnot, FI: neljännesosuotti.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘quarter rest’

ES: silencio de negra, I: pausa di semiminima, F: soupir, UK: crotchet rest, D: Viertelpause, NL: kwart rust, DK: fjerdedelspause, S: fjärdedelspaus, FI: neljännesosatauko.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘quintuplet’

ES: quintillo, I: quintina, F: quintolet, D: Quintole, NL: kwintool, DK: kvintol, S: kvintol, FI: kvintoli.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘rallentando’

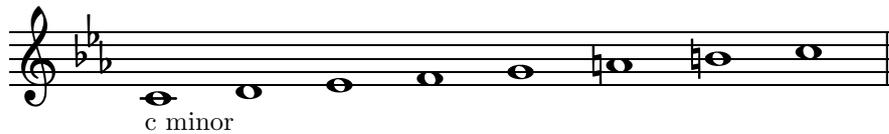
ES: rallentando, I: rallentando, F: rallentando, D: rallentando, langsamer werden, NL: rallentando, DK: rallentando, S: rallentando, FI: rallerdando, hidastuen,

Abbreviation "rall.". ⇒ **ritardando**.

‘relative key’

ES: relativa, I: tonalità relativa, F: tonalité relative, D: Paralleltonart, NL: paralleltoonsoort, DK: paralleltonart, S: parallelltonart, FI: rinnakkaissävellaji.

⇒ **major** and ⇒ **minor** ⇒ **key with the same** ⇒ **key signature**.



‘repeat’

ES: barra de repetición, I: ritornello, F: barre de reprise, D: Wiederholung, NL: herhaling, DK: gentagelse, S: repris, FI: toisto.



‘rest’

ES: silencio, I: pausa, F: silence, D: Pause, NL: rust, DK: pause, S: paus, FI: tauko.

⇒ **note value**.

‘rhythm’

ES: ritmo, I: ritmo, F: rythme, D: Rhythmus, NL: ritme, DK: rytme, S: rytm, FI: rytmi.

(a) Metrical rhythm in which every time value is a multiple or fraction of a fixed unit of time, called ⇒ **beat**, and in which the normal ⇒ **accent** recurs in regular intervals, called ⇒ **measure**. The basic scheme scheme of time values is called ⇒ **meter**. (b) Measured rhythm which lacks regularly recurrent accent. In modern notation such music appears as a free alternation of different measures. (c) Free rhythm, i.e., the use of temporal values having no common metrical unit (beat).

‘ritardando’

ES: retardando, I: ritardando, F: ritardando, D: Ritardando, langsamer werden, NL: ritardando, DK: ritardando, S: ritardando, FI: ritardando, hidastuen, Gradually slackening in speed. Mostly abbreviated to rit. or ritard.

‘ritenuto’

ES: ritenuto, I: ritenuto, F: ritenuto, D: Ritenuto, NL: ritenuto, DK: ritenuto, S: ritenuto, FI: ritenuto, hidastaen.

Immediate reduction of speed.

‘scale’

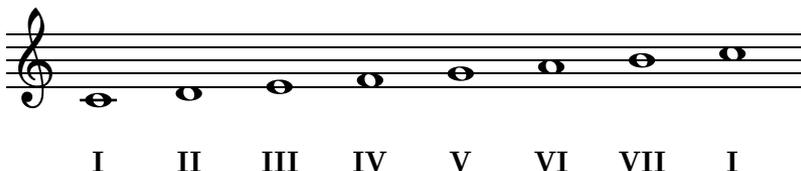
ES: escala, I: scala, F: gamme, D: Tonleiter, NL: toonladder, DK: Skala, S: skala, FI: asteikko, sävelasteikko.

⇒ **diatonic scale.**

‘scale degree’

ES: grados de la escala, I: grado della scala, F: degré [de la gamme], D: Tonleiterstufe, NL: trap [van de toonladder], DK: skalatrin, S: skalsteg (?), FI: sävelaste, asteikon sävel.

Names and symbols used in harmonic analysis to denote tones of the scale as roots of chords. The most important are degrees I = tonic (T), IV = subdominant (S) and V = dominant (D).



⇒ **functional harmony.**

‘score’

ES: partitura, I: partitura, F: partition, D: Partitur (full score), Klavierauszug (vocal score) NL: partituur, DK: partitur, S: partitur, FI: partituuri.

