# Musical Symbols, Terms and Actions 

Musical Terms - Intermediate

| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Level One |  |  |  |
|  | Beat | Beat: steady and constant | Pound chest w/ fist |
| Many ( d d d Jo etc.) | Rhythm | Rhythm: division of beat | Pretend you're playing a drumset |
| Many (Largo, Presto, etc. ) | Tempo | Tempo is the speed of the beat; the speed of the beat is the tempo | Spin hands, starting slow, getting really fast, and slowing down again |
| Many (ff, pp, etc.) | Dynamics | Dynamics, Volume | Both hands together speaking softly, hands spread wide speaking loudly, and back again |
| $\stackrel{\text { None }}{\longleftrightarrow}$ | Pitch | Pitch: the highness or lowness of a note | On the word "pitch" raise your voice and your pointer finger high then low, raise your voice and pointer finger up on "highness" and down on "lowness" |
|  | Interval | Interval: Distance between two notes | Hold one hand still, and raise other hand one step up on each syllable |
|  | Staff | Staff | Swipe your hand in front of you, from one side to the other, with fingers straight out and thumb pointing up |
| 。 | Quarter Note | Quarter note, ta | Draw the note when saying the name (quarter note) then clap the rhythm when saying the nickname (ta) |
|  | Eighth Notes | Eighth notes, ti-ti | Draw the note when saying the name (eighth notes) then clap the rhythm when saying the nickname (ti-ti) |
|  | Single Eighth Note | Single Eighth Note, ti | Draw the note when saying the name (eighth note) then clap the rhythm when saying the nickname (ti) |
| $\delta$ | Half Note | Half Note, too | Draw the note when saying the name (half note) then clap the rhythm when saying the nickname (too) |
| 0 | Whole Note | Whole Note, toe | Draw the note when saying the name (whole note) then clap the rhythm when saying the nickname (toe) |
| $\downarrow$. | The Dot | The dot adds half the value of the note that's dotted | Jab with the pointer finger every beat |
| $\delta$ | Dotted Half Note | Dotted Half Note, toom | Draw the note when saying the name (dotted half note) then clap the rhythm when saying the nickname (toom) |
| do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do' | Solfa | Solfa, Solfege: do, re, mi | While singing do, re, mi, etc. sign the handsigns |
| do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do' | Solfege | Solfege, Solfa: do, re, mi | While singing do, re, mi, etc. sign the handsigns |
| $>$ | Accent | Accent, emphasize the note | Throw your right hand forward 3 times in a side-ways " $V$ " shape on "Accent", "EMphasize" and 'NOTE" |
|  | Measure Line | Measure Line, Barline | Chop straight down, or draw a vertical line with your hand |

