

ITALIAN MUSICAL TERMS

A tempo - in the original tempo	Grandioso - grand style
A tempo giusto - in strict and exact time	Grave- extremely slow, solemn, slower than largo
Abbandono - unrestrained, free	Grazioso - gracefully
Accelerando - with gradually increasing velocity of movement	Grosso - big
Acciacatura - note rapidly “crushed” into principal note	Gruppetto - a group of notes, a turn
Ad libitum - at will, pleasure or discretion	Impetuoso - impetuously
Adagio - moderately slow	Larghetto - slow, but not so slow as largo
Affettato - affected, artificial	Largo - very slow
Affettuoso - tender and affecting	Legato - smooth, connected
Affrettando - hastening, hurrying	Lento - slow
Agitato - with agitation, anxiously	Maestoso - majestically
Allegramente - gaily, joyously	Marcato - in strong marked style
Allegretto - not as fast as allegro	Marziale - martial
Allegro - fast, lively	Meno - less
Amabile - sweet, agreeable	Moderato - in moderate time
Amoroso - loving, amorous	Molto - much or very
Ancora - yet, still, again	Morendo - gradually dying away
Andante - moderately, walking tempo	Mosso - motion
Andantino - somewhat faster than andante	Non - not
Animato - with animation and spirit	Pesante - heavily
Appoggiatura - a rhythmically strong dissonant note	Piacere - at will, with pleasure
Aria - on air or song	Pianissimo - very soft
Arioso - in the style of a song	Piano - soft
Assai - very, extremely	Piu - more
Ben - well	Poco a poco - little by little
Brio or Brillante - brilliant, sparkling, spirited	Poco - a little
Cadenza - a free fanciful embellished section	Precipitato - hurried
Calando - softer and usually slower	Prestissimo - as fast as possible
Cantabile - singing style	Presto - very fast
Capo - head or beginning	Primo - first
Coda - an added ending	Quasi - almost
Con - with	Rallentando - slowing gradually
Crescendo - gradually increasing the volume	Rinforzando - suddenly increasing in power
Dal segno - from the sign	Risoluto - resolved, determined
Decrescendo - gradually decreasing the volume	Ritardando - slowing gradually
Delicato - delicately	Segno - sign
Diminuendo - gradually diminishing the volume	Segue - follows
Dolce - soft, sweet, delicate	Semplice - Simple
Dolente or Doloroso - mournful, pathetic	Sempre - always, throughout
Dolore - pain, anguish	Sforzando - sudden accent
Egual - equal, like, uniform	Smorzando - dying away by degrees
Elegante - with elegance	Sostenuto - sustained
Energico - with energy	Sotto - subdued
Espressivo - with expression	Spirito - with spirit, lively
Fine, Fin or Finale- the end of a movement	Staccato - short, detached, distinct
Forte - loud	Stretto - hurried or speeding up imitation within various parts
Fortissimo - very loud	Stringendo - accelerating the degree of movement
Forza - strength, force	Subito - suddenly, at once
Fuoco - fire, animation	Tacet - silent
Furioso - passionately, furious	Tempo - speed
Giusto - in strict time	Tenuto - sustained, full value notes
Glissando - to slide	Troppo - too much
	Tutti - full ensemble

Veloce - Quick rapid
Vivace - quick
Vivo - lively, intense
Voce – voice, part
Volti subito - turn page quickly

Compound Italian Musical Terms

Adagio cantabile - moderately slow and singing style
Adagio ma non troppo - moderately slow but not too slow
Allegro agitato - quick or lively, with agitation
Allegro assai- very quickly or lively
Allegro con brio - quickly or lively, with brilliancy
Allegro con spirito - quickly or lively, with spirit
Con fuoco - with fire
Sotto voce - under the voice

FRENCH MUSICAL TERMS

Abandonné - with abandon; unrestrained
Accusé - with emphasis
Agréments - grace notes; embellishments
Allègrements - gaily, joyously
Allonger - to slacken in speed
Âme - soul, feeling, emotion
Animé - animated
Assez - rather, somewhat
Augmentez - to increase, to enlarge
Avec - with
Bref - short
Caprieux - caricious, whimsically
Cédez - ritard
Chaleur - warmth- fervor
Chantant - in a singing style
Chef d'attaque - concertmaster
Chef d'orchestre - conductor
Comme - as, like, as if, in the way of
Court - short, brief, concise
Cuivre - forced, brassy
Doigt - finger
Douce/doux - sweet
Doucement - softly, sweetly
Éclatant - brilliant, piecing
Élargissant - broadening
Encore - again, yet, besides
Et - and
Exalté - excites
Expressif - expressive
Fougueux - impetuous
Frappant- hitting, marking
Froidement - coldly, objectively
Gai - gay
Gracieux - graceful
Jeu - play, diversion
Largement - broad
Largeur - more breadth
Léger - light
Lent - slow
Liaison - a bind, tie, slur
Libre - free, at liberty
Lointain - in the distance
Mais - but
Même - same
Mineur - minor
Modéré - moderate
Moins - less
Morceau - piece; composition
Mouvement - movement of a piece; tempo
Partition - score
Pas - not, no none
Pesamment - heavily
Plainte - lamentation, complaint
Plus - more

