



The World of Languages
and Languages of the World

The Language of Music

Let's investigate musical terminology

Objectives

Today we will:

- Consider if music is a language
- Investigate why Italian is the language of music
- Play with musical terms
- Annotate a piece of music



ἵπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

Let's go!

Tell you
partner
your
thoughts

...

IS MUSIC A LANGUAGE?



Some
would
argue
that...

Yes, music is a language:

It gives meaning and conveys thoughts and ideas

It has grammar and punctuation

It has phrases and sentences

Like speech it can has pitch, rhythm, tempo

It can be written down in musical notation

It can cross cultures and ages

Why Italian?

Why is music
piano or *forte*
rather than
quiet or loud?



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Why Italian?

- Well, the Italians got there first! In Around 1000 AD, Guido of Arezzo created the first version of written musical notes that we recognise today.
- Composers later added their own notes to this system but kept using Italian because it was fashionable.
- Italian is also a musical-sounding language.

All about tempo

1. Adagio
2. Allegro
3. Andante
4. Accelerando
5. Grave
6. Largo
7. Lento
8. Presto
9. Rallentando
10. Ritardando
11. Tempo
12. Vivace

- a. Which words do you recognize?
- b. Which words indicate the piece should be played slowly?
- c. Which words indicate the piece should be played quickly?
- d. Which words indicate the piece should speed up or slow down?
- e. Which word is the odd one out?

All about dynamics – match up

1. Crescendo	a. <i>f</i>	<i>loud</i>
2. Diminuendo	b. <i>mf</i>	<i>moderately loud</i>
3. Piano	c. <i>ff</i>	<i>very loud</i>
4. Pianissimo	d. <i>fff</i>	<i>very very loud</i>
5. Forte	e. <i>p</i>	<i>soft</i>
6. Fortissimo	f. <i>mp</i>	<i>moderately soft</i>
7. Mezzo-forte	g. <i>pp</i>	<i>very soft</i>
8. Mezzo-piano	h. <i>ppp</i>	<i>very very soft</i>
9. Fortississimo	i. <i><</i>	<i>getting louder</i>
10. Pianississimo	j. <i>></i>	<i>getting quieter</i>

All about style

Matching Pairs

Dolce	Espressivo	Giocoso	Glissando	Legato	Leggiero
Sforzando	Tremolo	Vibrato	Cheerful/ playful	Sweetly	Slide between notes
Expressively	Sudden Emphasis	Smoothly	Vibrating Sound	Trembling	Lightly

Over to you!

Here's a piece of music. It's Twinkle Twinkle Little Star!

Annotate the music as you wish using correct Italian annotation we have seen today.

Pass it to your partner to sing. Can they follow the tempo, dynamics and style you intended?



Answers:

All about tempo

Slowly = adagio, grave, largo, lento

Quickly = allegro, presto, vivace

Speed up or slow down = accelerando,
rallentando, ritardando

Odd one out = andante (walking pace) or tempo
(speed)

All about dynamics

1 i; 2 j; 3 e; 4 g; 5 a; 6 c; 7 b; 8 f; 9 d; 10 h

All about style

- Dolce - sweetly
- Espressivo - expressively
- Giocoso - playfully
- Glissando - gliding between notes
- Legato - smoothly
- Leggiero - lightly
- Sforzando - sudden emphasis
- Tremolo - trembling
- Vibrato - vibrating

WoLLoW would like to know...

How would you indicate a musician should...

- Play loudly?
- Play very softly?
- Play quickly?
- Play slowly?
- Play sweetly?



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