music dictionary : musical symbols

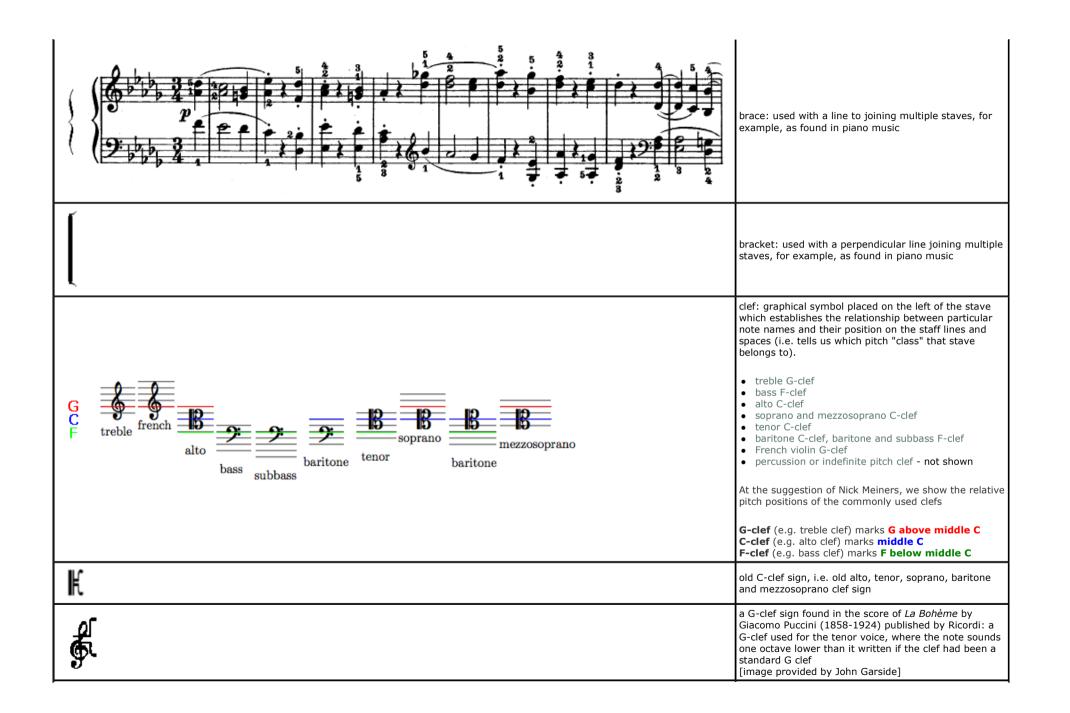
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dictionary 1-9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z symbols composers

If any detail is incorrect or incomplete please advise us, using our **dictionary amendment form**.

We

	see 1-9 reference below
I,II,II,IV,V,VI,VII,VIII,i,ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii,viii	• 1-9
	staff or stave: a framework of five lines on which musical notation is written such that the higher the note-sign on the staff the higher its pitch
	system: notation of a line of music including all the parts and voices involved, presented in a group of two or more staves which are joined together on the left hand side by a vertical bar and a brace
<u>z</u>	barline: a vertical line (or lines) drawn across a staff (or if there are many lines, across a number of staves) to mark off measures (or bars) of a particular length, i.e. containing a number of notes and/or rests whose total time value is given by the time signature
	bars & bar lines
	dotted or auxiliary barline: used to mark divisions within a bar (measure), i.e. between two solid barlines
	music end: barline denoting the end of a piece of music



ۇ ا	G-clef <i>ottava alta</i>		
.	octave clefs		
2	G-clef <i>ottava bassa</i>		
€ €	octave clefs		
ရီ:	F-clef <i>ottava alta</i>		
- ジ	octave clefs		
9:	F-clef <i>ottava bassa</i>		
8	octave clefs		
П	alternative percussion clef		
U	percussion or indefinite pitch clef		
Key Signature Notes Notes Time Treble Clef (G Clef) (Meter)	the main elements of a musical score		
$\overline{\underline{\mathbf{c}}}$	common time: equivalent to a time signature of 4/4, namely four crotchets (quarter notes) to a bar (measure)		
	 common time, alla breve/cut time, alla cappella time 		
	alla breve: also called 'cut time' or 'alla cappella time'; marked with a large C with a vertical line through it, used for quick duple time in which the minim or half note is given one beat instead of two. (occasionally written with two parallel vertical lines through a large C)		
	common time and alla breve/cut time		

