f (forte) – loud

p (piano) – soft

mf (mezzo-forte) – medium loud

ff (fortissimo) – very loud

pp (pianissimo) – very soft

fp (forte-piano) – start loud, then get soft immediately

sfz (subito forzando) – sudden forceful accent

Moderato moderate tempo, moderately

Andante moderately slow, smooth flowing, in a walking tempo

Allegretto moderately fast (faster then Andante, but slower than Allegro)

Allegro lively, brisk, rapid

Presto very fast

Maestoso majestically; with dignity

Largo very slow; slow and solemn; broad

Lento very slow (between Andante and Largo)

Stacc. (staccato) – separated; disconnected; short note, but tone must

still be present.

ten. (tenuto) – sustain notes full value

accent - play the note with emphasis

marcato - play with emphasis and a slight decay. In Jazz it also indicates separation

prolong the note for longer than its original value.

Caesura- pause or break

legato smooth and connected; no break between tones

Tutti for all; for all the instruments



First symbol means to repeat the previous measure. The second one means to repeat the previous 2 measures.

J = 120 number of beats per minute



Cresc. (crescendo) - gradually louder



Decresc. (descrescendo) - gradually softer



Double Sharp - in the example to the left the first note is a C sharp, the second note is a C double sharp which is the same as a D natural.



Double Flat - lower the note 2 half steps

dim. (diminuendo) – gradually softer

rit. (ritardando) – gradually slower

allarg. (allargando) – gradually slower and broader

rall. (rallentando)- gradually slower

accel. (accelerando) – gradually faster

A tempo resume original speed (as after rit. or accel.)

D.C. al Fine (Da Capo al Fine) – from the beginning, to the Fine

D.S. al Fine (Dal Segno al Fine) – from the sign, to the Fine

dolce sweetly; song-like

molto very much

subito immediately; instantly; suddenly

simile the same; continue in the like manner

poco a poco little by little