

DYNAMICS

(The volume of the music)

Describing What You Hear

Comment on any changes - don't sum up the whole example with one word (unless it doesn't change!)

The music starts... then... the music ends...

On The Score

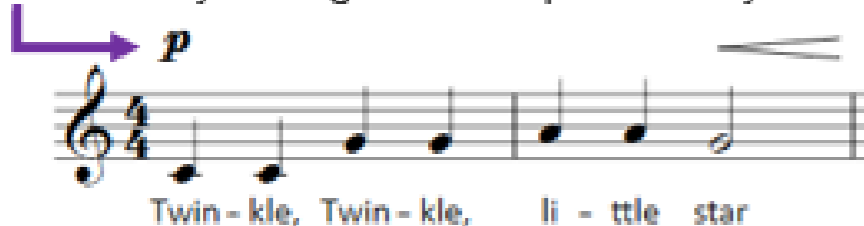
Dynamics are marked underneath the music, to show the instrument how loudly it should play:



If it is a piano, the dynamics usually go in-between the two staves:



For singers, dynamics usually go above the staff, so that they don't get mixed up with the lyrics:



Writing Dynamics

Dynamics can create contrast in music.

Dynamics can add expression to the music.

Dynamics can allow the listener to hear the most important lines in the music.

Marking	Italian Term	Meaning
pp	Pianissimo	Very Quiet
p	Piano	Quiet
mp	Mezzo Piano	Moderately Quiet
mf	Mezzo Forte	Moderately Loud
f	Forte	Loud
ff	Fortissimo	Very Loud
	Crescendo	Getting Louder
	Diminuendo	Getting Quieter
sfz	Sforzando	Sudden Accent

Shh

!!!

Change gradually

Baroque Period: Dynamics were rarely used (no crescendos and diminuendos). Use of Terraced Dynamics.

Classical Period: Some dynamics, to add contrast.

Romantic Period: Lots of crescendos & diminuendos and a large range of dynamics to add expression.

Writing Your Own Dynamics

If using crescendos and diminuendos, make sure you say how loud/quiet you want the music to get. This will clearly show what you want.

