Tempo

Largo – very slow, broad
Lento – slow
Adagio – slow
Andante – walking pace
Andantino – slightly faster than Andante
Moderato – moderate speed
Allegretto – moderately fast
Allegro – fast, lively
Vivace – lively, brisk
Presto – very fast
Prestissimo – extremely fast

Changes of tempo

accelerando (accel.) – gradually faster
rallentando (rall.) – gradually slower
ritardando (rit.) – gradually slower
ritenuto (riten.) – immediately slower/held back
allargando – becoming broader and slower
stringendo – pressing forward, becoming faster
rubato – flexible tempo
a tempo – return to the previous tempo
Tempo I / Tempo primo – return to the original tempo
più mosso – more movement, faster
meno mosso – less movement, slower

Dynamics

pianissimo (pp) – very soft
piano (p) – soft
mezzo piano (mp) – moderately soft
mezzo forte (mf) – moderately loud
forte (f) – loud
fortissimo (ff) – very loud
crescendo (cresc.) – gradually louder
diminuendo (dim.) – gradually softer
decrescendo (decresc.) – gradually softer
subito piano (sub. p) – suddenly soft
subito forte (sub. f) – suddenly loud

Articulation

legato – smooth and connected
staccato – short and detached
staccatissimo – very short and detached
tenuto – sustained for the full value
marcato – marked, accented
portato – gently detached
legatissimo – very smoothly connected

Expression and character

cantabile – in a singing style
dolce – sweetly
espressivo – expressively
grazioso – gracefully
giocoso – playfully
maestoso – majestically

tranquillo – calmly
scherzando – playfully
brillante – brilliantly
energico – energetically
con brio – with vigour
con moto – with movement
con fuoco – with fire
con anima – with spirit
con forza – with force
con grazia – with grace
con sentimento – with feeling
appassionato – passionately
agitato – agitated
animato – animated, lively
misterioso – mysteriously
semplice – simply
delicato – delicately
sostenuto – sustained
pesante – heavily
leggiero / leggero – lightly

Qualifying terms

molto – very, much
poco – a little
poco a poco – little by little
più – more
meno – less
assai – very, much
sempre – always, continually
subito – suddenly
non troppo – not too much
ma non troppo – but not too much
quasi – almost, as if
con – with
senza – without