



Mrs. Viola's Music Glossary

Accompaniment – a musical background for a solo

Bar line – a symbol that separates music into pieces called measure

Beat – the steady feeling of music

Conductor – the director of a choir, orchestra or band

Crescendo – to get louder in volume

Decrescendo – to get softer in volume

Double bar line – a symbol that signals the end of a piece of music

Duet – two instruments or voices together

Dynamics – the loud and soft volume of music

Ensemble – a large group of instruments playing together

f – the abbreviation for loud (*forte*)

Form – the pattern of a musical parts in a piece of music

Harmony – blending of sounds

Melody – a group of pitches that create a tune

Meter – the grouping of beats

mf - the abbreviation for medium loud (mezzo forte)

mp - the abbreviation for medium soft (mezzo piano)

Orff instrument – specialized xylophone used for classroom music

P – the abbreviation for soft and quiet (piano)

Pentatonic – a 5 tone scale

Pitch – the high and low sounds of music

Quartet – four instruments or voices together

Quintet – five instruments or voices together

Recorder – a vertical woodwind instrument

Refrain – a part of the song that uses a different melody or lyrics

Rhythm – the long and short sounds of music that create a pattern

Solo – one voice or instrument playing alone

Staff – has 5 lines and 4 spaces

Tempo – the fast and slow speed of the beat

Tone Color – the special sound of a voice or instrument

Trio - three instruments or voices together

Unison – one group singing the same part together

Verse – a part of a song that has repeats