

# Word Wall

## Kit

104 Color Coded Musical Term  
Flashcards with Definitions



**crescendo**

**jazz**

**phrase**



**molto**

**rondo**



**allegro**



By Veronica Harper  
Themes & Variations

# Word Wall Kit

by Veronica Harper

**104 Musical Terms  
and Definitions**

**Color Coded and Categorized**

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# Word Wall Terms

## Articulation

1. accent
2. legato
3. marcato
4. sforzando
5. slur
6. staccato

## Dynamics

7. dynamics
8. crescendo
9. decrescendo
10. diminuendo
11. forte
12. fortissimo
13. mezzo forte
14. mezzo piano
15. pianissimo
16. piano

## Repeats

17. repeat
18. Fine
19. coda
20. Da Capo (D.C)
21. Dal Segno (D.S.)
22. segno

## Tempo

23. tempo
24. grave
25. lento

26. largo
27. adagio
28. andante
29. moderato
30. allegro
31. vivace
32. presto
33. prestissimo
34. rallentando (rall.)
35. ritardando (rit.)
36. accelerando
37. maestoso
38. fermata

## Notation

39. accidental
40. bar
41. treble clef
42. common time
43. cut time
44. double bar
45. final bar line
46. eighth note
47. flat
48. half note
49. bass clef
50. key signature
51. meter
52. natural
53. quarter note
54. rest

55. half rest
56. whole rest
57. sharp
58. tie
59. time signature
60. whole note
61. compound time

## Expression

62. dolce
63. espressivo
64. grandioso
65. leggiero
66. molto

## Styles-Periods

67. Baroque
68. blues
69. Classical
70. jazz
71. rap
72. Romantic

## Musical Form

73. call & response
74. canon
75. fugue
76. rondo
77. sonata
78. theme & variation

## Texture

79. homophony

80. monophony
81. polyphony

## Melody-Harmony

82. chord
83. descant
84. harmony
85. interval
86. lyrics
87. major
88. minor
89. phrase
90. scale
91. unison
92. duet
93. trio
94. quartet

## Musical Genres

95. concerto
96. march
97. mass
98. oratorio
99. overture
100. symphony
101. opera

## Other

102. chorus
103. grace note
104. orchestra

## How to Use the Word Wall Kit - Musical Term Flashcards

The Word Wall Kit can be used for students in grades 1 to 8. The musical terms contained in the kit are those terms that are most commonly used in elementary music programs. There are 100 musical words sorted into categories such as dynamics, notation, tempo plus many more. The categories are color coded and each word is numbered to help the teacher find specific words quickly. On one side of the flashcard the musical term is shown and the complete definition is given on the opposite side. There are two flashcards printed on each piece of card stock. Simply cut them in half on a paper cutter and use! If you have a laminator, they could be laminated, but they will be durable even without lamination. There are 24 musical symbols included at the back of this kit. These include the following: crescendo, decrescendo, forte, piano, pianissimo, fortissimo, mezzo forte, mezzo piano, coda, bass clef, natural, flat, sharp, rest, tie, whole note, quarter note, eighth note, half note, fermata, treble clef, segno, repeat and common time. The symbols are printed on their own individual cards instead of on the flashcards, so that students can practice matching the symbol with its name.



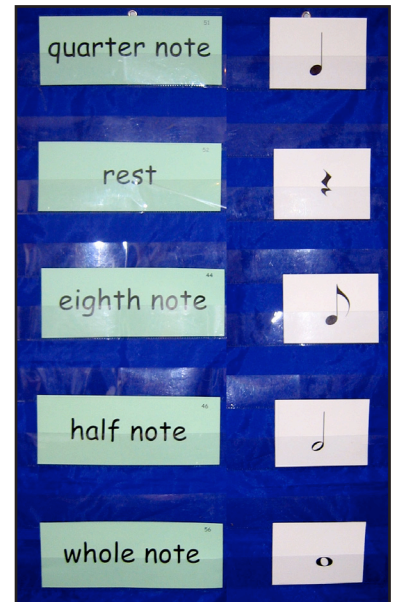
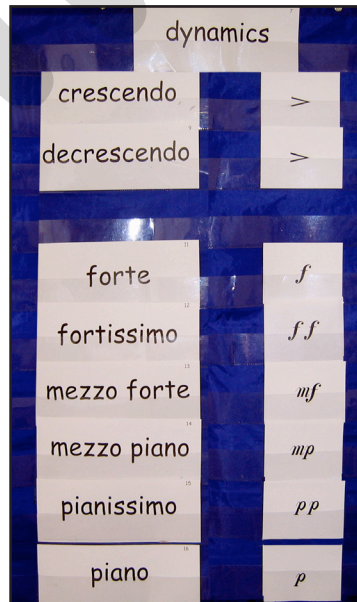
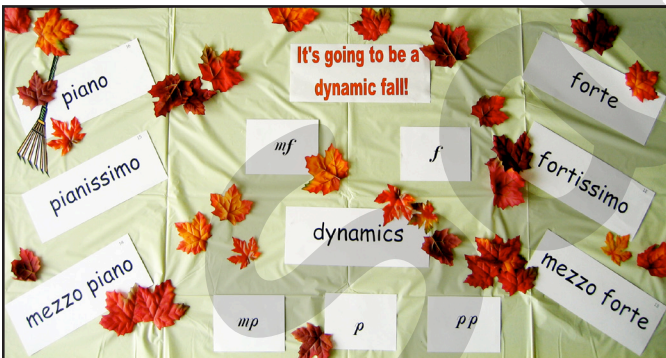
# Why Use a Word Wall?