Pour - for
Précipité - hurried
Premiere - first performance, first
Pressez - to hasten, hurry
Presque - almost, nearly
Puissant - powerful, loud, mighty
Quatuor - quartet
Récit - in recitative style
Renforcer - to reinforce, to increase
Reprise - repeat
Retenant/Retenu - holding back (immediately)
Sans - without
Septuor - septet
Seztour - sextet
Silence - rest
Soufflet - breath
Soupirant - sighing, plaintive
Subit - sudden
Temps - time, beat
Tenu - held, sustained
Timbre - tone quality
Touche - touch
Toujours - always, ever
Trainér - dragged, held back
Très - very, very much
Triste - sad
Trop - too much, too many
Un peu animé - a little more lively
Valse - waltz
Vif - lively
Vite -quick
Voilé - veiled, subdued
Voix - voice

Compound French Musical Terms

À la fin - at the end
À deux - for two
Au mouvement - with movement
En dehors - to make prominent
En serrent - moving ahead
Encore plus anime - go faster next time
Pas trop vite - not too fast
Peu á peu - little by little

GERMAN MUSICAL TERMS

Abgestossen (Abgestoßen) - staccato
Abnehmend - decreasing, diminuendo
Abreissung (Abreißung)- a sudden pause
Absetzung - to separate (either notes or phrases)
Affektvoll - with passion, fervor
Ähnlich - similar, like
Allein - alone
Allmählich - gradually
Anfang - beginning, start
Anhalten - to hold
Anhang - coda
Anmutig - gracefully
Ansatz - embouchure
Anschwellend - crescendo
Anwachsend - increasing, swelling
Artikulieren - to articulate
Auf - on, upon, at, near
Ausdrucksfull - full of expression
Ausgehalten - sustained
Ausgelassen (Ausgelaßen)- exuberant
Bearbeitet - adapted, arranged
Bedächtig - unhurried, deliberate
Bedeutend - significant, important
Begleiten - to accompany
Beruhigend - calming, quieting
Betonen - to emphasize
Bewegt - with agility
Bindung - slur, tie
Breit - broad
Das doppelt Langsamer - twice as slow
Deutlich - clear, distinct
Doppelzunge -double tonguing
Drängend - pressing, hastening
Dringen - pushing forward
Eilend - hurrying
Ein - a, an
Engang - entrance, introduction
Entfernung - distance
Erfrig - zealous, passionate, warm
Etwas - somewhat
Feierlich - in a solemn, holy mood
Feurig - fiery
Flatterzunge - flutter tonguing
Fliessend (Fließend) - flowing
Fröhlich - happy, joyful
Gehalten - sustained
Geheimnisvoll- mysterious
Geistlich - spiritual
Gelassen (Gelaßen)- quiet, calm
Gemächlich - unhurried, gently flowing
Gemässigt (Gemäßigt) - moderate
Geschwind - quick
Gross (Groß)- large, great
Halb - half

Hauptstimme - important part
Hell - bright, clear
Hervortretend - to the fore (soloistic)
Immer - always
Innig - heartfelt
Klagend - Lamenting
Klein - little, small, minute
Kräftig - strong, powerful
Langsam - slow
Lebhaft - lively, vivacious
Leicht - soft
Mächtig - mighty, powerful
Marklert - accented
Mässig (Mäßig) - moderate
Nachlassend (Nachlaßend)- slackening, diminishing
Nebenstimme - subordinate part
Partitur - score
Plötzlich - suddenly
Prachtvoll - grand, pompous
Rausch - rushing, uproar
Ruhig - quiet
Satz - a movement
Schlag - beat
Schleppend - dragging
Schluss (Schluß)- conclusion, cadence
Schnell - quick
Sehr - very
Seufzend - sighing
Sofort – Immediately
Später - later
Spielen - to play
Sterbend - dying away
Stimme - a voice, part
Stück - piece, composition
Stürmisch - stormy, passionate
Tanz - dance
Trauer - sorrow, grief
Trauermusik - funeral music
Übung - practice, exercise
Verdoppelt - doubled
Verlag - publication
Viel - much, many
Vom Anfang - da capo, to the beginning
Vorspiel - prelude
Wider - again
Zeitmass (Zeitmaß) - tempo
Ziemlich -rather, somewhat
Zurückhalten - to hold back