A copy of orchestral, choral or chamber music showing what each instrument is to play, each voice to sing, having each part arranged one underneath the other on different staves ⇒ **staff.**

‘second’

ES: segunda, I: secunda, F: seconde, D: Sekund, NL: secunde, DK: sekund, S: sekund, FI: sekunti.

The ⇒ **interval** between two neighbouring tones of a scale. A ⇒ **diatonic scale** consists of alternating ⇒ **semitones** and ⇒ **whole tones**, hence the size of a second depends on the scale degrees in question.

‘semitone’

ES: semitono, I: semitono, F: demi-ton, D: Halbton, NL: halve toon, DK: halv-tone, S: halvton, FI: puolisävel.

The ⇒ **interval** of a minor second. The (usually) smallest interval in European composed music. The interval between two neighbouring tones on the piano keyboard – including black and white keys – is a semitone. An octave may be divided into 12 semitones. ⇒ **interval**, ⇒ **chromatic scale.**



‘seventh’

ES: séptima, I: settima, F: septième, D: Septime, NL: septiem, DK: septim, S: septim, FI: septimi.

⇒ **interval.**

‘sextuplet, sextolet’

I: sestina, F: sextolet, D: Sextole, NL: sextool, DK: sekstol, S: sextol, FI: sekstoli.

⇒ **note value.**

- ‘sharp’ ES: sostenido, I: diesis, F: dièse, D: Kreuz, NL: kruis, DK: kryds, S: korsförtecken, FI: korotusmerkki.  
⇒ **accidental**.
- ‘short appoggiatura’  
⇒ **appoggiatura**.
- ‘sixteenth note’  
ES: semicorchea, I: semicroma, F: double croche, UK: semiquaver, D: Sechzehntel, Sechzehntelnote, NL: zestiende noot, DK: sekstendedelsnote, S: sextondel-snot, FI: kuudestoistaosanuotti.  
⇒ **note value**.
- ‘sixteenth rest’  
ES: silencia de semicorchea, I: pausa di semicroma, F: quart de soupir, UK: semiquaver rest, D: Sechzehntelpause, NL: zestiende rust, DK: sekstendedelspause, S: sextondelspaus, FI: kuudesosatauko.  
⇒ **note value**.
- ‘sixth’ ES: sexta, I: sesta, F: sixte, D: Sixte, NL: sext, DK: sekst, S: sext, FI: seksti.  
⇒ **interval**.
- ‘sixty-fourth note’  
ES: semifusa, I: semibiscroma, F: quadruple croche, UK: hemidemisemiquaver, D: Vierundsechzigstel, Vierundsechzigstelnote, NL: vierenzestigste noot, DK: fireogtredsindstyvendedelsnote, S: sextiofjærdedelsnot, FI: kuudeskymmenesneljäsosanuotti.  
⇒ **note value**.
- ‘sixty-fourth rest’  
ES: silencia de semifusa, I: pausa di semibiscroma, F: seizième de soupir, UK: hemidemisemiquaver rest, D: Vierundsechzigstelpause, NL: vierenzestigste rust, DK: fireogtredsindstyvendedelspause, S: sextiofjærdedelspaus, FI: kuudeskymmenesneljäsosatauko.  
⇒ **note value**.
- ‘slur’ ES: ligadura, I: legatura (di portamento or espressiva), F: liaison, coulé, D: Bogen, Legatobogen, Phrasierungsbogen, NL: fraseringsboog, legatoboog, streekboog, DK: legatobue, fraseringsbue, S: båge, FI: kaari.  
A slur above or below a group of notes indicates that they are to be played ⇒ **legato**, e.g., with one stroke of the violin bow or with one breath in singing.
- ‘solmization’  
I: solmisazione, F: solmisation, D: Solmisation, NL: solmizatie, DK: solmisation, S: solmisation, FI: suhteelliset laulunimet.  
General term for systems of designating the degrees of the ⇒ **scale**, not by letters, but by syllables (*do (ut), re, mi, fa, sol, la, si (ti)*). ⇒ **scale degree**.
- ‘sonata’ ES: sonata, I: sonata, F: sonate, D: Sonate, NL: sonate, DK: sonate, S: sonat, FI: sonaatti.

In its present-day meaning a sonata denotes an instrumental composition for piano or for some other instrument with piano accompaniment, which consists of three or four independent pieces, called movements.

