

Dynamics

Dynamics refer to how loud or soft a note, phrase, or passage of music should be performed.

Dynamics from softest to loudest

pianissimo (pp) – very soft

piano (p) - soft

mezzo piano (mp) – medium soft

mezzo forte (mf) – medium loud

forte (f) -loud

fortissimo (ff) – very loud

Crescendo (*cresc.*) – gradually getting
louder

Decrescendo (*decresc.*) – gradually getting
softer



Decrescendo synonyms: diminuendo
(*dim.*), morendo, perdendosi

Other Dynamics

Sforzando (*sfz*) – strongly accented

Fortepiano (*fp*) – loud then immediately soft

Niente (*n*) – nothing

Sotto voce - whispered

Dynamic Indications

Poco – little

Molto – much

Sempre – always

Subito – suddenly

Ex: subito forte = suddenly loud