

BAND STUDY GUIDE – page 1
Musical Terms

1. **Accidentals** – the signs that indicate whether a note is flat, sharp, or natural
2. **Arpeggio** – notes of a chord played one after another in order
3. **Chord** – two or more tones sounded at the same time
4. **Chromatic Scale** – a scale consisting of twelve half steps (using all the sharps and flats)
5. **Clef** – a sign at the beginning of a staff that determines the name and pitch of notes on the staff
6. **Coda** – The finishing section or passage of a musical composition
7. **Discord** - A combination of harsh or unpleasant sounds
8. **Improvisation** – the creation and performance of music spontaneously
9. **Interval** – the musical distance between any two notes
10. **Key Signature** – sharps and flats shown at the beginning of each staff
11. **Ledger Lines** – short extra lines drawn above or below the staff on which notes are written
12. **Measure** – a group of beats or division of time marked off by bar lines
13. **Melody** – a succession of tones forming a musical design, consisting of motion and rhythm
14. **Meter** – the pattern of beats in a composition (e.g. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, etc.)
15. **Modulation** – a change from one key to another
16. **Octave** – an interval of eight notes in the natural (diatonic) scale
17. **Score** – the written form of a musical composition
18. **Half step** – one half of a whole tone, the smallest interval in Western Music
19. **Step** – the interval between two successive notes of a musical scale
20. **Syncope** – the displacement of the natural accent in music
21. **Tempo** – the speed of a composition
22. **Theme** – a musical idea in a composition
23. **Time Signature** – figures (e.g. 3/4, 4/4, etc.) given at the beginning of a composition (or where the time changes in a piece) to indicate meter
24. **Unison** – two or more instruments sounding the same pitch
25. **Vibrato** – a slight wavering of tone

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Musical Directions

1. **Accelerando** – gradually increasing in tempo/speed
2. **Adagio** – a very slow and expressive tempo marking
3. **Agitato** – excitedly, agitatedly
4. **Allargando** – gradually get slower and louder, in a broader style
5. **Allegretto** – moderately, quickly and cheerfully, but not as quick as Allegro
6. **Allegro** – a fast and lively tempo
7. **Andante** – a walking tempo
8. **Animato** – animatedly, with spirit
9. **a poco** – “a little”, gradually
10. **a tempo** – return to the original tempo
11. **Crescendo** – gradually increase volume
12. **D. C., Da Capo** – go back to the beginning of the piece
13. **D.S., Dal Segno** – return to the sign
14. **Decrescendo** – gradually decrease volume
15. **Diminuendo** – gradually decrease volume
16. **Dolce** – perform sweetly
17. **Largo** – a broad, very slow tempo
18. **Legato** – perform smoothly, without any interruption between
19. **Leggerio** – lightly, delicately
20. **Lento** – a slow tempo
21. **Marcato** – marked, with emphasis.
22. **Moderato** – a moderate tempo
23. **Presto** – a very fast tempo
24. **Ritardando (rit., ritard)** – gradually slowing in tempo/speed
25. **Sempre** – always
26. **Subito (sub.)** – suddenly
27. **Tutti** – all; everyone resume playing

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Notes, Rests, Key Signatures



Whole Note



Half Note



Quarter Note



Eighth Note



Sixteenth Note



Whole Rest



Half Rest



Quarter Rest



Eighth Rest



Sixteenth Rest

KEY SIGNATURES

Order of Sharps: F, C, G, D, A, E, B

Order of Flats: B, E, A, D, G, C, F



C Major



G Major



F Major



Bb Major







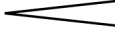
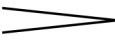








Eb Major





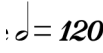






Ab Major








Musical Signs

1.  **accent** – emphasis on a note
2.  **sforzando** – with a sudden strong accent on a single note or chord
3.  **cut time** – 2/2 meter
4.  **bar lines** – the vertical lines on the staff that separate measures
5.  **bass clef (or F Clef)**
6.  **common time** – 4/4 meter
7.  **crescendo** – gradually increase volume
8.  **decrescendo** – gradually decrease volume
9.  **dot (dotted note)** – increases the value of a note by $\frac{1}{2}$,
(e.g. a dotted quarter = 3 eighth notes; a dotted half note = 3 quarter notes.)
10.  **double bar** – indicates the end of a piece or movement
11.  **double flat** – indicates the note is lowered by 2 half steps
12.  **double sharp** – indicates the note is raised by 2 half steps
13.  **fermata** – indicates the note or rest should be held
14.  **1st and 2nd endings** – indicates to play the notes under the first ending, repeat the passage, take the 2nd ending and continue.

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Musical Signs (continued)

15.  **flat** – indicates the note is lowered one half step
16. ***f*** **forte** – loud
17. ***ff*** **fortissimo** – very loud
18. ***fp***  **forte piano crescendo** – attack the note loudly followed immediately by playing it softly followed by a gradual increase in volume
19.  **key signature** – indicates the key of a composition by its sharps or flats
20.  **marcato** – indicates the note should be played accented and short with separation
21. ***mf*** **mezzo forte** – medium loud
22. ***mp*** **mezzo piano** – medium soft
23.  **Metronome Marking** – indicates the tempo of a composition
24.  **natural** – indicates a note is neither sharp or flat
25. ***pp*** **pianissimo** – very soft
26. ***p*** **piano** – soft
27.  **repeat sign** – indicates the section should be repeated
28.  **sharp** – indicates the note is raised 1 half step
29.  **slur** – a curved line connecting two or more different notes.
Indicates to perform smoothly by only tonguing the first note.

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Musical Signs (continued)

30.  **staccato** – indicates the note should be played short and separated
31.  **staff** – five horizontal lines on which notes are written to indicate their pitch.
32.  **tie** – a curved line connecting two same pitches uniting them into a single sound
33.  **time signature** – two numbers at the beginning of a piece indicating the meter.
The top number indicates how many beats per measure. The bottom number indicates which type of note gets the beat)
34.  **treble or G clef**
35.  **trill** – the rapid alteration of two notes which produces a warbling effect.
36.  **Triplet** – a group of 3 notes played in the time of 2 similar ones.