‘sonata form’

ES: forma sonata, I: forma sonata, F: [en] forme de sonate, D: Sonatenform, NL: hoofdvorm, sonatevorm, DK: sonateform, S: sonatform, FI: sonaattimuoto.

A form used frequently for single movements of the ⇒ **sonata**, ⇒ **symphony**, quartet, etc. A movement written in sonata form falls into three sections called *exposition*, *development* and *recapitulation*. In the exposition the composer introduces his musical ideas, consisting of a number of themes; in the development section he "develops" this material, and in the recapitulation he repeats the exposition, with certain modifications, however. The exposition contains a number of themes which fall into two groups, often called first and second subject. Other melodies occurring in each group are considered as continuations of these two. The second theme is in another key, normally in the key of the ⇒ **dominant** if the ⇒ **tonic** is ⇒ **major**, and in the ⇒ **relative key** if the tonic is ⇒ **minor**.

‘soprano’ ES: soprano, I: soprano, F: soprano, D: Sopran, NL: sopraan, DK: sopran, S: sopran, FI: sopraano, korkea naisääni.

The highest female voice.

‘staccato’

ES: staccato, I: staccato, F: staccato, piqué, détaché, D: staccato, NL: staccato, DK: staccato, S: staccato, FI: staccato, lyhyesti, terävästi.

Playing the note(s) short. Staccato is indicated by a dot above or below the note head.

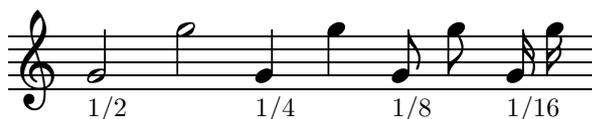


‘staff’ ES: pentagrama, I: pentagramma, rigo (musicale), F: portée, D: Notenzeile, NL: (noten)balk, partij, DK: nodesystem, S: notsystem, FI: nuottiviivasto.

pl. staves. A series of (normally 5) horizontal lines upon and between which the musical notes are written, thus indicating (in connection with a ⇒ **clef**) their pitch. Staves for ⇒ **percussion** instruments may have fewer lines.

‘stem’ ES: plica, I: gamba, F: queue, D: Hals, Notenhals, Stiel, NL: stok, DK: hals, S: skaft, FI: nuottipalkki.

Vertical line above or below a ⇒ **note head** shorter than a whole note. ⇒ **beam**.



‘strings’ ES: arcos, cuerdas, I: archi, F: cordes, D: Streicher, NL: strijkers, DK: strygere, S: stråkar, FI: jouset.

A family of stringed musical instruments played with a bow. Strings commonly used in a symphony orchestra are violin, viola, violoncello, and double bass.

‘strong beat’

ES: tiempo fuerte, I: tempo forte, F: temps fort, D: betonter Taktteil oder Taktschlag, NL: thesis, D: betonet taktslag, S: betonat taktslag, FI: tahdin vahva isku.

⇒ **beat**, ⇒ **accent**, ⇒ **measure**, ⇒ **rhythm**.

‘subdominant’

ES: subdominante, I: sottodominante, F: sous-dominante, D: Subdominante, NL: subdominant, DK: subdominant, S: subdominant, FI: subdominantti, alidominantti.

The fourth ⇒ **scale degree**. ⇒ **functional harmony**.

‘submediant’

ES: superdominante, I: sopratonica, F: sous-médiate, D: Submediante, NL: submediant, DK: Submediant, S: submediant, FI: alikeskisävel.

The sixth ⇒ **scale degree**.

‘subtonic’

ES: sensible, I: sottotonica, F: sous-tonique, D: Subtonika, NL: subtonica, DK: Subtonika, S: subtonika, FI: subtoonika, alitoonika.

The seventh ⇒ **scale degree**.

‘superdominant’

ES: superdominante, I: sopradominante, F: sus-dominante, D: Superdominante, NL: superdominant, DK: superdominant, S: superdominant, FI: ylidominantti.

The sixth ⇒ **scale degree**.

‘supertonic’

ES: supertónica, I: sopratonica, F: sus-tonique, D: Supertonika, NL: supertonica, DK: supertonika, S: supertonika, FI: ylitoonika.

The second ⇒ **scale degree**.

‘symphony’

ES: sinfonía, I: sinfonia, F: symphonie, D: Sinfonie, Symphonie, NL: symfonie, DK: symfoni, S: symfoni, FI: sinfonia.

A symphony may be defined as a ⇒ **sonata** for orchestra.