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| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | Eighth Rest | Eighth rest, "dot-seven", (take a breath) | Draw the rest when saying "dot-seven", place hands out and to the side with palms up for half a beat |
|  | Half Rest | Half rest, "top hat", (take a breath) | Draw the rest when saying name and "top hat", place hands out and to the side with palms up for two beats |
| - | Whole Rest | Whole rest, "hole in the ground", (take a breath) | Draw the rest when saying name and "hole in the ground", place hands out and to the side with palms up for four beats |
|  | Dotted Half Rest | Dotted Half rest, (take a breath) | Draw the rest when saying name, then place hands out and to the side with palms up for three beats |
| $1!+$ | Repeat Sign | Repeat Sign | Chop with both hands close together and then cross one hand over the other and make two vertical dots with pointer and middle fingers |
| $\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|c} \mathrm{S} & \mathbf{H} & \\ \hline \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{S} & \mathrm{H} S \end{array}$ | Half Step | Half Step: One note to the next | Make the sign for "H" in sign language (pointer and middle finger together sideways) |
|  | Whole Step | Whole Step: One note in between | Make the sign for "W" in sign language |
|  | Note Names | Lines in the Treble Clef: Every Good Boy Does Fine; Lines in the Bass Clef: Great Big Dogs Fight Aminals; Spaces in the Treble Clef: F A C E; Spaces in the Bass Clef: All Cars Eat Grass (or All Cows Eat Gass); The Grand Staff is Low $\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{D}, \mathrm{E}, \mathrm{F}, \mathrm{G}, \mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{D}$, $\mathrm{E}, \mathrm{F}$ on the ring finger, $\mathrm{G}, \mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}$, Middle C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, High C! | For Treble Clef, hold up one hand with palm facing you, fingers spread as wide as you can, thumb up, and point to the lines (fingers) or spaces (web of hand in between fingers) with the pointer finger of the other hand. For the Bass Clef, switch hands and point with the pointer finger of the other hand. For the Grand staff, take one hand and put it forward with the palm facing you and thumb up while saying "Grand" from "the Grand Staff is". Then turn the hand over with the palm out and the thumb down while saying "is". While holding that hand upside down, take the other hand with using two fingers as ledger lines and the thumb as the note. When you get onto the staff point with your pointer finger, use the pointer finger as a ledger line in the middle of the staff, and continue until you get to High C using the two fingers as ledger lines. |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|l\|l\|l\|l\|l\|} \hline 4 & 0 & 2 & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 4 & & 2 & & 4 & 0 & 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Time Signature | Time Signature, Meter: 2 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat (changes depending on the time signature) | Hold out number of fingers on right hand while saying the beats per measure and, below the right hand, hold out the number of fingers on the left hand for the note that gets the beat |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|l\|l\|l\|l\|l\|} \hline 4 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ \hline 4 & & 2 & & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Meter | Meter, Time Signature: 2 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat (changes depending on the time signature) | Hold out number of fingers on right hand while saying the beats per measure and, below the right hand, hold out the number of fingers on the left hand for the note that gets the beat |
|  | Two-Four Time Signature | Two-Four Time Signature - 2 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat | Hold out 2 fingers on right hand while saying the beats per measure and, below the right hand, hold out 4 fingers on the left hand for the note that gets the beat |
|  | Three-Four Time Signature | Three-Four Time Signature - 3 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat | Hold out 3 fingers on right hand while saying the beats per measure and, below the right hand, hold out 4 fingers on the left hand for the note that gets the beat |
|  | Four-Four Time Signature | Four-Four Time Signature-4 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat | Hold out 4 fingers on right hand while saying the beats per measure and, below the right hand, hold out 4 fingers on the left hand for the note that gets the beat |
| $0$ | Common Time | Common Time, 4 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat | Hold out a letter "C" with one hand while saying "Common Time." Then hold out 4 fingers on the right hand while saying " 4 beats per measure" and, below the right hand, hold out 4 fingers on the left hand while saying, "the quarter note gets the beat" |
| $0$ | Cut Time | Cut Time, 2 beats per measure, the half note gets the beat | Hold out a letter " $C$ " with one hand while saying "Cut" and place the other hand vertically behind the first hand while saying "Time." Then hold out 2 fingers on the right hand while saying " 2 beats per measure" and, below the right hand, hold out 2 fingers on the left hand while saying, "the half note gets the beat" |