A word wall isn't simply a bulletin board display. It is an interactive teaching tool. The word wall will help students learn to correctly spell musical terms. When students are writing about music they should be encouraged to refer to the word wall if they have difficulty in spelling a term. A word wall will help students increase their musical vocabulary. When you notice a term in a piece of music that the students are learning, explain it to them and post it on the word wall. When students encounter terms in music that are already on the word wall, they should refer to the wall and review that term. Incorporate the word wall into your daily activities and lessons. Play games to practice the words on the wall. Students who are learning in a classroom with a word wall are at a distinct advantage over other children who do not have that type of resource. Students will be amazed at how many words they have learned over the course of a year.

## Setting Up a Word Wall

There are many creative ways to design a word wall. Some teachers create portable word walls out of folding cardboard or shower curtains. Some teachers even create word walls for each student. The most important element in setting up a word wall is that the words are clearly posted for students to see, so that they are able to recognize and recall words they have studied. Word walls can be used interactively to promote group learning and cooperation. The words chosen for the word wall should be gradually added over time.

## Word Wall Ideas



Try using pocket charts to display words. There are many possibilities!

## Try these ideas for using a word wall in your classroom:

- 1. Word of the Week:** Teach one word to students each week and have them record it in their Word of the Week notebooks. Post the word on the Word Wall.
- 2. Jeopardy:** The teacher may divide the class into two teams for this game. The teacher calls out a point value (100, 200, 300, 400 or 500) then shows the students a word. Team one may try to give the correct definition. If team one is unable to correctly give the definition, then team two may have a turn. In the next round team two is given the first opportunity to give a correct definition. Points are awarded when students give a correct definition. Another option is to have the class work together as one team to try and beat their best score.
- 3. Around the World:** Have students sit in a circle. To begin, one student stands behind another student and the teacher reads a definition of a word. The student who is able to name the word the fastest will continue to move around the circle. When a student who is standing is beaten, they must sit in the place of their competitor, while the winner stands up and continues to work their way around the circle. The student who makes it back to his or her own starting point is the winner.
- 4. Face-Off:** The teacher divides the class into two teams for this game. The teacher reads out a definition of a word while a competitor from each team stands in front of the white board. The student who can write the word correctly on the white board first, earns a point for his or her team.
- 5. Tic-Tac-Toe:** Divide the class into two teams of X's and O's. Draw a large tic-tac-toe playing area on the board and write a musical word in each of the tic-tac-toe spaces. Each team takes a turn coming up, choosing a space and giving a correct definition for the word in that space. If the student gives the correct definition, he or she may draw an X or O for his or her team in that space. If the answer is incorrect, the other team may send a player to try and give a definition of that musical term.
- 6. Race to Erase:** The teacher divides the class into two teams for this game. Each team has their own columns of words written on the board. Each column should be approximately equal in difficulty. Each team stands in a straight line in front of their words. A student from each team chooses a word, and if they can correctly explain what that word means, then they are able to erase it. The team that erases all of their words first wins the race.

# Articulation



accent

Sample



# accent

emphasize the note



*ff*

**fortississimo**



*mf*

**mezzo forte**



*ff*

**fortissimo**

very loud

*mf*

**mezzo forte**

medium loud

18

**Fine**

19



**coda**

**Fine**

the end



**coda**

an ending section

**Tempo**

23

**tempo**



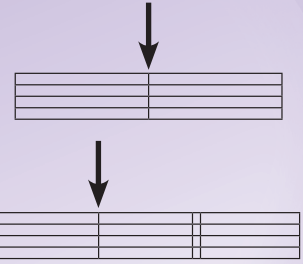
# tempo

how fast or slow the music  
should be played or sung



40

**bar**

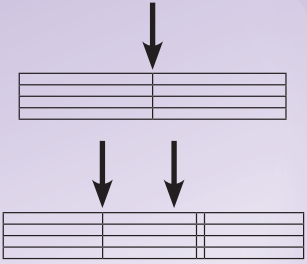


41

**treble clef**



# bar



lines drawn on the staff that divide the music into measures



# treble clef

A symbol that indicates higher notes on the staff. It circles the note G and is used for treble notes

**espressivo**

**grandioso**



# **espressivo**

play with expression



# **grandioso**

play in a noble or  
grand manner

# Styles and Periods

67

## Baroque



# Baroque

The Baroque period lasted from about 1600 to 1750. In the baroque era instrumental music became important. In music with vocal parts, usually the highest voice part was given the melody. Contrasting sections within music evolved and sonatas were developed. Bach is a well known composer from this period.

**rondo**

**sonata**

# rondo

a form of music that alternates a main theme with contrasting themes A B A C A D A...

# sonata

a genre with several movements for an ensemble or soloist, with or without piano accompaniment

80

**monophony**

81

**polyphony**

# monophony

a single unaccompanied melody

# polyphony

two or more melodies played or sung at the same time, each with individuality creating a rich texture



**majoor**

**minor**

# major

A major scale has whole and half steps arranged W W H W W W H. Music in a major key has a "happy" sound.

# minor

A minor scale has whole and half steps arranged W H W W H W W. Music in a minor key has a "sad" sound.

100

**symphony**

101

**opera**

# symphony

a composition for orchestra, normally consisting of several large sections or movements

# opera

a drama that is set to music in which most or all of the characters sing

**Other**

102

**chorus**

# chorus

1. a group of singers who usually sing in parts
2. the refrain of a song

