

Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Symbols, Signs & Terms

Carol McClure, Editor



Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Definitions of Signs, Symbols & Terms

	flat sign – lowers pitch of a note by $\frac{1}{2}$ step
	whole note -- equals 4 quarter note beats
	treble clef sign
	half rest – equals 2 beats
	repeat signs
	eighth notes -- each equals $\frac{1}{2}$ beat
	bass clef sign
	<i>crescendo</i> – gradually getting louder
	quarter rest – equals one quarter note beat
	half note – equals 2 quarter notes
	sharp sign – raises pitch of a note by $\frac{1}{2}$ step
	eighth rest – equals $\frac{1}{2}$ beat
	whole rest -- equals 4 quarter note beats
	accent – give the note indicated more emphasis
	<i>staccato</i> – short and detached
	<i>legato</i> – smooth and connected
	<i>piano</i> – quiet
	<i>forte</i> – loud
	<i>pianissimo</i> – very quiet
	<i>mezzo forte</i> – moderately (medium) loud
	<i>fortissimo</i> – very loud
	<i>mezzo piano</i> – moderately (medium) quiet
	<i>diminuendo</i> – gradually getting quieter
	staff (five lines)

DS 	<i>(dal segno)</i> repeat a specific section of the composition marked by the sign
	<i>fermata</i> – sustain the note
	sixteenth notes -- each equals $\frac{1}{4}$ beat
	<i>coda</i> – closing (end) section of a composition
	natural sign – cancels \flat or \sharp
DC (<i>da capo</i>)	return to the beginning of the composition
	dotted half note – 3 quarter note beats
	quarter note – 1 beat in 3/4 or 4/4 time
	dotted quarter note – 1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ quarter note beats
	sixteenth rest – equals $\frac{1}{4}$ beat
<i>rall.</i>	<i>rallentando</i> – getting slower
<i>rit.</i>	<i>ritardando</i> – getting slower
<i>accel.</i>	<i>accelerando</i> – getting faster
<i>andante</i>	at a walking tempo
<i>allegro</i>	quick, cheerful
<i>allegretto</i>	a quick tempo, between <i>moderato</i> and <i>allegro</i>
<i>moderato</i>	at a moderate tempo
<i>largo</i>	slow
time signature	numbers at the beginning of a composition indicating the meter of the music; upper number = number of beats/bar; lower number = type of note that receives 1 beat

Time Signatures That Should Be Identified Easily

4/4	3/4	2/4	5/4	(4, 3, 2 or 5 quarter note beats per bar)
2/2	3/2	4/2	5/2	(2, 3, 4 or 5 half note beats per bar)
3/8	6/8	9/8	12/8	(3, 6, 8 or 12 eighth note beats per bar)

Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Review Game #1

Name _____ Date _____

1. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$



2 Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$



3. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$



4. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16}$



5. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16}$



6. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{32}$



7. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$



8. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$



9. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16}$



10. Circle the note that equals $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$



Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Review Game #2

Name _____ Date _____

1. Circle the sign that means to lower the pitch of the note by a half step.

b

#

♯

2. Circle the sign that means to raise the pitch of the note by a half step.

b

#

♯

3. Circle the rest that equals 4 quarter note beats – a whole rest.

ꝝ

—

—

4. Circle the rest that equals 2 quarter note beats – a half rest.

ꝝ

—

—

5. Circle the rest that equals 1 quarter note beat – a quarter rest.

ꝝ

—

—

6. Circle the sign that indicates *crescendo* – gradually getting louder.

>

♩

<

7. Circle the sign that indicates *diminuendo* – gradually getting softer.

>

♩

<

8. Which is the softest of these three dynamic levels?

p

pp

mp

9. Which is the loudest of these three dynamic levels?

f

mf

ff

10. How many  (half notes) are in a  (whole note)?

Two

Three

Four

Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Review Game #3

Name _____ Date _____

Match the term or symbol on the left with its definition on the right.

b	whole rest -- equals 4 quarter note beats
o	eighth notes -- each equals $\frac{1}{2}$ beat
♪	bass clef sign
—	<i>crescendo</i> – gradually getting louder
 : 	quarter rest – equals one quarter note beat
♪ ♪	<i>pianissimo</i> – very quiet
♯	sharp sign – raises pitch of a note by $\frac{1}{2}$ step
<	<i>staccato</i> – short and detached
χ	<i>fortissimo</i> – very loud
↓	<i>diminuendo</i> – gradually getting quieter
#	<i>mezzo piano</i> – moderately (medium) quiet
∨	<i>mezzo forte</i> – moderately (medium) loud
—	half rest – equals 2 beats
♪	treble clef sign
—	repeat signs
pp	eighth rest – equals $\frac{1}{2}$ beat
mf	flat sign – raise pitch of a note by $\frac{1}{2}$ step
ff	accent – give the note indicated more emphasis
mp	whole note -- equals 4 beats
>	half note – equals 2 quarter notes

Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Review Game #4

Name _____ Date _____

Complete the definition of the term, symbol or sign.

DS	_____ a specific section of the composition marked by the sign
	<i>fermata</i> – _____ the note
	sixteenth notes -- each equals _____ beat
	<i>coda</i> – _____ section of a composition
	_____ sign – cancels \flat or \sharp
DC (<i>da capo</i>)	return to the _____ of the composition
	dotted half note – _____ quarter note beats
	quarter note – _____ beat in 3/4 or 4/4 time
	dotted quarter note – _____ quarter note beats
	sixteenth rest – equals _____ beat
<i>rall.</i>	<i>rallentando</i> – getting _____
<i>rit.</i>	<i>ritardando</i> – getting _____
<i>accel.</i>	<i>accelerando</i> – getting _____
<i>andante</i>	at a _____ tempo
<i>allegro</i>	_____, cheerful
<i>allegretto</i>	a quick tempo, between <i>moderato</i> and _____
<i>moderato</i>	at a _____ tempo
<i>largo</i>	_____

Viva Voce

Cracking the Code: Review Game #5

Name _____ Date _____

Complete the definitions of the following time signatures.

time signature: numbers at the beginning of a composition indicating the meter of the music

the upper number = number of beats/bar

the lower number = type of note that receives 1 beat

4/4 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

2/2 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

6/8 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

3/4 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

5/2 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

9/8 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

2/4 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

4/2 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

3/8 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

5/4 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

12/8 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat

3/2 _____ beats/bar; _____ note receives 1 beat