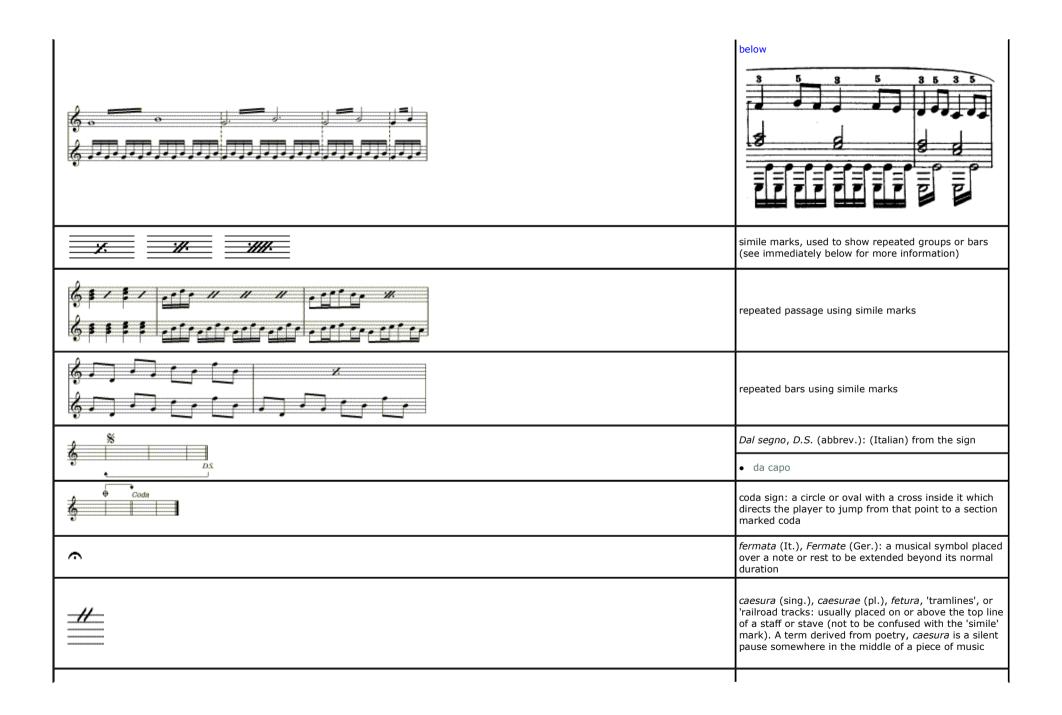
									tated with a syr	
*	sprechgesang stem sprechgesang: speech-song, a term used by Arnold Schönberg (1874-1951) to describe a voice delivery midway between song and speech, although he preferred the terms sprechstimme speaking voice (which was used by Humperdinck in Königskinder [1910]), sprechmelodic (speech melody) or rezitation (recitation)								voice delivery hough he aking voice önigskinder	
numb	e Sig er eq to mibre	ual	English	American	Italian	French	German		Spanish	Catalan
(o)		¹ / ₂	breve or brevis	double-whole note	breve	carrée or brevis or double-ronde (meaning square)	Doppeltakt(n or Brevis	ote)	cuadrada or breve or doble redonda	quadrada (f.) or breu (f.)
0		1	semibreve	whole note	semibreve	semi-brève or ronde (meaning round)	ganze Takt(n	ote)	redonda or semibreve	rodona (f.)
9		2	minim	half note	minima or bianca	blanche (meaning white)	Halbe(note) or halbe Takt(no	ote)	blanca or mínima	blanca (f.)
		4	crotchet	quarter note	semiminima or nera	noire (meaning black)	Viertel(note)		negra	negra (f.)
)	8	quaver	eighth note	croma	croche (meaning hook)	Achtel(note)		corchea or croma	corxera (f.)
	3	16	semiquaver	sixteenth note	semicroma	double croche (meaning double hook)	Sechzehntel(note)	semicorchea	semicorxera (f.)
)	32	demisemiquaver	thirty-second note	biscroma	triple croche (meaning triple hook)	Zweiunddreis	sigstel(note)	fusa	fusa (f.)
		64	hemidemisemiquaver	sixty-fourth note	semibiscroma	quadruple croche (meaning quadruple	Vierundsechz	igstel(note)	semifusa	semifusa (f.)

