

Musical Articulations

Legato [It. *tied together*] - to play the notes in a smooth, connected, and flowing manner, with no perceptible break between them. The key is to sustain each note for its full value before the next note is played.

Non Legato - detached style of playing where the notes are neither fully connected (like *legato*) nor sharply separated (like *staccato*). The notes are slightly separated, giving each note a clean, distinct sound, but not cutting off its full intended duration significantly.

Staccato [It. *detached*] - to play the notes short and detached. It is indicated by a small dot placed directly above or below the notehead.

Staccatissimo [It. *very detached*] - extreme form of *staccato*, instructing the performer to play the notes as short and sharply separated as possible. It is typically indicated by a small wedge or inverted "v" symbol.

Tenuto [It. *held*] - to hold a note for its full written value, sometimes slightly more, or to give the note a gentle emphasis. It is indicated by a short horizontal line placed above or below the notehead.

Accent - to play a note with a strong, sudden emphasis or attack. It is indicated by a horizontal wedge shape (">") placed above or below the notehead.

Marcato [It. *marked*] - more forceful and emphasized accent than the regular accent, often combining a sharp attack with some sustaining quality. It is indicated by a vertical wedge or "hat" shape

Fermata [It. *rest* or *stop*] - symbol that indicates a note, rest, or chord should be held for a period longer than its written value, at the discretion of the performer or conductor. It looks like a curved arc with a dot in the middle.

Sforzando - a sudden, strong emphasis on a single note or chord, usually occurring abruptly regardless of the current dynamic level. It is indicated by the abbreviation *sfz*.

Portamento [It. *carrying*] - gliding from one note to the next, subtly touching the intermediate pitches. On the piano, this term is less common for single notes and is more often used to describe a broad, sustained, and expressive connection between chords or phrases, implying a vocal or orchestral style.