

LESSON 2: KEY SIGNATURES

Classical Piano: More Fundamentals

ARTICULATIONS - the way the notes are played

Slur

- a curved line over or under the note
- play **legato** (smoothly connected)
- play by “walking” the keys, don’t release the first key until the next key is on its way down



Staccato

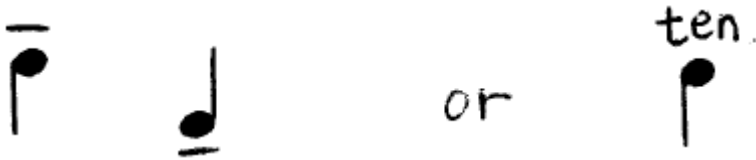
- a dot over or under the note
- play the notes short, not connected
- play by bouncing the wrist off the keys - up motions



Tenuto (*tenere*) - to hold the note to its full value and to emphasize the length



- A line above or below the note, or *ten.* above the note
- Play the note with tenuto to its full value
- Play with firm fingers and with a 'nudging' motion with the wrist



Accent - to play the note louder

- Faster and stronger attack of the keys
- Drop the wrist and fingers quickly into the keys



Tenuto vs. Accent

Tenuto - emphasis on length of the note

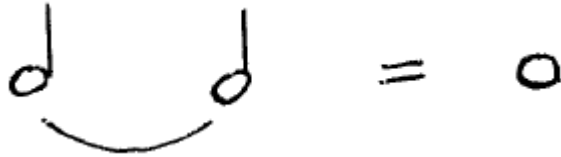
Accent - emphasis on volume of the note

TIE

Tied Notes - the same notes are connected by a curved line



-the key is held down for the combined value of both notes



Hold for 4 beats

Tie vs. Slur



- A **tie** connects two of the same notes. Only the first note is played, then held down for the duration of both notes. In the example above, play E and hold for 4 beats.
- A **slur** connects two different notes. Both notes are played. In the example above, play E, hold for 2 beats, play G, hold for 2 beats

FERMATA (◡) - hold the note under the sign longer than its value, at least double the original value



Hold the last note for at least 4 beats. This means that the measure with the fermata in it would have at least 6 beats.