



**dynamics:** the degree of loudness or softness in music. Italian words are used in music to specify the degree of softness or loudness. These words include:

- **forte:** loud
- **piano:** soft
- **mezzo forte:** medium-loud
- **mezzo piano:** medium-soft
- **fortissimo:** very loud
- **pianissimo:** very soft

**instrumentation:** the study and practice of arranging music for instruments. The process of a composer making decisions about which instruments should play which portions of a musical composition. Groups of instruments include strings (i.e., violins and cellos), brass (i.e., trumpets and trombones) woodwinds (i.e., clarinets and flutes), and percussion (i.e., snare drums and triangles).

**tempo:** the speed of music. Italian words are used to express musical tempo. These words include:

- **allegro:** fast
- **largo:** slow
- **moderato:** moderate speed

**timbre:** the combination of qualities of a sound that distinguishes it from other sounds of the same pitch and volume. Some examples of musical terms expressing timbre include:

- **legato:** smooth, connected sounds
- **staccato:** short, detached sounds
- **percussive:** strong, forceful sounds