

## SING SMART CLASS #6

### MUSICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS From “THE CHORAL SINGER’S HANDBOOK” *Terms are Italian unless otherwise noted.*

#### HANDOUT #13

### ARTICULATION

Articulation refers to the “start” and/or the “finish” of a note:

<i>Legato</i>	<i>Tied together - smoothly</i> Playing or singing notes in an unbroken line <b>Symbol:</b> the word “legato” / a phrase mark over the group of notes
<i>Staccato</i>	<i>Detached</i> Released at half of the note value <b>Symbol:</b> a dot above or below the note
<i>Staccatissimo</i>	<i>As short as possible</i> <b>Symbol:</b> like little arrowheads above or below the note
<i>Tenuto</i>	<i>Slightly detached from its neighbors, but held for its full value</i> <b>Symbol:</b> a short line above or below the note
<i>Accent</i>	<i>A sudden, strong attack of the note</i> <b>Symbol:</b> a small “v”...on its side, above or below the note
<i>Marcato</i>	<i>Emphatic</i>
<i>Sforzando</i>	<i>A sudden strong accent on an INDIVIDUAL note</i> <b>Symbol:</b> <i>sfz</i> or <i>sfz</i>
<i>Rinforzando</i>	<i>A sudden emphasis on a group of notes</i> <b>Symbol:</b> <i>rf</i> or <i>rfz</i>
<i>Leggiero</i>	<i>Lightly</i>

<i>Licht (G)</i>	<i>Light</i>
<i>Fuoco</i>	<i>With fire</i>
<i>Giocoso</i>	<i>Playful</i>
<i>Agitato</i>	<i>Agitated</i>
<i>Cantabile</i>	<i>In a singing style</i>
<i>Espressivo</i>	<i>Esp. expressive</i>
<i>Maestoso</i>	<i>Majestically</i>
<i>Pesante</i>	<i>Heavy</i>
<i>Pomposo</i>	<i>Pompus</i>
<i>Sostenuto</i>	<i>Sustained</i>
<i>Portamento</i>	<i>Sliding from one note to another</i>
<i>Tranquillo</i>	<i>Tranquilly</i>

## HANDOUT # 14

### **DYNAMIC MARKINGS**

*Dynamics indicate how loud or soft the music should be:*

<i>fff</i>	<i>Fortississimo</i>	Extremely loud
<i>ff</i>	<i>Fortissimo</i>	Very loud
<i>f</i>	<i>Forte</i>	Loud
<i>mf</i>	<i>Mezzo forte</i>	Medium loud
<i>mp</i>	<i>Mezzo piano</i>	Medium soft
<i>p</i>	<i>Piano</i>	Soft
<i>pp</i>	<i>Pianissimo</i>	Very soft
<i>ppp</i>	<i>Pianississimo</i>	Softer than pianissimo
<i>Cresc.</i>	<i>Crescendo</i>	Growing Louder
<i>Dim.</i>	<i>Diminuendo</i>	Getting softer
<i>Decresc.</i>	<i>Decrescendo</i>	Getting softer
<i>fp</i>	<i>Fortepiano</i>	Loud followed immediately by soft
<i>Hairpins</i>		Cresc. or dim. relates to one note or many

## HANDOUT #15

### SPEED MARKINGS

At the beginning of each movement you will find a great deal of information:  
Clef, Key signature, Time signature, Speed marking

Some common Italian speed indications are:

<b>Grave</b>	Very slow, ponderous
<b>Langsam (G)</b>	Slow
<b>Largo</b>	Slow, stately
<b>Largetto</b>	Slightly faster than Largo
<b>Adagio</b>	Slow
<b>Lento</b>	Slow
<b>Andante</b>	Medium to slow “walking” pace
<b>Moderato</b>	At a moderate speed
<b>Allegretto</b>	Fairly quick
<b>Allegro</b>	Quick
<b>Vivace</b>	Lively, quick
<b>Presto</b>	Fast

## HANDOUT #16

### TEMPO MODIFIERS

Italian words used in conjunction with other terms for sudden or gradual changes in pulse:

