## All-State Band and Orchestra Terminology Sheet

(Revised – June 2008 & June 2009 - Definitions taken from the Oxford Dictionary of Music)

\*NOTE: Anyone auditioning for the Orchestra will include the bowing terms in the shaded box at the end;

Students auditioning for the All-State Band test will not include the bowing terms

- 1. accelerando (accel.) gradually growing faster
- accidental chromatic alteration of a note from the key signature until the next bar line (can be extended by a tie)
- 3. ad libitum (ad lib) or a piacere at pleasure, at will
- 4. *a due* ( *a 2* ) for two parts
- 5. affetuoso tenderly, with feeling
- 6. *alla breve* ( $\dot{\mathbf{e}}$ ) 2/2 time, cut time
- 7. allargando getting slower and louder
- 8. amoroso with love, with warm feeling
- 9. animato or con anima lively, animated, spirited
- 10. appassionato or passione passionate, fervent
- 11. assai much, very
- 12. a tempo return to the original tempo
- 13. attacca continue without a pause
- 14. *bravura* great technical skill, virtuosity
- 15. brillante sparkling, spirited
- 16. *cadenza* a brilliant (often highly technical) solo, often found at the end of a movement or a piece
- 17. cadence the close of a melodic or harmonic phrase
- 18. *calmando* or *calmato* quieting down, subsiding
- 19. cantando or cantabile in a singing style, lyrical
- 20. capriccioso fanciful, freely
- 21. *coda* a concluding passage added to the form proper
- 22. *con* with
- 23. *con brio* with vigor, vigorously
- 24. con forza with force, strength
- 25. con fuoco with fire, passionately
- 26. *con sordino* with mute
- 27. con spirito or spiritoso with spirit
- 28. crescendo becoming louder
- 29. da capo (D.C.) from the beginning
- 30. *dal segno (D.S.)* − from the sign ( %)
- 31. decrescendo (decresc.) becoming softer
- 32. *diatonic* notes within a given scale or key
- 33. diminuendo (dim.) becoming softer
- 34. divisi divided parts where there is normally one
- 35. *dolce* sweet, gentle
- 36. doppio movimento twice as fast
- 37. *double flat* (>) lower by one full step
- 38. *double sharp* ( $\mathbf{x}$ ) -- raise by one full step
- 39. *dynamics* the level of loudness
  - $\dots$  *pianississimo (ppp)* very, very soft
  - $\dots$  *pianissimo* (pp) very soft
  - ...piano (p) soft
  - ...mezzo piano (mp) medium soft
  - ...mezzo forte (mf) medium loud
  - $\dots$  *forte* (f) loud
  - ...fortissimo (ff) very loud
  - ... fortississimo (fff) very, very loud

- 40. *e*, *ed* or *et* and
- 41. espressivo with feeling, with expression
- 42. *etude* a study or exercise focusing on a particular technical or musical problem
- 43. *fermata* a pause or hold (^)
- 44. *finale* last movement of a multi-movement work
- 45. *fine* the end
- 46. *forzando* a strong accent
- 47. giocoso humorous, playful
- 48. giusto exact, appropriate or usual tempo
- 49. glissando a glide from one note to the next
- 50. grazioso graceful
- 51. *interval* pitch difference between two notes
- 52. *key signature* sharps or flats placed at the beginning of a selection indicating its key
- 53. largamente broadly
- 54. *legato* smooth, even, without breaks between notes
- 55. *l'istesso tempo* at the same tempo
- 56. *loco* return to normal position
- 57. *maestoso* majestic, with dignity
- 58. marcato accented, stressed
- 59. marcia march
- 60. *meno* less
- 61. molto much, very
- 62. *morendo* fading away
- 63. mosso or moto moved, motion
- 64. *non* no, do not
- 65. *nuance* subtle shading in style
- 66. ossia an alternate version
- 67. *pesante* weighty, ponderous
- 68. *piu* more
- 69. *pochissimo* as little as possible
- 70. *poco a poco* little by little
- 71. *pomposo* stately, pompous
- 72. *quasi* almost, as if
- 73. rallentando (rall.) becoming slower
- 74. ritardando (ritard. or rit.) becoming slower
- 75. *ritenuto (riten.)* immediately slower
- 76. rinforzando (rfz.) a sudden accent
- 77. *rubato* free use of *accel*. and *rit*. within a measure

without altering the duration of the measure as a whole

- 78. sans or senza without
- 79. scherzando playfully
- 80. segue continue without pausing
- 81. *sempre* always, throughout
- 82. sforzando (sfz.) a sudden accent
- 83. *simile* in the same manner
- 84. *soli* a section solo, a group of soloists
- 85. *solo* a part for one performer
- 86. *sonore* resounding, loud
- 87. sordino mute
- 88. sostenuto (sost.) sustained

