

ACO MUSIC & ART

Lesson Six: Composers' Choices

Additional Notes for teachers, parents and students

The concepts of music

Tempo: Tempo is a description of the speed of the beat or notes. [Click here](#) to learn more about tempo.

Duration: Duration refers to how long a note lasts for. [Click here](#) to learn about the longest piece ever composed. It takes 639 years to perform the entire piece, and it is currently only 19 years in!

Articulation: Articulation describes how notes connect to each other – it could be smooth and connected or short and separated. [Click here](#) to revisit this video, created by some of the ACO Musicians from Lesson 5 to learn more about string articulations.

Texture: Texture refers to how many 'layers' there are in a piece of music. [Click here](#) to learn more about musical texture.

Dynamics: Dynamics is the word used to describe the volume of a piece – how loud or soft it is. In the video lesson, Sharon explained that most musicians refer to a set of Italian words to describe dynamics in music. See them below a list of some of the common Italian terms.

TERM	EFFECT
<i>Pianissimo</i>	Very soft
<i>Piano</i>	Soft
<i>Mezzo piano</i>	Moderately / medium soft
<i>Mezzo forte</i>	Moderately / medium loud
<i>Forte</i>	Loud
<i>Fortissimo</i>	Very loud
<i>Fortepiano</i>	Loud then soft
<i>Sforzando</i>	Sudden accent
<i>Crescendo</i>	Gradually getting louder
<i>Diminuendo</i>	Gradually getting softer