

MUSIC · GRADES 2–3

# Dynamics and Tempo

Loud, soft, fast, slow — the Italian way

## Dynamics — how loud or soft

**1** **pp — pianissimo**

Very quiet.

*Example: A whisper.***2** **p — piano**

Quiet.

*Example: Soft talking.***3** **mp — mezzo piano**

Medium quiet.

**4** **mf — mezzo forte**

Medium loud.

**5** **f — forte**

Loud.

*Example: Calling across a room.***6** **ff — fortissimo**

Very loud.

*Example: A celebration shout.*

7

**crescendo**

Gradually getting louder.

*Example: Marked < under the music.*

8

**diminuendo**

Gradually getting quieter.

*Example: Marked > under the music.*

## Tempo — how fast

1

**Largo**

Very slow.

*Example: Like a slow walk.*

2

**Andante**

Walking pace.

3

**Moderato**

Medium speed.

4

**Allegro**

Fast and lively.

5

**Presto**

Very fast.

*Example: Like running.*