# Musical Symbols, Terms and Actions 

| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| None | Down-beat | Down-beat (accenting the word "down") | Bounce your conducting hand like you're bouncing a basket ball |
| None | Up-beat | Up-beat (not accenting either word) | Bring your conducting hand from your right side up in front of your face |
| None | Conducting in 2 (or 3 or 4) | In 2: Hit your neighbor, up (repeat); in 3: Bounce, hit your neighbor, up (repeat); in 4: Bounce, hit yourself, hit your neighbor, up (repeat) | Conduct the meter |
| Many (ff, pp, etc.) | Dynamics | Dynamics, Volume | Both hands together speaking softly, hands spread wide speaking loudly, and back again |
| $p p$ | Pianissimo | Pianissimo, very soft | Hands in front vertically with palms as close together as possible without touching |
| $p$ | Piano | Piano, soft | Hands in front vertically with palms about 4-6 inches apart |
| $m p$ | Mezzo Piano | Mezzo Piano, medium soft | Hands in front vertically with palms about waist width apart |
| $m f$ | Mezzo Forte | Mezzo Forte, medium loud | Hands in front vertically with palms about shoulder width apart |
| $f$ | Forte | Forte, loud | Hands in front vertically with palms between mezzo forte and fortissimo |
| $f f$ | Fortissimo | Fortissimo, very loud | Hands in front vertically with palms as far apart as possible |
|  | Crescendo | Crescendo - gradually get louder | Start with hands together to your left and spread them apart as they move across you to your right |
|  | Decrescendo/ Diminuendo | Decrescendo/Diminuendo gradually get softer | Start with hands apart to your left and move them together as they move across you to your right |
| $\frac{6}{6}$ | Treble Clef | Treble Clef, G-Clef | Draw a treble clef slowly while saying the names |
| $\frac{0}{8}$ | G-Clef | G-Clef, Treble Clef | Draw a treble clef slowly while saying the names |
| 6: | Bass Clef | Bass Clef, F-Clef | Draw the right half of a heart with your right hand and jab with your pointer and middle fingers to make the two dots (do it fast) |
| 6): | F-Clef | F-Clef, Bass Clef | Draw the right half of a heart with your right hand and jab with your pointer and middle fingers to make the two dots (do it fast) |
| Many (see below) | Articulation | Articulation - the style in which you perform the notes | Draw a fermata with your hands at the end of "tion" in articulation, then draw a slur while saying "the style in which", draw three staccatos while saying "you perform", and draw two accents while saying "the notes!" |
|  | Tie | Tie - combines two notes of the same pitch | draw a small arch from left to right |
| $>$ | Accent | Accent, emphasize the note | Throw your right hand forward 3 times in a side-ways " $V$ " shape on "Accent", "EMphasize" and 'NOTE" |
|  | Fermata | Fermata | Right hand crossed over left hand with pointer fingers out, right hand draws an arch while left hand jabs (drawing a fermata) and hold the last syllable until the director cuts you off |
| legato | Legato | Legato, slur - smooth and connected | draw an arch or a slur in the air from left to right while saying the phrase |
|  | Slur | Slur, legato - smooth and connected | Make an arch with your pointer finger from the left side, up and over to the right side (or down and under) |

# Musical Symbols, Terms and Actions 

| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Many (Largo, Presto, etc. ) | Tempo | Tempo is the speed of the beat; <br> the speed of the beat is the <br> tempo | Spin hands, starting slow, getting really fast, and slowing down again |
| accel. | Accelerando | Accelerando | Circle hands beginning slowly and ending very fast |
| rit. | Ritardando | Ritardando | Circle hands beginning very fast and ending slowly |
| Key Signature | Key Signature with 1-7 sharps <br> OR Key Signature with 1-7 flats <br> OR Key Signature with zero <br> sharps and zero flats | While saying the numbers (zero or 1-7) show that number on the hands |  |

## Level Two


# Musical Symbols, Terms and Actions 

| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Dotted Quarter Rest | Dotted Quarter Rest, (take a breath) | Draw the rest when saying name, then place hands out and to the side with palms up for one and a half beats |
| Many (ff, pp, etc.) | Dynamics | Dynamics, Volume | Both hands together speaking softly, hands spread wide speaking loudly, and back again |
| $p p$ | Pianissimo | Pianissimo, very soft | Hands in front vertically with palms as close together as possible without touching |
| $p$ | Piano | Piano, soft | Hands in front vertically with palms about 4-6 inches apart |
| $m p$ | Mezzo Piano | Mezzo Piano, medium soft | Hands in front vertically with palms about waist width apart |
| $m f$ | Mezzo Forte | Mezzo Forte, medium loud | Hands in front vertically with palms about shoulder width apart |
| $f$ | Forte | Forte, loud | Hands in front vertically with palms between mezzo forte and fortissimo |
| $f f$ | Fortissimo | Fortissimo, very loud | Hands in front vertically with palms as far apart as possible |
|  | Crescendo | Crescendo - gradually get louder | Start with hands together to your left and spread them apart as they move across you to your right |
|  | Decrescendo/ Diminuendo | Decrescendo/Diminuendo gradually get softer | Start with hands apart to your left and move them together as they move across you to your right |
| legato | Legato | Legato, slur - smooth and connected | Make an arch with your pointer finger from the left side, up and over to the right side (or down and under) |
|  | Stacatto | Sta - ca- tto - short - and - de tached | Jab with the pointer finger every beat |
|  | Slur | Slur, legato - smooth and connected | Make an arch with your pointer finger from the left side, up and over to the right side (or down and under) |
|  | Slur | Slur, legato - smooth and connected | Make an arch with your pointer finger from the left side, up and over to the right side (or down and under) |