ar.						hook)					
ana	128	or	emidemisemiquaver note	hundred and twenty-eight	h centoventottavo (nota)	cent-vingt-huit or quintuple croch		Hundertundachtundzwanzigs (note)	or	apatea tifusa	
number e	est equal t breve	to 1	English	American	Italian	French	German		Spanish	Ca	talan
		¹ / ₂	breve rest	double-whole rest	pausa di breve	bâton or pause de brève or silence de brève	doppel F	Pause	silencio de cuadrada or pausa de cuadrada or silencio de b or pausa de bro	reve (f.	usa de quadrada
		1	semibreve rest	whole rest	pausa di semibreve	pause	ganze Pa	ause	silencio de redonda or pausa de redonda or silencio de semibreve or pausa de semibreve	or	usa de rodona
-		2	minim rest	half rest	pausa di minima	demi-pause	halbe Pa	use	media pausa or silencio de blanca or pausa de bla	m or pa	tja pausa (f.) usa de blanca (f.)
or		4	crotchet rest	quarter rest	pausa di semiminima	soupir	Viertelpa	ause	silencio de n or pausa de ne or silencio de semiminima or pausa de semiminima	gra qu or	art de pausa (m.) usa de negra (f.)
4		8	quaver rest	eighth rest	pausa di croma	demi-soupir	Achtelpa		silencio de corchea or pausa de	or	usa de corxera

