

Max’s Musical Dynamics Word Mat

Learning objective: To understand and apply musical dynamics, using technical vocabulary to describe volume levels in a composition.

Key Vocabulary

Use this resource to help you describe how loud or quiet a piece of music is. The terms are grouped into Volume Levels, Changes in Dynamics, and Musical Quality.

Piano Quietly playing.	Forte Loudly playing.	Mezzo-piano Moderately quiet.
Mezzo-forte Moderately loud.	Pianissimo Very quietly playing.	Fortissimo Very loudly playing.
Crescendo Gradually getting louder.	Diminuendo Gradually getting quieter.	Sforzando A sudden, strong emphasis on a ...
Subito A sudden change in dynamics.	Staccato Short, detached notes.	Legato Smooth, flowing notes.
Accent A note played with extra force.	Decibel The unit used to measure the intensi...	Timbre The unique quality or 'colour' of a sp...
Explain why a c...	Compare and con...	Justify your ans... If you were composing ...
What might happ...	If Max the monke...	Create a 'Dynami...