

## **GLOSSARY**

(Source: The Oxford Dictionary of Music, Revised Edition; 1994)

### **Speed:**

**Tempo:** Time. The speed at which a piece of music is performed.

**Adagio:** At ease. Slow.

**Andante:** Moving along, flowing (slowish but not slow).

**Allegro:** Merry, ie. quick, lively, bright.

**Rhythm:** Covers everything pertaining to the *time* aspect of music.

### **Volume:**

**Dynamics:** The graduations of volume in music.

**Piano (dynamic):** Soft, quiet. Opposite of *forte*, loud.

**Mezzo forte:** Half-loud, i.e. neither loud nor soft.

**Forte:** 'Strong', i.e. loud.

**Crescendo:** Growing. Directive used by composers to indicate that a passage should gradually increase in loudness.

**Diminuendo:** Diminishing, i.e. gradually getting quieter.

### **More terms:**

**Ensemble:** Together. Any combination of performers, but especially a small group playing individual parts.

**Harmony:** The simultaneous sounding (i.e. combination) of notes, giving what is known as vertical music, contrasted with horizontal music.

**Melody:** A succession of notes, varying in pitch, which have an organized and recognizable shape.

Melody is 'horizontal', i.e. the notes are heard consecutively, whereas in harmony notes are sounded simultaneously ('vertical').

**Pitch:** The location of a sound in the tonal scale, depending on the speed of vibrations from the source of the sound, fast ones producing a high pitch and slow ones a low.

**Unison:** Sounding of the same note by all performers.

**Legato:** Bound together. Performed so that there is no perceptible pause between notes, i.e. in a smooth manner, the opposite of *staccato*.

**Staccato:** Detached. Method of playing a note (shown by a dot over the note) so that it is shortened - and thus 'detached' from its successor - by being held for less than its full value.