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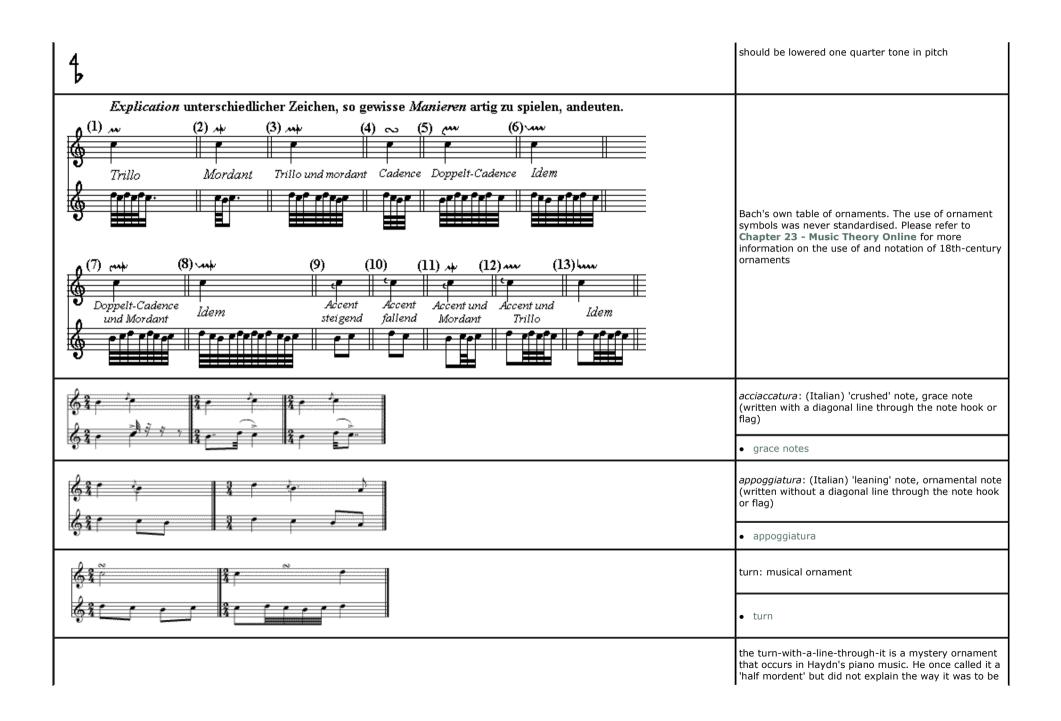
1	I			I		I		corchea	
	16	semiquaver rest	sixteenth rest	pausa di semicroma	quart de soupir	Sechzehntelpause		silencio de semicorchea or pausa de semicorchea	setzè de pausa (m.) or pausa de semicorxera (f.)
	32	demisemiquaver rest	thirty-second rest	pausa di biscroma	huitième de soupir	Zweiunddreißigstelpau	se	silencio de fusa or pausa de fusa	trenta-dosè de pausa (m.) or pausa de fusa (f.)
	64	hemidemisemiquaver rest	sixty-fourth rest	pausa di semibiscroma	seizième de soupir	Vierundsechzigstelpau	rundsechzigstelpause		seixanta-quatrè de pausa (m.) or pausa de semifusa (f.)
	128	semihemidemisemiquaver rest	one hundred and twenty-eighth rest	pausa di centoventottavo	cent-vingt- huitième de soupir	Hundertundachtundzw	anzigstelpause	silencio de garrapatea or pausa de garrapatea	
\$ —	5 5 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7					rumental parts (and re 'collected' together n a rest together with iven by a large			
+	⊗					4	top row: plus, triangle up wh white, triangle middle row: t white, triangle triangle right c triangle-round	ite, triangle up blac left up black, trian riangle right up bla down black, triang lown black, moon v down white, triang parenthesis, white	hite, square black, ck, triangle left up gle right up white ack, triangle down le right down white,
0	0	•	-	« ×	v	•	certain note heads have specific meaning, for example: diamond: special playing modes or notes such as: half-valve, tablature for string harmonics, falsetto voice, silent depression of keys, held keys X: indeterminate pitches, spoken voice and unvoiced sounds, release of certain held notes, noises, round pierced by stems: sounds of air blown through an instrument vertical arrow: highest or lowest pitches possible on an instrument triangular : for triangles		

	as a notehead: indeterminate pitches, spoken voice and unvoiced sounds, release of certain held notes, noises,
X	in jazz notation for wind instruments or string instruments, a 'ghost note' is indicated by using an 'x' for the notehead rather than the usual oval. A ghost note is one that is to be played less strongly than the notes around it, the effect is also called 'anti-accent'
н	hauptstimme, (German) principal part or voice
N	nebenstimme, (German) subsiduary or secondary voice or line
8va	play notes under this sign one octave higher than written
8va	play notes under this sign one octave lower than written
	the barline that marks the beginning of a passage that is to be repeated, also called 'open repeat' or 'begin- repeat'
	the barline that marks the end of a passage that is to be repeated, also called 'close repeat' or 'end-repeat'
	repeat: the 'repetition' signs indicates that a section of a piece of music is to be played a second time - where this is the first section of the piece the left hand sign may be absent - however, where the repeat is of a later section, the left and right hand signs mark the extent of the section
	repeated sections
1.	a section performed only the first time it is reached otherwise the performer plays a later section usually marked in a similar way but with a 2. and with no vertical line at the end of the section
beec to be the total	tremolo: repeated notes
	Note: in drum or timpani parts, notes with their stems crossed diagonally by two or, more commonly three, lines usually indicate a roll
	tremolo or alternations: repeated sequence of two notes a particular interval apart
	Note: where the two principal notes have stems, and there is no likelihood of confusion, the beams may actually connect to them: see bar 2 in the example

