

MUSICAL TERMS

Italian:

a piacere	-----	at the performers discretion
a tempo	-----	at the preceding rate of speed
accelerando	-----	becoming faster
adagio	-----	slowly, leisurely
affettuoso	-----	with emotion, passion, feeling, tenderness
affretare	-----	to hasten
agevole	-----	lightly
agitato	-----	agitated
al coda	-----	to the Coda
alla breve	-----	equivalent to 2-2 time
alla marcia	-----	In the style of a march
alla polacca	-----	in the style of a polacca
allargando	-----	growing slower - allarg.
allargare	-----	slacking speed
allegramente	-----	nimbly, lightly, vivaciously
allegretto	-----	moderately fast, between andante & allegro
allegro	-----	lively, brisk, rapid (but not as fast as presto)
amoroso	-----	amorous
andante	-----	going, moving a moderately slow, flowing movement
andantino	-----	a little faster than andante
animando	-----	with increasing animation, growing livelier
animato	-----	with animation, spirit
appassionato	-----	with passion
aria	-----	song, tune or melody
assai	-----	very
attacca	-----	go on to the next movement without break
ben	-----	well
brillante	-----	brilliant, showy, sparkling
brioso	-----	flery
bravura	-----	literally "courage"; denotes greatest ease in conquering technical difficulties
cadenza	-----	elaborate passage played by a solo performer
calmato	-----	with calm; calm, tranquilly
cantabile	-----	singable, in a singing or vocal style
cantando	-----	singing; smooth and flowing
cantato	-----	sung

coda----- a passage ending a movement
come prima-----as before, as at first
comodo----- easy, leisurely, at a convenient pace
con-----with
con anima----- with animation (same as animato)
con brio-----with fire and spirit
con calore----- with warmth
con eleganza----- with elegance; a graceful, refined style
con espressione-----with expression (same as espressivo)
con grazia-----with grace (same as grazioso)
con leggerezza----- with lightness (lightly and briskly)
con moto----- with motion, with animated and energetic movement
con passione-----with passion
con sentimento-----with feeling
con sordino-----with mute
corto----- short
crescendo----- increasing in loudness (cresc)

da capo al fine----- repeat from beginning to the end (DC al fine)
dal segno al fine----- from the sign to the end (DS al fine)
deciso-----decided, with energy
decrecendo----- decreasing in loudness
diminuendo----- diminishing in loudness (dim)
dolce----- sweetly
dolcissimo----- very sweetly
dopo-----after
doppio----- double
doppio valore----- twice as slow (the absolute time-value of the notes is doubled)
dramatico----- dramatic style

e----- and
energico-----with energy and decision
espressivo----- expressively

facile----- easy, without strain
fastoso-----pompous, stately
feroce----- wildly, fiercely, vehemently
fieramento----- boldly
fine----- end, close
fiabile-----tearful, mournful
frenetico----- frantic
funebre-----mournful, dirge like

giocosu-----playfully, merrily
giusto-----strict, exact
espressivo-----with grandeur, majestically
grave-----heavy, slow, serious
grazioso-----gracefully, elegantly
grottesco-----grotesque, comic

Imperioso-----haughty, lofty
impetuoso-----impetuous, vehement
incalzando-----pursuing hotly, growing more vehement
Intermezzo-----a piece played between the acts

languente-----languishing, plaintive
larganment-----largely, broadly
largo-----slow and very broad
larghetto-----somewhat more rapid than largo, nearly andantino
larghissimo-----slow and very broad
legato-----in a smooth, connected manner
leggieramente-----lightly
leggiere-----light, airy
lentamente-----slowly
lentissimo-----very slowly
lento-----slow, between andante and largo
liberamente-----freely, boldly
l'istesso-----the same
lontano-----far away
lugubre-----mournful
lunga-----long, sustained, prolonged

ma-----but
maestoso-----majestic, dignified
marcatissimo-----very marcato
marcato-----marked, with distinctness and emphasis
marziale-----martial, warlike
meno mosso-----not so fast
mezzo piano-----half soft (less than mezzo forte)
minuetto-----minuet
moderato-----at a moderate rate of speed
molto-----very much
morendo-----dying away
mosso-----moved; standing alone means same as con moto
non-----not
nuovo-----new

ossai----- or else

passionato-----passionately; same as con passione

pesante----- heavy, ponderous, firm vigorous

piu----- more; when standing alone mosso in implied

piu mosso-----faster, more moved

poco----- little

poco a poco----- little by little

poco piu----- implies poco piu mosso: a little faster

poi----- then; thereafter

polacca----- a polonaise

pomposo----- pompously; in a majestic, dignified style

portamento----- a smooth gliding from one tone to another,
actually sounding the intermediate tones

precipitato----- impetuosity

prestissimo-----very rapidly

presto----- fast; faster than allegro

quasi----- as if, nearly, approaching

rallentando----- growing slower and slower (rall)

recitato----- recitative; declamatory style, free in tempo

rinforzando----- with special emphasis; a sudden increase in loudness
throughout a phrase or short passage (rinf)

risoluto-----in a resolute, vigorous, decided style

ritardando-----growing slower and slower (rit)

ritenuto-----help back; at a steady rate of speed (riten)

ritmico----- rhythmical

rubato----- dwelling upon prominent melody tones

scherzando----- in a playful manner, lightly and jestingly

scherzo-----a joke, jest; a humorous character

sensibile----- audible, sensitive

sempre----- always, continually, throughout

senza-----without

sordino----- mute

sereno----- tranquil

sforzando----- with special stress or, marked and sudden emphasis

simile----- similarly, continue performance in the same style

sino-----to, up to, as far as, till

smorzando-----dying away (smorz)

solenne----- solemn

sostenuto	-----	sustained, prolonged
squillante	-----	resonantly, ringing, piercing
staccatissimo	-----	very detached
staccato	-----	detached, separated
stentando	-----	delaying, retarding, dragging
stesso tempo	-----	same tempo
strepitoso	-----	in noisy, boisterous, impetuous style
stretto	-----	pressed together, narrowed; hurried
stringendo	-----	hastening, accelerating the movement (usually suddenly and with a crescendo)
subito	-----	suddenly, without pause (string)
tanto rapido	-----	as rapid as possible
tempestuoso	-----	stormily, passionately, impetuously
tempo	-----	time, rate of speed
tempo di	-----	in the movement
gigue	-----	of a gigue
marcia	-----	of a march
mazurka	-----	of mazurka
valse	-----	of a waltz
tempo primo	-----	at the original pace
tenuto	-----	held, sustained for full time-value
thema	-----	theme
tranquillo	-----	tranquilly, quietly, calmly
trattenuto	-----	held back, retarded (tratt)
tremolo	-----	a quivering, fluttering
tropo	-----	too, too much
veloce	-----	rapid, swift; often means that a passage is to be performed faster than those before and after, then being the opposite of ritenuto
vigorese	-----	with vigor and energy
vivace	-----	lively, animated, brisk; equaling or exceeding allegro
vivacissimo	-----	very lively
vivo	-----	lively, spirited, briskly