## Level Three

| Melody | Melody | Melody: the main tune of the <br> song | Move pointer finger up and down moving from one side to the other |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Harmony | Marmony | Harmony: notes that compliment <br> the melody | Move both pointer fingers in contrary motion up and down from one <br> side to the other |
| Major Scale | Ledger Lines | Ledger Scale: Whole, whole, half, <br> whole, whole, whole, half | When saying "whole", hold up a "W" in sign language in your right and <br> and lean to the right. When saying "half", hold up an "H" in sign <br> language in your left hand and lean to your left. |
| Tie | Single <br> Sixteenth Note | Tie - combines two notes of the <br> same pitch | draw a small arch from left to right |

# Musical Symbols, Terms and Actions 

| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| rit | Ritardando | Ritardando, gradually get slower | Spin hands, starting fast and gradually getting slower |
| a tempo | A tempo | A tempo: return to the original <br> tempo | Spin hands, starting fast and slowing down while saying "a tempo", <br> then return to the beginning fast speed when saying, "return to the <br> original tempo. |
| rall. | Rallentando | Rallentando, gradually get slower | Spin hands, starting fast and gradually getting slower |

## Level Four

|  | Key Signature | Either, "Key Signature with 1 to 7 Sharps - Up/Down, Up/Down/ Down, Up/Down" OR "Key Signature with 1 to 7 Flats Down/Up/Down/Up/Down/Up/ Down" | While saying " $1-7$ " hold up those numbers on your fingers. While doing the sharps, put your two hands in the shape for sharps as listed above, and go up and down according to the direction you are saying. With flats, put your left hand in the shape of a flat, and go up and down according to the direction you are saying. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{B} b \mathrm{E} b \mathrm{~A} b \mathrm{D} b \mathrm{G} b \mathrm{C} b \mathrm{~F} b$ | Flats in the Key | Flats in the key, B, E, A, D, G, C, F | Make a flat with your left hand and while going down/up/down/up/ down/up/down with your hand say the letters |
| F\# C\# G\# D\# A\# E\# B\# | Sharps in the Key | Sharps in the key, F, C, G, D, A, E, B | Make a sharp with your two hands and while going up/down/up/down/ down/up/down with your hands say the letters |
|  | Common Time | Common Time, 4 beats per measure, the quarter note gets the beat | Hold out a letter "C" with one hand while saying "Common Time." Then hold out 4 fingers on the right hand while saying " 4 beats per measure" and, below the right hand, hold out 4 fingers on the left hand while saying, "the quarter note gets the beat" |
|  | Cut Time | Cut Time, 2 beats per measure, the half note gets the beat | Hold out a letter "C" with one hand while saying "Cut" and place the other hand vertically behind the first hand while saying "Time." Then hold out 2 fingers on the right hand while saying " 2 beats per measure" and, below the right hand, hold out 2 fingers on the left hand while saying, "the half note gets the beat" |
|  | Pick-up Note | 1, 2, 3: Pick-up notes are notes on a weak or up-beat; notes before the bar-line at the beginning of a musical phrase | Conduct in $4 / 4$ time and say " $1,2,3$ " then start saying "Pick-up..." on the up-beat or the fourth beat. Keep conducting until the end of the saying. |
|  | Pianissimo | Pianissimo, very soft | Hands in front vertically with palms as close together as possible without touching |
|  | Fortissimo | Fortissimo, very loud | Hands in front vertically with palms as far apart as possible |
| dim. | Diminuendo/ Decrescendo | Diminuendo/Decrescendo gradually get softer | Start with hands apart to your left and move them together as they move across you to your right |
|  | Coda | Coda: Chop, chop: Tail | Draw a circle while saying "Coda", chop your hand once vertical and once horizontal while saying "chop, chop" and hit your backside while saying "Tail" |
|  | Segno | Segno; Slash, two dots: Sign | Draw an "S" while saying "Segno", slice your hand from upper right to lower left while saying "Slash", Poke your two fingers forward in your right hand while saying "Two dots" and hands to the side while saying "Sign" |
| D.N. 1 Coda | Dal Segno al Coda | Dal Segno al Coda - From the sign to the tail - Go back to the Segno, sing until "To Coda" and jump to the actual Coda. | When saying "Go back to the Segno" draw a Segno, when saying "sing until 'To Coda'" make quotation marks with your hand, and when saying "jump to the actual Coda" draw a coda. |
| 1. | First and Second Ending | First ending, repeat sign. Second ending. | Draw a bracket horizontally (up, over to the right, and down) while saying "first ending" and then draw a repeat sign. Then draw a bracket (up and over to the right only) and say "second ending" |

