Music Dictionary

TERM	ABBREVIATION or SIGN	MEANING
Accent Sign	>	stress the note and play louder
Allegretto		moderately fast
Andante		walking speed
A Tempo		return to original speed
Block Chord		notes of a chord played at the same time
Broken Chord		notes of a chord played one at a time
Crescendo	*cresc.*	play gradually louder
Diminuendo	*dim.*	play gradually softer
Dynamics		indicate ranges of volume from soft to loud
Etude		a study or exercise
Fermata		hold the note (or notes) longer
Forte	*f*	loud
Legato		smooth and connected tones, usually indicated by a slur
Mezzo Forte	*mf*	moderately loud
Mezzo Piano	*mp*	moderately soft
Natural	♮	cancels a sharp or flat
Pedal Sign		press, hold and lift the damper pedal (right pedal)
Phrase		a group of notes that form a musical thought
Piano	*p*	soft
Repeat Sign		go back and play again
Ritard	*rit.*	gradually play slower
Slur		indicates notes which are played legato
Staccato		short, disconnected tones
Tempo		rate of speed
Tie		connects notes of the same name for their combined value
Upbeat	4/4	a note (or notes) that comes before the first full measure

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