‘syncopation’

ES: sincopado, I: sincope, F: syncope, D: Synkope, NL: syncope, DK: synkope, S: synkop, FI: synkooppi.

Any deliberate upsetting of the normal pulse of ⇒ **meter**, ⇒ **accent** and ⇒ **rhythm**. Our system of musical rhythm rests upon the grouping of equal beats into groups of two or three, with a regularly recurrent accent on the first beat of each group. Any deviation from this scheme is felt as a disturbance or contradiction between the underlying (normal) pulse and the actual (abnormal) rhythm.



‘**syntonic comma; dydimic comma**’

I: comma sintonico (o didimico), F: comma syntonique, D: syntonisches Komma, NL: syntonische komma, DK: syntonisk komma, S: syntoniskt komma, FI: syntoninen komma, terssin taajuusero luonnollisessa ja Pythagorisessa viritysjärjestelmässä.

Difference between the natural third and the third obtained by Pythagorean tuning ( $\Rightarrow$  **Pythagorean comma**), equal to 22 cents.

‘**system**’ I: accollatura, F: système, D: Notensystem, NL: systeem, DK: system, S: system, FI: nuottijärjestelmä.

The collection of staves  $\Rightarrow$  **staff**, two or more, as used for writing down of keyboard, chamber, choral, or orchestral music.

‘**temperament**’

ES: temperamento, I: temperamento, F: tempérament, D: Stimmung, Temperatur, NL: stemming, temperatuur, DK: temperatur, S: temperatur, FI: viritysjärjestelmä.

Systems of tuning in which the intervals deviate from the acoustically pure intervals.  $\Rightarrow$  **meantone temperament**,  $\Rightarrow$  **equal temperament**.

‘**tempo indication**’

ES: indicación de tempo, I: indicazione di tempo, F: indication de temps, D: Zeitmaß, Tempobezeichnung, NL: tempo aanduiding, DK: tempobetegelse, S: tempobeteckning, FI: tempomerkintä.

The rate of speed of a composition or a section thereof, ranging from the slowest to the quickest, as is indicated by tempo marks as  $\Rightarrow$  **largo**,  $\Rightarrow$  **adagio**,  $\Rightarrow$  **andante**,  $\Rightarrow$  **allegro**, and  $\Rightarrow$  **presto**.

‘**tenor**’ ES: tenor, I: tenore, F: ténor, D: Tenor, NL: tenor, DK: tenor, S: tenor, FI: tenori, korkea miesääni.

The highest voice of men (apart from  $\Rightarrow$  **counter tenor**).

‘**tenth**’ ES: décima, I: decima, F: dixième, D: Dezime, NL: deciem, DK: decim, S: decima, FI: desimi.

$\Rightarrow$  **note value**.

‘**third**’ ES: tercera, I: terza, F: tierce, D: Terz, NL: tert, DK: tert, S: ters, FI: terssi.

$\Rightarrow$  **interval**.

‘**thirty-second note**’

ES: fusa, I: biscroma, F: triple croche, UK: demisemi-quaver, D: Zweiunddreissigstel, Zweiunddreissigstelnote, NL: twee-endertigste noot, DK: toogtredivtedelsnode, S: trettiotvåondelsnot, FI: kolmanneskymmeneskahdesosanuotti.

$\Rightarrow$  **note value**.

## ‘thirty-second rest’

ES: silencio de fusa, I: pausa di biscroma, F: huitième de soupir, UK: demisemi-quaver rest, D: Zweiunddreissigstelpause, NL: 32e rust, DK: togtredivtedelspause, S: trettiofvåondelspaus, FI: kolmanneskymmeneskahdesosatauko.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘thorough bass; figured bass’

ES: bajo cifrado, I: basso continuo, basso numerato, F: basse chiffrée, D: Generalbass, bezifferter Bass, NL: basso continuo, becijferde bas DK: generalbas, S: generalbas, FI: kenraalibasso, numeroitu basso.

A method of indicating an accompaniment part by the bass notes only, together with figures designating the chief ⇒ **intervals** and ⇒ **chords** to be played above the bass notes.



6 4 6 6 4

## ‘tie; bind’

ES: ligadura de prolongación, I: legatura (di valore), F: liaison, D: Haltebogen, NL: overbinding, bindingsboog, DK: bindebue, S: bindebåge, överbindning, FI: sitominen.