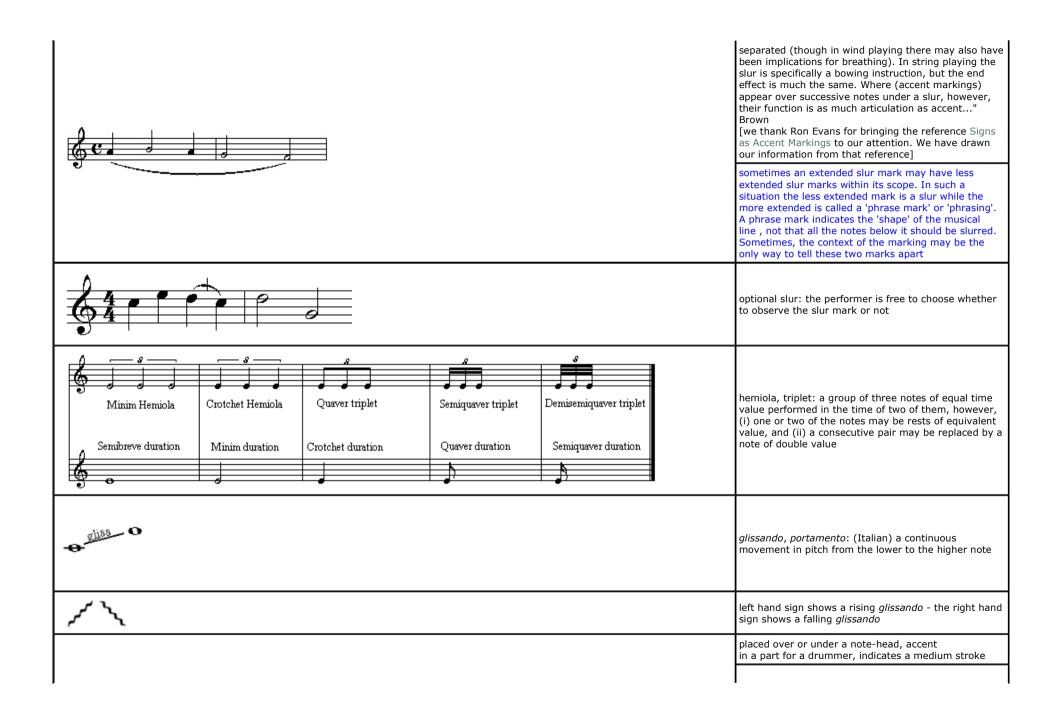


<						<i>crescendo</i> : (Italian loud	, literally 'growing') increasingly	
						crescendo from silence: starting from silence, the note should become increasingly louder [information provided by Adam Glynn]		
Λ						decrescendo, decre gradually softer	esciuto, diminuendo: (Italian) to get	
						duration of a single	volume and then die away in the e note or short phrase di voce (Italian) or mise de voix	
\diamond						> sign can represe a crescendo follow a case, the markin "warm", not too po vibrato where appr [we thank Ron Eva	ns for bringing the reference Signs s to our attention. We have drawn	
notation	English	French	German	Italian	Spanish		Catalan	
×	double sharp	double dièse	Doppelkreuz	doppio diesis	doble sostenic elevación de c		doble diesi, elevació de dos semitons	
#	sharp	dièse	Kreuz	diesis	sostenido, elevación de ι	ın semitono	diesi, sostingut	
4	natural, natural sign	bécarre, naturel	Auflösungszeichen, Quadrat	bequadro	becuadro		becaire	
þ	flat	bémol	В, Ве	bemolle	bemol, bajada de un	semitono	bemoll, disminució d'un semitò	
bb	double flat	double bémol	Doppel-B, Doppel-Be	doppio bemolle	doble bemol, bajada de dos	semitonos	doble bemoll, disminució de dos semitons	
A note about notating accidentals in ornaments: if any of the auxiliary notes in an ornament include accidentals, for instance a C sharp in the key of G major, this is shown by writing an accidental, in this case a sharp sign, above or below the ornament sign. In the case of an F natural in the key of G major, the sign would be a natural. The convention is that if the inflection applies to a note lying above the principal note then the accidental is written above the sign for the ornament and if the inflected auxiliary note lies below the principal note, the acidental sign also lies below the sign for the ornament. Obviously, if the principal note itself is inflected then the accidental is placed to the immediate left of the note head and not with the sign for the ornament								
						a double accidenta of a double sharp of	I that completely cancels the effect or double flat sign	
ф							I that restores a double flatted note note (and sometimes to change a	
#	h ‡						I that restores a double sharped arped note (and sometimes to sharp)	

