

# The Phrase



A *phrase* is a musical idea or thought.

A phrase is often shown in the music with a slur, also called a **phrase mark**.  
Think of a phrase as a musical sentence and each note in the phrase as a word.



## Shaping the Phrase

When we speak a sentence, our voice rises and falls with expression.

- Use  and  to shape the phrases.  
The red and blue colors will guide you.

## Ode to Joy

from the 9th Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770–1827, Germany)  
arranged

**Joyfully**

*mp*  
1st phrase

3 on —? 5 4 3 2 1 3

same

3 on —? 5 4 3 2 1

*mp*  
2nd phrase

5 2 1 2 1

3 4 5 2 3 2 3

9

2

*p* 3rd phrase

*mf*

1

13 *f* 4th phrase *move higher* *Stop!*

17 *mf*

21 *mf* *move lower*

25 *p* *mf*

29 *f* *rit.*



Can you play *measures 1-16* with your eyes on the music (not looking at your hands)?