A curved line, identical in appearance with the ⇒ **slur**, which connects two successive notes of the same pitch, and which has the function of uniting them into a single sound equal to the combined durations.



## ‘time signature’

ES: cifra indicadora de compás, I: segni di tempo, F: chiffrage (chiffres indicateurs), signe de valeur, D: Taktangabe, Angabe der Taktart, NL: maatsoort, DK: taktangivelse, S: taktartssignatur, FI: tahtiosoitus.

⇒ **meter**.

## ‘tone’

ES: sonido, I: suono, F: ton, D: Ton, NL: toon, DK: tone, S: ton, FI: ääni.

A sound of definite pitch and duration, as distinct from *noise*. Tone is a primary building material of music. Music from the 20th century may be based on non tone related sounds.

‘**tonic**’ ES: tonica, I: tonica, F: tonique, D: Tonika, NL: tonica, DK: tonika, S: tonika, FI: toonika.

The first ⇒ **scale degree**. ⇒ **functional harmony**.

‘**transposition**’

ES: transposición, I: trasposizione, F: transposition, D: Transposition, NL: transpositie, DK: transposition, S: transponering, FI: transponointi.

Shifting a melody up or down in pitch, while keeping the same relative pitches.



‘**treble clef**’

ES: clave de sol, I: chiave di violino, F: clé de sol, D: Violinschlüssel, Sopranschlüssel, NL: viool sleutel, DK: diskantnøgle, S: diskantklav, FI: diskanttiavain.

⇒ **G clef**.

‘**tremolo**’ ES: tremolo, I: tremolo, F: trémolo, D: Tremolo, NL: tremolo, DK: tremolo, S: tremolo, FI: tremolo.

On stringed instruments (⇒ **strings**) the quick reiteration of the same tone, produced by a rapid up-and-down movement movement of the bow (a). The term is also used for the rapid alternation (b) between two notes of a ⇒ **chord**, usually in the distance of a third (⇒ **interval**).



‘**triad**’ ES: tríada, I: triade, F: triade, accord parfait, accord de trois sons, D: Dreiklang, NL: drieklank, DK: treklang, S: treklang, FI: kolmisointu.

⇒ **chord**.

‘**trill; shake**’

ES: trino, I: trillo, F: trille, tremblement, battement (cadence), D: Triller, NL: triller, DK: trille, S: drill, FI: trilli.

⇒ **ornament**.

‘**triple meter**’

ES: compás compuesto, I: tempo ternario, F: mesure ternaire, D: in drei, NL: driedelige maatsoort, DK: tredelt takt, S: tretakt, FI: kolmijakoinen.

⇒ **meter**.

‘**triplet**’ ES: tresillo, I: terzina, F: triolet, D: Triole, NL: triool, DK: triol, S: triol, FI: trioli.

⇒ **note value**.

‘**tritone**’ ES: tritono, I: tritono, F: triton, D: Tritonus, NL: tritoon, DK: tritonus, S: tritonus, FI: tritonus.

⇒ **interval**.

‘**tuning fork**’

ES: diapasón, I: diapason, corista, F: diapason, D: Stimmgabel, NL: stemvork, DK: stemmegaffel, S: stämgaffel, FI: viritysavain.

A two-pronged piece of steel used to indicate absolute pitch. Tuning forks give the international pitch for the tone *a* (440 vibrations per second.)

‘**turn; gruppetto**’

ES: grupo, I: gruppetto, F: grupetto, D: Doppelschlag, NL: dubbelslag, DK: dobbeltslag, S: dubbelslag, FI: korukuvio.

???

‘**unison**’ ES: unísono, I: unisono, F: unisson, D: unisono, NL: unisono, DK: unison, S: unison, FI: unisono, yksiäänisesti.

Playing of the same notes or the same melody by various instruments (voices) or by the whole orchestra (choir), either at exactly the same pitch or in a different octave.

‘**upbeat**’ ES: entrada anacrúsica, I: anacrusi, F: anacrouse, levée, D: Auftakt, NL: opmaat, DK: optakt, S: upptakt, FI: kohotahti.

Initial note(s) of a melody occurring before the first bar line. ⇒ **measure**, ⇒ **meter**.



‘**voice**’ ES: voz, I: voce, F: voix, D: Stimme, NL: stem, DK: stemme, S: stämma, FI: ääni, lauluääni.