•		microtonal 'flat up' sign	
ر		microtonal 'flat down' sign	
4		microtonal 'natural up' sign	
ب		microtonal 'natural down' sign	
ŧ		microtonal 'sharp up' sign	
ŧ		microtonal 'sharp down' sign	
quartertone accidental signs (there are	other sign conventions)		
46	3/4 tone flat		
4			
4			
3/4 tone sharp			
4		quarter tone sharp sign, a sign to show that a note should be raised one quarter tone in pitch	
		quarter tone flat sign, a sign to show that a note	



ሎ	played. Adding to the confusion is the fact that he was inconsistent in using it so that in parallel places he sometimes substitutes the normal turn as a symbol or written out. Pianists now play it as a normal turn or as a mordent since it is often indistinguishable from a mordent in his manuscript. You can read about this strange ornament in the preface of the Weiner Urtext Edition of Haydn's Piano Sonatas
trill: shake trill: long appoggiatura + shake + short note	trill: musical ornament
tril: shake + turn	• trill
eighteenth century mordent nineteenth century mordent	mordent: musical ornament
	• mordent
	arpège (Fr.), arpeggio (It.), arpeggi (It. plural): (Italian, meaning 'in the manner of a harp') a spread chord played from the top down or from the bottom up indicated by a vertical wavy line, a vertical square bracket or a curved bracket (the latter two signs are now uncommon)
	arpeggio
€c i i i i	tie: also called a 'bind', a sign that indicates that the note being played or sung sustained, unbroken, through the total time value of the notes under the tie
	slur: a mark used to show where a group of notes are played either under a single bow stroke, or on a wind instrument without retonguing or when singing, in one breath, so that the notes move smoothly one to the other with no perceptible break
	"in keyboard playing, and, to a large extent, in wind playing the use of a slur usually seems to have meant simply that the notes should be less distinctly



	also called the accent hairpin (>), together with the <i>staccato</i> , it was one of the earliest musical signs to be used, Italian composers G.A. Piani and F. Veracini having proposed something like this several decades before it first appeared in the 1760s. Even so, few composers used it until the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries but then as synonyms for <i>sf</i> or <i>fz</i> or to indicate something more subtle [we thank Ron Evans for bringing the reference Signs as Accent Markings to our attention. We have drawn our information from that reference]
	variety of accents
	placed over or under a note-head, <i>staccato</i> : (Italian) note sustained for half the written length, the remaining half silent
•	the <i>staccato</i> mark was the first sign to come into common use, usually appearing as a stroke, dot or wedge. Initially it would appear that the sign was intended to indicated accent as well as separation, but by the late nineteenth-century the mark was used to show a lightening as well as separation [we thank Ron Evans for bringing the reference Signs as Accent Markings to our attention. We have drawn our information from that reference]
	variety of accents
•	placed after a note, a dot indicates that the note is to be held longer - for details see 'dot' in the music dictionary
,	placed over or under the note-head, <i>staccatissimo</i> : (Italian) note sustained for quarter the written length, the remaining three-quarters silent - also called a 'wedge'
	variety of accents
v	placed above or below the note-head, <i>marcato</i> : (Italian) marking, marked, accented in a part for a drummer, <i>marcato</i> denotes a heavy stroke
	variety of accents
۳	placed above or below the note-head, marcato/staccato or staccato duro: (Italian) more forceful marking, more forcefully accented
	variety of accents
>	placed above or below the note-head, accented staccato
	variety of accents
P C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

