



Common Dynamic Markings

Term	Symbol:	Effect:
pianissimo	<i>pp</i>	very soft
piano	<i>p</i>	soft
mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>	moderately soft
mezzo forte	<i>mf</i>	slightly loud
forte	<i>f</i>	loud
fortissimo	<i>ff</i>	very loud
fortepiano	<i>fp</i>	loud then soft
sforzando	<i>sfz</i>	sudden accent
crescendo		gradually louder
diminuendo		gradually softer

Dynamic markings come from the *Italian Language*. The suffix *...issimo* means "**very**". Sometimes it is also used as *...ississimo* which means **very, very** such as

fff = fortississimo or *ppp* = pianississimo