



Glossary of Musical Terms and Symbols

Contents:

- Terms and Symbols used in the Lesson Program
- Other common musical terms

Terms and Symbols used in the Lesson Program



Repeat Signs

These symbols indicate that the music in between the two signs should be repeated. If there is no indication given for how many times the section of music should be repeated, then it should be repeated one time for a total of two times through.



Formata (or Bird's Eye)

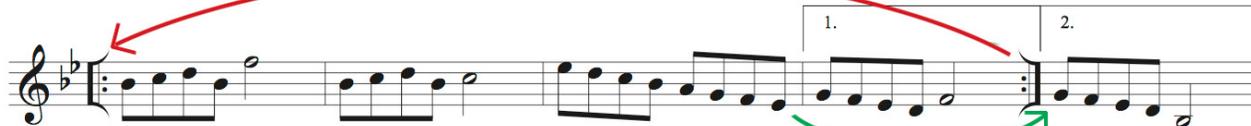
When a formata appears over a note like so:  this note is to be sustained longer than usual - the conductor usually wants the note held until he gives you the cutoff signal.



First and Second Endings

These are used for repeating sections of music. The first ending  will have music underneath it with a repeat sign (see above). After playing thru the first ending, jump back to the previous repeat sign and play the section of music a second time, but on the second time, skip over the first ending and jump to the second ending  Play the music under the second ending and continue on.

Example:



1) The first time thru, play the music under the first ending and repeat back to the first repeat sign.

2) On the second time thru, skip over the first ending, play the music under the second ending and continue

Fine

This is the musical term for “Final” or “End”. When you see this in a piece of music it indicates that this is where the piece of music ends. Usually it is used in situations where the last line of music repeats back to a previous section, and then the piece ends at the end of that section after the repeat has been played.

Example:



D.C. al Fine

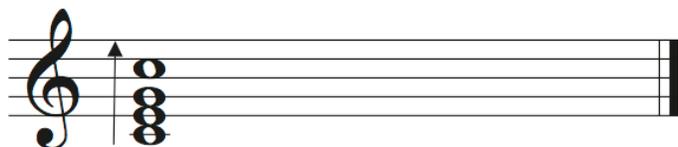
D.C. stands for “Da Capo” which means “To the beginning”. So D.C. al Fine (see Fine above), which will usually appear near or at the end of a piece of music, means - Repeat back to the beginning and play until you get to Fine, then stop.

⊕ Coda

The ending section of a piece of music. This is usually used when a large section of a piece of music is repeated, such as in a D.C. al Coda (see D.C. al Coda below).

Example:

⊕ Coda



D.C. al Coda

Similar to D.C. al Fine, except instead of repeating back to the beginning and stopping at Fine, you repeat back to the beginning and at the \oplus Coda sign jump down and play the Coda section.

Example:

2) After repeating, jump down to the Coda and continue

To Coda \oplus

1) Play the whole piece to this point, then repeat back to the beginning

D.C. al Coda

\oplus Coda

D.S. al Coda

D.S. stands for “Dal Signo” which means “To the Sign”. So D.S. al Coda is similar to D.C. al Coda, except instead of repeating back to the beginning, you repeat back to the Sign which looks like this: $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ Then at the \oplus Coda sign jump down and play the Coda section.

D.S. al Fine

Same as D.S. al Coda, except after repeating back to the Sign, $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ play to the Fine then stop.

Other Common Musical Terms

Accel - Accelerando - Increase speed gradually.

Accent - Give notes full value with strong attack. 60. -gliss - play note than a fast glissando down. Notes should not be defined in the glissando. 61 . portamento - glide from note to note. If notes

Adagio - Very slow.

Ad lib - Improvise, fake it.

Alla breve - Cut time (with brevity).

Allegretto - Fast, but not as fast as allegro.

Allegro - Fast.

Andante - Very slow.

Andantino - Slow but faster than andante.

Animato - Animated.

Con Spirito - With spirit.

Crescendo - Gradual volume increase.

Diminuendo - Gradual volume decrease (also known as decrescendo).

Double bar - Signifies end of music. phrases. or time signatures.

Dolce - Sweetly.

Expressio - Expressive.

f - Forte - loud.

ff - Fortissimo - very loud.

Glissando - Slide down from one note to next

Grandioso - grandly.

Glissando - Slide up from note before sign to note after sign.

Larghetto - Broadly.

Largo - Broadly, slower than larghetto

Legato - Smoothly - connected.

Lento - Slow.

mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud.

meno mosso - With less speed than before.

mp - mezzo piano - soft volume (louder than piano).

pp - pianissimo - very soft in volume.

p - piano - soft in volume (louder than pianissimo).

piu mosso - A little faster than before

poco a poco - Little by little.

Presto - quickly.

Prestissimo - Very quickly.

rit. - ritardando - retard speed (go slower).

rubato - Not in strict time (take liberties with your time interpretation).

a tempo - Back to strict time.

tempo di marcia - march tempo.

tempo de valse - Waltz tempo.

rall. - rallentando - Gradually slower.

Vivace - Lively. fast (very fast).

poco mosso - A steady pace slower than before.

Tenuto - Hold a little.

ten - tenuto.

vib. - vibrato - wiggle finger of left hand to produce a slight pitch wavering

tr. - trill - Alternating rapidly between written note and note one whole step above.

Forzando - Accented with a bell-like attack and decay.

Sfz. - sforzando - accented with a bell-like attack and decay

simile - Continue preceding notes in similar fashion (usually used to mark a reoccurring rhythmic pattern too costly to write out every measure).