1. Human voices: ⇒ **soprano**, ⇒ **mezzo-soprano**, ⇒ **contralto**, ⇒ **tenor**, ⇒ **baritone**, ⇒ **bass**. 2. A melodic layer or part of a polyphonic composition.

‘**weak beat**’

ES: tiempo débil, I: tempo debole, arsi, F: temps faible, D: unbetonter Taktteil oder Taktschlag, NL: arsis, DK: ubetonet taktslag, S: obetonat taktslag, FI: tahdin heikko isku.

⇒ **beat**, ⇒ **measure**, ⇒ **rhythm**.

‘**whole note**’

ES: redonda, I: semibreve, F: ronde, UK: semibreve, D: Ganze, ganze Note, NL: hele noot, DK: helnode, S: helnot, FI: kokonuotti.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘whole rest’

ES: silencio de redonda, I: pausa di semibreve, F: pause, UK: semibreve rest, D: ganze Pause, ganztaktige Pause, NL: hele rust, DK: helnodespause, S: helpaus, FI: kokotauko.

⇒ **note value**.

## ‘whole tone’

ES: tono, I: tono intero, F: ton entier, D: Ganzton, NL: hele toon, DK: heltone, S: helton, FI: kokoaskel.

The ⇒ **interval** of a major second. The interval between two tones on the piano keyboard with exactly one key between them – including black and white keys – is a whole tone.

## ‘woodwind’

ES: maderas, I: legni, F: les bois, D: Holzbläser, NL: houtblazers, DK træblæsere, S: träblåsare, FI: puupuhaltimet.

A family of blown wooden musical instruments. Today some of these instruments are actually made from metal. The woodwind instruments commonly used in a symphony orchestra are flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon.

## 'DURATION NAMES, NOTES AND RESTS'

	UK	I	F	D	NL	DK	S	FI
<b>longa</b>	longa	longa	longa	Longa	longa	longa	longa	longa
<b>breve</b>	breve	breve	brève	Brevis	brevis	brevis	brevis	brevis
<b>whole</b>	semi- breve	semi- breve	ronde	Ganze	hele	hel	hel	kokonuotti/ tauko
<b>half</b>	minim	minima	blanche	Halbe	halve	halv	halv	puoli-
<b>quarter</b>	crotchet	semi- minima	noire	Viertel	kwart	fjerde- del	fjärde- del	neljännes-
<b>eighth</b>	quaver	croma	croche	Achtel	achtste	ottende- del	åtton- del	kahdeksasosa-
<b>sixteenth</b>	semi- quaver	semi- croma	double croche	Sech- zehntel	zesti- ende	seks- tende- del	sexton- del	kuudestoistaosa-
<b>thirty- second</b>	demi- semi- quaver	bis- croma	triple croche	Zwei- und- drei- ßigstel	twee- en- dertig- ste	toog- tredivte- del	trettio- tvåon- del	kolmaskymmeneskahdesosa-
<b>sixty- fourth</b>	hemi- demi- semi- quaver	semi- bis- croma	qua- druple croche	Vier- und- sechzig- stel	vier- en- zestig- ste	fireog- tred- sinds- tyven- dedel	sextio- fjärde- del	kuudeskymmenesneljäsosa-

## 'PITCH NAMES'

	<b>I</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>FI</b>
<b>c</b>	do	ut	C	c	c	c	c
<b>c-sharp</b>	do diesis	ut dièse	Cis	cis	cis	cis	cis
<b>d-flat</b>	re bemolle	ré bémol	Des	des	des	des	des
<b>d</b>	re	ré	D	d	d	d	d
<b>e</b>	mi	mi	E	e	e	e	e
<b>f</b>	fa	fa	F	f	f	f	f
<b>g</b>	sol	sol	G	g	g	g	g
<b>a-flat</b>	la bemolle	la bémol	As	as	as	as	as
<b>a</b>	la	la	A	a	a	a	a
<b>a-sharp</b>	la diesis	la dièse	Ais	ais	ais	ais	ais
<b>b-flat</b>	si bemolle	si bémol	B	bes	b	b	b
<b>b</b>	si	si	H	b	h	h	h

‘-----’

## 'Literature used'

The Harvard Dictionary of Music, London 1944. Many more or less literal quotes from its articles have been included into the item explanation texts.

Hugo Riemanns Musiklexicon, Berlin 1929.

Polyglottes Wörterbuch der musikalischen Terminologie, Kassel 1980 Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Third Edition 1974.