

# Tempo Terms

Accelerando = gradually increasing the rate of speed

Adagietto = not as slowly as Adagio

Adagio = slowly; also can be used as a name for a movement which is written in this time

Adagio assai = very slowly

Adagios cantabile = very slow and sustained.

Agitato = a very restless and agitated style of playing or singing.

Allegretto = slightly slower than Allegro

Allegro = very quickly although not as fast as presto The word is also used to describe a whole movement of a sonata or symphony.

Allegro agitato = quite fast and in a excited manner

Allegro con brio = fast, with spirit

Allegro con moto = fast, with movement

Allegro con spirito = fast and spirited

Allegro moderato = moderately fast

Allegro molto = very fast

Allegro vivace = quite fast in a vivacious manner

Andante = a movement in moderate time; Walking speed.

Andante cantabile = slowly and sustained

Andante con moto = slowly, but with some motion

Andante grazioso = slowly and gracefully

Andante maestoso = slowly and with a feeling of majesty

Andante non troppo = moderately, but not too slowly

Andante sostenuto = in a slow and sustained manner

Andantino = the literal definition is--slightly slower than andante. Present usage is generally faster than andante

Animato = animated and lively

A poco = gradually or by degrees

A tempo = in time (return to original tempo)

Grave = the slowest tempo in music

In tempo = in strict time

Langsam (Ger.) = slow

Largamente = broadly and/or slowly

Larghetto = rather slow, but not as slow as largo

Largo = very slow

Lento = slow

Meno mosso = less movement; slower

Moderato = moderately

Molto = very much

Piu mosso = more motion or quicker

Poco = a little

Poco a poco = little by little

Prestissimo = very quickly

Presto = quickly; faster than allegro

Rallentando = gradually slower

Rapidamente = quickly/rapidly

Rit. = abbreviation of Ritardando

Ritardando = retarding--delaying the time gradually

Scherzando = playful and lively

Scherzo = joke. A piece of music of a playful character

Schnell (Ger.) = quickly

Vivace = very lively

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## Commonly used tempo markings Slowest to Fastest

Grave--

Largo--

Larghetto--

Lento--

Adagio--

Adagietto--

Andante--

Andantino--

Moderato--

Allegretto--

Allegro--

Presto--

Prestissimo