

Mastering Musical Dynamics with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and identify dynamic markings in music and their impact on performance and expression.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of musical volume. Max the Monkey loves to solve puzzles, so see if you can match the Italian dynamic terms to their English meanings and understand how they change the mood of a piece.

Dynamics	Piano (p)
The volume level of music, ranging from very quiet to very loud.	A dynamic marking meaning 'quietly' or 'softly'.
Forte (f)	Mezzo (m)
A dynamic marking meaning 'loudly' or 'strongly'.	An Italian term used as a prefix meaning 'moderately' or 'medium'.
Crescendo (<)	Diminuendo (>)
A gradual increase in the volume of the music.	A gradual decrease in the volume of the music.
Pianissimo (pp)	Fortissimo (ff)
An instruction to play extremely quietly or softly.	An instruction to play extremely loudly or with great force.
Subito	Sforzando (sfz)
An Italian term meaning 'suddenly', often used before another dynamic marking.	A sudden, strong accent on a particular note or chord.