

Orchestra Final Exam Study Sheet

Accelerando- to gradually get faster, usually followed by a ritard
Accent – Extra emphasis placed on a note or chord. Marked as such >
Accidental- sharp, flat or natural sign found in the music but not in the key signature
Adagio- slow tempo
Allegro- fast tempo, quick and lively
Andante- moderate “walking” tempo
Animato- full of life, animated
Arco- played with the bow
Arpeggio- a broken chord, to play the notes of a chord one after the other
A Piacere- as you like it, up to the performer
Bar Line- the line drawn through the staff to mark off the measures
Baroque Period- 1600-1750 (Bach, Handel, Vivaldi) Bach’s Brandenburg Concerti 1-6!
Cantabile- play in a singing style
Cesura (/)- complete break in the music (sometimes called “railroad tracks”)
Chromatic Scale- a scale made up of only consecutive ½ steps intervals
Classical Period- 1750-1820 (Mozart, early Beethoven)/Classical Sym. = 4 movements
Clef- symbol used to indicate the instrument that will play the part due to its’ range
Coda- an added ending to a piece
Coda Sign (O)- symbol used to direct you to the coda
Common Time (C)- a shorthand version of the 4/4 time signature
Con Sordino- with mute
Crescendo (<)- gradually get louder
Cut Time (C)- shorthand version of the 2/2 time signature
D.C. (da Capo)- go back to the beginning
D.C. al Fine- go back to the beginning and play to the “Fine”
Decrescendo/ Diminuendo- gradually get softer
Divisi (div.)- divide the part, usually inside/outside players
Divisi a tre/Divisi a3- divide the part into three parts, usually by stand
Dolce- play “sweetly”
Double Bar Line- marks the end of the piece
Double Stops- play two notes at once
D.S. (dal Segno)- back to the sign ()
D.S. al Fine- back to the sign and play to the “Fine”
D.S. al Coda- back to the sign and play to the “Coda”
Duet- Piece for two instruments
Enharmonics- notes that sound the same but have different letter names (ex.: C# = D flat)
Fermata ()- instructs performer to hold the given note or rest
Forte (f)- play loud
Fortissimo (ff)- play very loud
Glissando- slide the finger on the string between notes marked for effect
Harmonic Minor Scale- minor scale with raised 7th scale degree ascending & descending
Key Signature- the sharps or flats found at the beginning of the staff
Largo- very slow tempo
Ledger Line(s)- short line(s) placed above or below the staff to extend the staff’s range
Legato- play smoothly/connected

Measures- units of music

Melodic Minor Scale- minor scale with raised 6th & 7th scale degree ascending and then lowered back down to natural minor descending

Moderato- moderate speed/tempo

Morendo- to gradually die away to nothing (inaudible)

Mezzo Forte (mf)- play medium loud

Mezzo Piano (mp)- play medium soft

Natural Minor Scale- only minor scale without alterations (accidentals)

Octave- distance between two notes with same letter name eight letter names apart

Piano (p)- play softly

Pianissimo (pp)- play very softly

Pit Orchestra- orchestra used to accompany musicals, operas, etc.

Pizzicato- pluck the strings/ (+) above or below note= left hand pizzicato

Presto- play very fast

Quartet- four 'solo' players

Renaissance Period- 1430-1650 (Pachelbel)

Repeat Sign- go back and play previous section again

Rests- notation used to show periods of silence

Ritard- slow down

Romantic Period- 1820-1900 (late Beethoven, Tchaikovsky); known for its' explosion of Russian composers; emphasis on 'feelings'; Tchaikovsky wrote "The Nutcracker"!

Senza Sordino- without the mute/take mute off

Simile- to continue in the same manner

Slur- curved line that connects two or more notes that are different

Soli- entire section plays an important "solo" part

Solo- only one person plays the part

Sforzando (sfz)- with sudden emphasis

Spiccato- bounce the bow at the balance point

Staccato- short, separated articulation/on the string

Staff- the five lines and four spaces in which we write our notes on

Stringendo- gradually get faster to the end of the piece

Subdivision- the breaking down of the primary beat into its' component parts

Syncopation- placing the emphasis on a normally weak part of the beat

Tempo- the rate of speed of a piece

Tenuto- dash under or above a note indicating the note should be played long

Tie- curved line connecting two or more notes that are the same

Time Signature- numbers indicating number of beats per measure/kind of note that gets the beat

Tremelo- rapid unmeasured movement of the bow for effect (3 slashes across the stem)

Trio- three 'solo' players

Tutti- all of the section plays, usually found after a solo

Unison- marking used to indicate that the divisi is over, all play the same part

Vibrato- a wavering of the tonal center

Vivace- lively and quick tempo

8va- play an octave higher (if above notes) or octave lower (if below notes)

20th Century Period- 1900 to present (also called 'Contemporary/Modern')/John Williams