<b>Rallentando</b> ( <i>Rall.</i> )	Gradually slower
<b>Ritenuto</b> ( <i>Rit.</i> )	Marked reduction in tempo
<b>Ritardando</b> ( <i>Rit.</i> )	Gradually slowing
<b>Rubato</b>	Elasticity of tempo
<b>A Tempo</b> ( <i>following a rit., etc.</i> )	Return to the original speed
<b>Allargando</b>	Broadening: a little slower and louder
<b>Accelerando</b> ( <i>Accel.</i> )	Gradually faster
<b>Allentando</b>	Slowing down
<b>A tempo</b>	In tempo
<b>Calando</b>	Lower in volume, slower in tempo
<b>Morendo</b>	Dying away
<b>Lo stesso (L'istesso) tempo</b>	After change of time signature, the value of either the beat or the bar remains the same

## HANDOUT #17

### **MUSICAL TERMS**

<b>A cappella</b>	Unaccompanied voices
<b>Ad lib. (L)</b>	At will
<b>All' ottava (8va)</b>	An octave higher
<b>Ancora</b>	Again
<b>Anima</b>	With spirit
<b>Appassionato</b>	Intense, with passion
<b>Misterioso</b>	Mysteriously
<b>Attacca</b>	Begin the next section at once
<b>Calmo</b>	Calm
<b>Come prima</b>	As before
<b>Coda</b>	An enhanced end of a piece
<b>Quasi</b>	As if, almost
<b>Primo</b>	First
<b>Doppio</b>	Double
<b>Sempre Immer (G)</b>	Always
<b>Simile; sim.</b>	Similarly
<b>Istesso</b>	Same
<b>Joyeux (F)</b>	Joyous
<b>Lamentoso</b>	Plaintive

<b>Maggiore</b>	Major
<b>Minore</b>	Minor
<b>Mezza voce</b>	Half voice
<b>Ornaments</b>	Musical flourishes that decorate the melodic line
<b>Sotto voce</b>	With subdued sound
<b>Segue</b>	Next section follows immediately
<b>Tempo</b>	Rate of speed of a composition
<b>Tempo primo</b>	Resumption of earlier tempo
<b>Trill; tr (E)</b>	Rapid alternation of a note with its upper neighbor – assume that the upper neighbor is in the indicated key signature
<b>Tutti</b>	All
<b>Unison</b>	All performing the same melody
<b>Voce</b>	Voice

## HANDOUT #18

### **ITALIAN MODIFIERS, SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**These Italian words modify the main terms:**

<b>Ma</b>	But
<b>Meno</b>	Less
<b>Molto</b>	Very, a lot
<b>Troppo</b>	Too much
<b>Non troppo</b>	Not too much
<b>Piu'</b>	More
<b>Poco</b>	A little
<b>Poco a poco</b>	
<b>Piu'</b>	
<b>Peu a' peu (F)</b>	Little by little
<b>Un peu (F)</b>	
<b>Un poco</b>	A little
<b>Subito</b>	Suddenly
<b>Sempre</b>	Always
<b>Assai</b>	Very
<b>Ben</b>	Very
<b>Bien (F)</b>	Very, well
<b>Breit (G)</b>	Broad
<b>Brio</b>	Vigor
<b>Con</b>	With

<b>Cupo</b>	Somber, dark
<b>Dolce</b>	Sweet
<b>E, ed</b>	And
<b>Et (F)</b>	And
<b>Etwas (G)</b>	Somewhat
<b>En allant (F)</b>	Flowing
<b>Ernst (G)</b>	Earnest, serious
<b>Meno</b>	Less
<b>Molto</b>	Very much
<b>Moto</b>	
<b>Mosso</b>	Motion, movement
<b>Nicht (G)</b>	
<b>Non (F)</b>	Not

#### HANDOUT #18-b

### **SYMBOLS / ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>Al fine</b>	To the end
<b>D. C. (da capo)</b>	Repeat from the beginning to the end
<b>D. S. (dal segno)</b>	Repeat from the “sign” to the end
<b>Fine</b>	End
<b>Sf; sfz</b>	
<b>Sforzando</b>	Perform a single note with sudden emphasis