۸	as an accent or stress mark - called <i>le petit chapeau</i> . In the eighteenth-century this mark was used to denote expressive stress and for such purpose the sign continued to be used into the ninteenth-century. There is good evidence that in terms of its strength <i>le petit</i> <i>chapeau</i> lies between the light + and the heavier sf and sfz. By the middle of the nineteenth-century <i>le</i> <i>petit chapeau</i> was used synonymously with > or even to indicate a somewhat heavier stress than > [we thank Ron Evans for bringing the reference Signs as Accent Markings to our attention. We have drawn our information from that reference]
Allegro Violini II Viole Violoncelli e Contrabbassi	small triangle lying above or below the note-head, stongly accented then immediate <i>diminuendo</i> [Rossini example (Overture to <i>Il Signor Bruschino</i>) supplied by David Bellugi]
	placed above or below the note-head, <i>tenuto</i> : (Italian) note held to its written length, i.e. not detached
	in a part for a drummer, the <i>tenuto</i> indicates a light stroke
	variety of accents
	the horizontal line (-) sign, with or without a dot above or below the line, was rarely used before the mid-nineteenth-century although some earlier instruction books refer to its use. Without a dot, the horizontal line mark in piano music indicates that the " keys must be struck with more than the usual emphasis, and the notes must be held for almost more than their usual value" (Czerny). Most nineteenth- century commentators follow this definition, with Wagner suggesting, where applicable, the use of a discrete vibrato [we thank Ron Evans for bringing the reference Signs as Accent Markings to our attention. We have drawn our information from that reference]
	placed above or below the note-head, <i>louré</i> : in string playing the bow motion is <i>legato</i> , but with slight

•	separation of the notes. It is performed with several notes in one bow direction, each note receiving a gentle "push" to separate it
	variety of accents
۵	placed above or below the note head, <i>martellato</i> : (Italian) strongly marked, hammered
	variety of accents
¬	on a bowed instrument: down-bow, as when the bow, held below the hand, is pulled across the string on a member of the violin family, or conversely, as when the bow, held above the hand, is pushed across the string on a member of the viol family; the reverse manoeuvre is called the 'up-bow' on the guitar: down-stroke, the string is plucked with
	the hand moving downwards
\vee	on a bowed instrument: up-bow, as when the bow, held below the hand, is pushed across the string on a member of the violin family, or conversely, as when the bow, held above the hand, is pulled across the string on a member of the viol family; the reverse manoeuvre is called 'down-bow' on the guitar: up-stroke, the string is plucked with the hand moving upwards
	in string parts: written over or under the note-head, meaning: play a harmonic
0	referring to percussion notation the Percussion Information Homepage - Problems page author writes: "one very annoying side effect of different setups, is the fact the most method books that indicate which hand to use for a certain passage, are difficult to use for players who are learning the other way! So, my advice to publishers and writers: Never indicate hands. And if you have to, use symbols like an open and closed small circle or square above the notes. In that way we just have to change the definition of the symbols and explain that to the student. But it is very unnatural to have to play a note with your L-hand when there is a big R above or below it. Especially when these very letters mean the same hands in another language!"
\diamond	in string parts: written over or under the note-head, meaning: play a harmonic

	for string parts: snap <i>pizzicato</i>			
	for string parts: use the mute			
II.	for string parts: written under a note to indicate the string to be used (in this case string number 2)			
			ten in combination with pizz. over ead, meaning: play a left hand	
	applied to chord names or numbers: A , Aug. or ⁺ : an augmented interval			
	in percussion parts: a dead stroke, achieved by holding the mallet on the instrument after the attack to dampen the vibration. Dead strokes are commonly notated with a plus sign (+) over the note. Ringing notes in a passage with dead strokes can be indicated with a circle (o) over them; this is not necessary but can help to clarify. "D.S." or staccato dots are other common indications for dead stroke. These notations are not standard and should be explained at the top of the score and part			
+	in early music, particularly that for wind-instruments: the 'plus' sign indicates a musical ornament, usually a trill			
	 Trills in French horn parts: a '+' above notes to be stopped, followed by a 'o' above notes that are open for longer stopped passages the word is just written out: 			
	English	stopped	open	
	German	gestopft	offen	
	Italian	chiuso	aperto	
	French	bouché	ouvert	
0	applied to chord names or numbers: d , dim. or ^{o} : a diminished interval			
ø	applied to chord names or numbers: a half-diminished interval			
	applied to chord names or numbers: indicates a triad, for example the notes ${f G},{f B},{f D}.{f G}\Delta {f 7}$ means a G major			

