

Musical Terms Vocabulary

Accent: To emphasize a note.

Canon: A melody begins, followed by a specific interval of time by the same melody note for note

Crescendo: To gradually become louder.

Counterpoint: Composing with two or more melodies that are played simultaneously, but can function alone as an independent melody.

Diminuendo: To gradually become softer.

Dynamics: Varying degrees of volume.

Forte: Loud.

Legato: Smooth.

Melodic Contour: The quality of movement of a melody, including nearness or farness of successive pitches or notes in a melody.

Mezzo Forte: Moderately loud.

Mezzo Piano: Moderately soft.

Ostinato: Repeated melodic or rhythmic line

Piano: Soft.

Round: A vocal canon.

Sforzando: Sudden strong accent.

Staccato: Short and detached note.