

REPRESENTATION

tempo — tempo designation

DESCRIPTION

The **tempo** tandem interpretation permits the encoding of gross overall tempo for a Humdrum representation.

Tempo tandem interpretations consist of a single asterisk, followed by the keyword **MM**, followed by one of four possible types of tempo indications. Tempo indications may consist of a single real or integer value specifying the the number of quarter-durations per minute, such as ***MM96**. Alternatively, tempo *ranges* may be encoded by interposing a hyphen between two numerical values, such as ***MM55.5–56.3**. Once again, the numerical values pertain to the number of quarter-durations per minute. Instead of numerical specifications, conventional Italian tempo terms may be encoded in square brackets, such as ***MM[Presto]**. Finally, an “unknown tempo” can be explicitly represented by the presence of a question mark, i.e. ***MM?**. (See **EXAMPLES** below.)

SIGNIFIERS

The following table summarizes the mappings of signifiers and signifieds for tempo.

MM	tempo keyword
0–9	numbers
.	decimal point
–	range signifier
[]	tempo-term delineators
A–Z	tempo-term characters
a–z	tempo-term characters
<space>	tempo-term space

*Summary of **tempo** Signifiers*

EXAMPLES

Several examples of tempo indications are given below:

*MM60	tempo of 60 quarter-durations per minute
*MM60 .	tempo of 60 quarter-durations per minute
*MM60 .0	tempo of 60 quarter-durations per minute
*MM96.3	tempo of 96.3 quarter-durations per minute
*MM72-78	tempo range between 72 and 78 quarter-durations per minute
*MM51.2-51.4	tempo range between 51.2 and 51.4 quarter-durations per minute
*MM[Largo]	tempo Largo
*MM[Allegro molto]	Allegro molto tempo
*MM?	unknown tempo

*Examples of **tempo** Interpretations*

SEE ALSO

midi (4), **perform** (4)