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89. <i>staccato</i> – detached	~~~I	KEY SIGNATURES~~~	
90. <i>stringendo (string.)</i> – growing faster			
91. <i>subito ( sub. )</i> – suddenly, at once	C Major – no sharps or fla		
92. <i>tacet</i> – be silent	a mi	<b>nor</b> – no sharps or flats	
93. <i>tempo</i> – rate of speed			
grave – solemn and very, very slow	Flat Keys		
<i>largo</i> – very slow	Majors	minors	
adagio, lento, larghetto – slow			
<i>andante</i> – moderately slow	1 - F	1 - D	
andantino – slightly faster that andante			
<i>moderato</i> – moderate, neither fast nor slow	2 - Bb	2 - G	
<i>allegretto</i> – moderately fast			
<i>allegro</i> – fast and lively	3 - Eb	3 - C	
vivo, vivace – very fast and intense			
<i>presto</i> – the fastest conventional tempo	4 - Ab	4 - F	
<i>prestissimo</i> – as fast as possible			
94. <i>tenuto (ten.)</i> – held, sustained for full value	5 – Db	5 - Bb	
95. <i>timbre</i> – tone color			
96. <i>tranquillo</i> – quiet, peaceful	6 – Gb	6 - Eb	
97. <i>trill (tr.)</i> – a rapid alteration between the written note			
and the diatonic second above it	7 – Cb	7 - Ab	
98. <i>troppo</i> – too much			
99. <i>tutti</i> – all, with all performers			
100. <i>un</i> , <i>una</i> , <i>uno</i> – one			
101. <i>unison</i> – together on the same part or in octaves	Sharp Keys		
	Majors	Minors	
~~~SCALES~~~			
	1 – G	1 - e	
Major Scales are diatonic scales with half-steps between			
3-4 and $7-8$ .	2 - D	2 - b	
Natural Minor Scales are diatonic scales with half-steps			
between 2 -3 and 5 -6	3 - A	3 - f #	
Harmonic Minor Scales are natural minor scales with the			
7 <sup>th</sup> scale degree raised a half-step This adds a	4 - E	4 − c #	
half-step between $7 - 8$ , and an interval of $1 \frac{1}{2}$			
steps between $6-7$ .	5 - B	5 – g #	
<b>Melodic Minor Scales</b> are natural scales where the 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup>		6	
scale degrees are raised one half step in the	6 – F #	6 - d #	
ascending form creating half steps between			
2-3 and $7-8$ , These notes are lowered to their	7 – C #	7 – a #	

~~~BOWING TERMS~~~	*	(for anyone a	uditioning	for Al	1-State O	rchestra,	winds,	percussion and	strings	)
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- A.  $\mathbf{up} \ \mathbf{bow} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{moving} \ \mathbf{tip} \ \mathbf{to} \ \mathbf{frog}$
- B. **down bow**  $\Pi$  moving frog to tip
- C. détaché a primarily connected bow stroke with distinct, separate bows

natural state in the descending scale, making it

- D. *slur* connecting more than one note per bow without stopping
- E. staccato short, stopped strokes with the bow remaining on the string

identical to the natural minor. **Chromatic Scales** are scales which proceed by half-step

From the first note to the last note.

- F. *spiccato* –stroke with the bow bouncing off the string
- G. *portato* slightly enunciate each note within a slur using bow weight and speed
- H. *arco* with the bow
- pizzicato plucked
- J. *martelé* hammered; heavily accented *staccato*
- K. *tremolo* an effect produced by rapidly alternating down and up bows

- L. **staccato volant** linked *spiccato* notes in the same direction
- M. *ricochet* thrown/rebound stroke usually in groups of 2 or 3
- N. *flautando* flute-like bowing played near the fingerboard
- col legno the effect produced by striking the string with the stick
- P. *sul ponticello* an icy, whistling effect produced by purposely playing too close to the bridge
- Q. **alto clef** used for viola and trombone to avoid excessive ledger lines: middle C is the center line  $\mathbb{R}$
- R. tenor clef used for cello, trombone, bassoon and double bass: middle C is the fourth line from the bottom  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- S. *vibrato* slight variation of pitch by left hand motion used to add warmth
- Γ. What is the name of this year's All-State Orchestra Conductor?
- U. What are the names of the composers and pieces on this year's ASO concert

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