

HIGHER MUSIC TECH

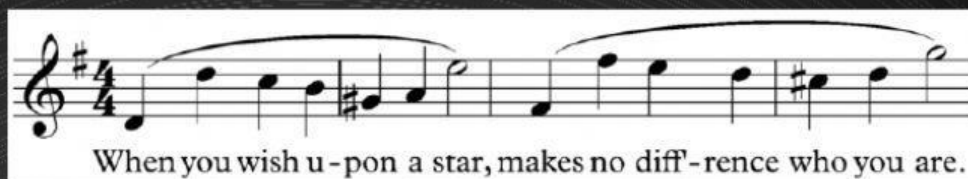
Timbre and Structure Higher
concepts

Texture/structure/form	Timbre/dynamics
through-composed	accents harmonics phrase marks staccato marks
strophic	arco pizzicato

PHRASE MARKS/ SLURS

A phrase is a section in music that express a complete idea.

A phrase mark, better known as a slur, indicates that a passage of music should be played legato (smoothly). Phrase marks usually cover several notes or bars and can also be used as an instructions – e.g. to tell a wind/ brass player or singer where to breathe.



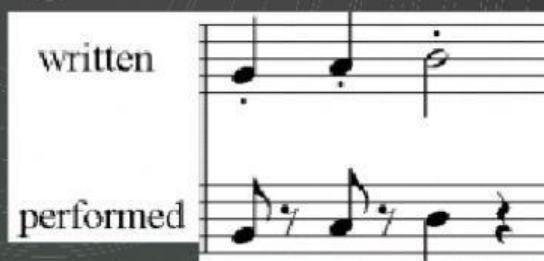
Phrase marks play a significant part in musical shape. It is usually placed on the note head side in order to avoid crossing over note stems.

For bowed instruments, a slur indicates one continuous motion of the bow for the duration of the slur. The bow changes direction at the end of each slur and articulation



STACCATO

The notes are short and detached, with plenty of space between them – *opposite of legato*. It is notated by a dot above or below the note. This doesn't mean that the tempo or rhythm goes any faster. The tempo and rhythm are not affected by articulations; the staccato notes sound shorter than written only because of the extra space between them.



Staccato and legato slurs can be combined to give variety of articulation in a phrase:



Have a look at this summary of staccato/ legato:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zp4d97h/revision/2>

ACCENTS

Accented notes are notes which sound louder than others. They are marked with a > sign above or below the note.



Listen to part of Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring', which features accents, discords, time changes, staccato etc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZtWAqc3qyk&ab_channel=puffthecat

Not Dynamics...

Articulation is **the way** the performer plays / sings the note, not how loud they do it. That would be Dynamics instead.

ARTICULATION

(How the notes are played)

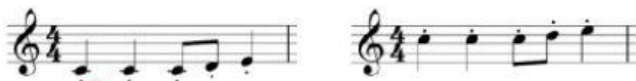
More Than One...

You can write more than one type of articulation for the same note. For example:



Staccato

Staccato means short and detached /seperated. *You will likely hear a gap between each note.



Shown by writing a **dot** just above/below the head of the note.

Accented

Give extra emphasis or force to the marked notes.



Shown by writing an **accent** above/below the head of the note.

Legato

To play the music smoothly, without breaks between notes.

Slurred

Playing the notes in a legato style, without breaks between notes.



Shown with a **slur** on the score.

How? Some examples:

String Instruments - Play the notes without changing the direction of the bow.



Brass & Wind Instruments - Only tongue the first note, not the others.

Glissando

A slide between two notes.

*You can glissando upwards or downwards

Marked with a **glissando** on the score.



Some Associated Markings On Vocal Music...

Phrase markings

Slurs drawn onto the score to show singers what to sing in one breath.



Syllabic

Where the music is written with one note per syllable.



Melismatic

Where the music is written with more than one note per syllable.

*A slur is used to show the notes on one syllable



LOOK
AT THIS

Have a look at this summary of articulation and complete the bitesize test:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82G3CU49iPQ&ab_channel=CHSMusicDept

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zgvw6f/test>

HARMONICS

Harmonics can be produced by a number of instruments. By lightly touching the string of a bowed stringed instrument at certain points for example, a high eerie sound is produced. On a guitar or harp these have a bell-like quality



Guitar harmonics explained:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru7HIGKMRNI&ab_channel=LouieZong



Violin harmonics explained:

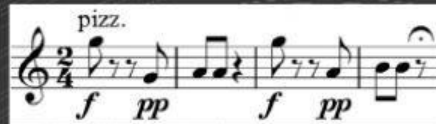
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=681aylovC0k&ab_channel=ClassicFM

ARCO

Instruction given to string players to use the bow. This term might be given to players after a passage using pizzicato.

PIZZICATO

Pizzicato (abbreviation 'pizz.') is an instruction given to string players to pluck the strings instead of using the bow (arco).



Have a look at this summary of arco and pizzicato:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB7Ao4X2n1I&ab_channel=CHSMusicDept

STROPHIC

A song which has the same music repeated for verses/choruses, therefore the music will be heard repeating throughout the song, though the words may be different.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8OXLgpBrSU&ab_channel=CHSMusicDept

THROUGH COMPOSED

A vocal/choral composition in which there is little or no repetition in the musical structure i.e. where the composition is not structured as verse/chorus.



e.g. Schubert's lied. '*Erlkönig*' is through-composed. Listen to the way the singer changes his body language and tone of voice to portray the different characters (narrator, father, son and Erlkönig).

THROUGH COMPOSED



The structure of through-composed songs is not confined to the romantic period, listen to 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen.



e.g. *Dreams* (Roy Orbison) – Here, the song never repeats a section. In two minutes and forty-eight seconds, it goes through seven movements with distinct melodies and chord progressions. The first two sections are sixteen bars each, but the other sections are only eight bars each.