Δ	7th chord. While Δ is usually not needed with the triad chord, with the 7th chord it indicates that the complete triad should be included in the 7th chord
-	applied to chord names or numbers: indicates a minor triad, for example the notes C , Eb , G . C-7 means a C minor 7th chord
	for wind parts: double tongue
:) ;	for wind parts: triple tongue
Fluterenerge	flutter tonguing, <i>flatterzunge</i> (German), <i>trémolo dental</i> (French), <i>trémolo en roulant la langue</i> (French): extremely rapid, tongued-articulation on a wind instrument
A	use the fingernails
Φ	damp
•	damp all
Pa - ro - le	extension: a horizontal line placed immediately to the right of a lyric syllable, to show that a syllable must be held during the following note or notes
,	breath mark: a mark placed above the stave where the composer requests that the performer break the musical line and breathe, so producing the desired phrase shape
= 60	metronome mark: an indication of the speed at which a piece is to be played, in this case 60 crotchet (quarter notes) per minute
	metronome marks
لو = . ل	the duration of the note symbol on the left (as applied in the section to follow) is the same as the duration of the note symbol on the right (as applied in the section just finished) in other words new time value = old time value
	1

Red.	sustain pedal on: a symbol indicating when the sustaining pedal is to be applied
*	sustain pedal off: a symbol indicating when the sustaining pedal is to be released
	half pedal mark: momentarily lift the sustain pedal before reapplying it
	an example of the older sustain pedal on and sustain pedal off marking
	an example of the older form of sustain pedal on and sustain pedal off marking: the pedal is depressed at the Ped. mark and kept pressed down until the right hand vertical line, unless a half pedal mark (an inverted V) appears between the two vertical lines
	an example of the older form of sustain pedal on and sustain pedal off marking: the pedal is depressed at the Ped. mark and kept pressed down until the right hand vertical line, unless a half pedal mark (an inverted V) appears between the two vertical lines
	an example of the newer form of sustain pedal on and sustain pedal off marking: the pedal is depressed at the left vertical line and kept pressed down until the right hand vertical line, unless a half pedal mark (an inverted V) appears between the two vertical lines
Sost. Ped	a direction to use the sostentuo pedal (the middle pedal on a piano) which acts as a selective damper pedal by sustaining specifically chosen notes: the pedal is depressed where the text instruction is placed and held until the right hand vertical line
^	part played on an organ pedal-board - use the toe (to indicate that the right foot should be used, symbols are written above the staff; to indicate that the left foot should be used, symbols are written below the staff)
U	part played on an organ-pedal-board - use the heel (to indicate that the right foot should be used, symbols are written above the staff; to indicate that the left foot should be used, symbols are written below the staff)
	part played on an organ pedal-board - indicate a change of toe and heel, the 2 symbols are placed next to each other, with a slur above or below them.
	part played on an organ-pedal-board - indicate a change of foot, the 2 symbols are placed above and below the notes

©	symbol that means 'copyright'
§	symbol called <i>guida</i> (Italian) or <i>presa</i> (Italian) employed to show in a canon or fugue the entry points of other parts, the start of the subject or antecedent, and so on
*	symbol called <i>custos</i> (Latin), <i>Wachte</i> (German), <i>guida</i> (Italian), <i>guidon</i> (French) or 'direct', placed at the end of a line to indicate the pitch of the first note on the next line
$ \begin{array}{c} \nabla \nabla \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O}$	a variety of symbols used to indicate which instrument a percussionist should be playing (most are self- explanatory)
¶ [¶ [<	a variety of symbols used to indicate when to use a particular mallet or the hands when playing any particular percussion instrument (most are self- explanatory)

↑ TOP