Other Terms

| None | Inner Hear | Inner Hear, Audiate | Point to head (temple) |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| None | Audiate | Audiate, Inner Hear | Point to head (temple) |
| None | Primal Sound | Primal sound: Waaah | When saying waaah, tilt head to the side |
| None | Vocal Folds | Vocal Folds | Bring hands together in shape of a bowl |
| None | Primal <br> Connection | Primal Connection | Same as Vocal Folds |
| None | Breathy <br> Connection | Breathy Connection | Same as Vocal Folds, but only bring front of hands (fingers) together |

# Musical Symbols, Terms and Actions 

| Symbol | Name | What to Say | Action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| None | Forced Connection | Forced Connection | Same as Vocal Folds, but push hands together with force |
| None | Rule \#1 | If it hurts, don't do it | Say it like you're trying to save someones vocal life |
| None | Intonation | Intonation, In-tune Singing | Bring pointer fingers together in front of you |
| None | In-tune Singing | In-tune Singing, Intonation | Bring pointer fingers together in front of you |
|  | Find $C$ on the Piano | Ding, Bqu | With pointer and middle fingers on the right hand point to a pair of two black keys and say, "Ding." With the left pointer finger point to the white key just to the left of the two black keys and say, "Bqu" (a sound like squishing a bug. :-) |
|  | Musical Alphabet | ABCDEFG | Sing "ABCDEFG" to the tune of the alphabet song |
|  | Musical Alphabet Backwards | GFEDCBA | Sing "GFEDCBA" to the tune of the alphabet song |
|  | Interval | Interval: Distance between two notes | Hold one hand still, and raise other hand one step up on each syllable |
|  | Unison | Unison: the same note | Hold both hands horizontal, together |
| $\bullet$ | Second | Second: one step up | Hold one hand still and raise other hand up one step |
| $\because$ | Third | Third: two steps up | Hold one hand still and raise other hand two steps up |
|  | Octave | Octave: eight NOTES up, yah | Hold one hand still and raise other hand 7 steps up |
| None | Melody | Melody: the main tune of the song | Move pointer finger up and down moving from one side to the other |
| None | Harmony | Harmony: notes that compliment the melody | Move both pointer fingers in contrary motion up and down from one side to the other |
| $8$ | Chord | Chord: two notes or more at the same time | make an "O" with each hand and stack one above the other |
| None | Gasping Breath | Gasping breath | Hands together in an "O" shape by waist and take a gasping breath before saying the name |
| None | Efficient Breath | Efficient breath | Hands together in an " O " shape by waist and take an efficient breath before saying the name |
| None | Luxurious Breath | Luxurious Breath | Breathe through nose and count with fingers to four before saying the name |

