



Composition Terms

Glossary

Articulation: How notes are connected or separated

- **Legato:** Play notes smoothly together
- **Staccato:** Play notes short and separately



Beat: The pulse of the music

Crescendo (<): Gradually get louder

Decrescendo (>): Gradually get softer

Dynamics: How loud or soft a sound is played

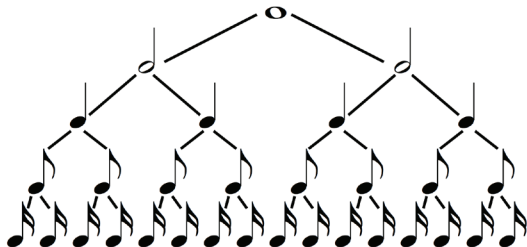
- **Forte (f)** - loud
- **Mezzo forte (mf)** - medium loud
- **Mezzo piano (mp)** - medium soft
- **Piano (p)** – soft

Expressive markings: Indications from the composer about the thoughts, feelings, and ideas the music is meant to express

Melody: The sequence of sounds (pitch) that create a tune

Notation: Writing down music so others can play it

- **Standard notation:** Writing down music using common symbols for pitch, rhythm, time signature, articulation, and expression
- **Creative notation:** Writing down music using symbols and/or words made up by the composer to represent pitch, rhythm, time signature, articulation, and expression



Pitch: The highness or lowness of a sound

Rhythm: How long or short sounds are played, and the silences (rests) between them

Tempo: The speed of the beat (pulse) of the music