



Glossary

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GLOSSARY

Combined Glossary for Books 1, 2 and 3

The terms defined here are the ones that came up in **Book 3**. For a cumulative glossary, see 'Glossary for Books 1, 2 and 3' below.

accompaniment: a component of a piece of music that supports and enhances the tune. In piano music, the left hand often plays an accompaniment while the right hand plays the tune.

arpeggio: see 'broken chord'.

bar: British name for 'measure'. See 'measure'.

bar-line: a vertical line on the staff that separates two measures. Also see 'double bar-line'.

bass: (pronounced the same as 'base'): low-pitched.

bass clef: a clef that shows that the 4th line up from the bottom of the staff represents the F below middle C. The bass clef is usually used for the left hand of piano music and for low-pitched instruments and voices. See also 'bass', clef and 'staff'.

beat:

1. The **beat** is the regular pulsing of a piece of music.
2. One of those regular pulses is also referred to as a **beat**.

A 'pulse' is a short burst of energy.

'Pulsing' means repeating bursts of energy.

'Regular' means that the pulses occur with even timing, like the ticking of a clock.

broken chord or arpeggio: a chord played one note at a time, instead of all the notes being played at the same time.

chord: a set of 2 or more notes played or sung together.

clef: A clef is a symbol placed on the staff to indicate the pitch of one of the lines. See '**treble clef**', which is the most commonly used type of clef.

coda: a section at the end of a piece of music that brings the music to an end with a sense of completeness. 'coda' is the Italian word meaning 'tail'.

common time: another name for the 4/4 time signature. See '**time signature**'.

compound time: any time signature in which the beats subdivide into 3 equal parts.

counting: the practice of saying aloud, or thinking silently, the number of each beat in a measure at the time the beat occurs.

Da Capo (abbreviation: **D.C.**): the performer should jump back to the start of the piece of music and play again from there. 'Da capo' is Italian for 'from the head'.

Da Capo al Coda (abbreviation: **D.C. al Coda**): the performer should go back to the start of the music and repeat part of it, but then jump to a coda to finish the piece off.

Da Capo al Fine (abbreviation: **D.C. al Fine**): the performer should go back to the start of the music and play until he sees the word 'Fine', and stop there.

Dal Segno (abbreviation: **D.S.**): the performer should jump back to a sign earlier in the music and play again from there. 'Dal Segno' is Italian for 'from the sign'.

dotted rhythm: the rhythm created by a dotted note, followed by a short note that has the same duration as the dot. It can also be the other way round, with the short note preceding the dotted note.

double bar-line: a double vertical line that indicates the end of a piece of music. It can also be used to show the end of a section in a piece of music. Also see 'bar-line'.

8th note (British name: **quaver**): a note that is half as long as a quarter note. When the quarter note represents one beat, the 8th note is half a beat.

Fine (pronounced 'fee-nay'): the end of a piece of music. 'Fine' is Italian for 'end'.

fingerings: a number above or below a printed note suggesting which finger to use to play the note.

5-finger position: a position of the hand with the 5 fingers covering 5 adjacent keys.

4-part harmony: music that has 4 different tunes all played or sung at the same time, combining to create pleasing harmonies. At any moment in time, the 4 tunes create a chord made up of 4 notes.

first ending (also called **first time bar**): one or more measures that are played the first time through a repeated section.

frequency: the number of back-and-forth movements per second made by a vibration. See '**vibration**'.

grand staff: (British name: **great stave**): a pair of staves connected by a brace. The grand staff is used for printing the right hand and left hand of piano music.

harmonic progression: the effect created when different harmonies are played one after another.

harmony: the effect created when a number of pitches are played together.

keeping time: (a) being continuously aware of the beat and (b) always knowing which beat you have reached in a piece of music you are playing or singing.

key: (also called a **note**): one of the black or white moving parts on the keyboard that you push down to make a musical sound.

keyboard: (also called a **piano keyboard**): the collection of keys (also called 'notes') on a piano, electronic keyboard, or similar instrument.

leger line or ledger line: a short line used to extend the staff upward or downward, to indicate the pitch of a note that is above or below the staff.

manuscript paper (USA name: music paper): paper with 5-line staves printed on it, for use in writing music.

march time: an alternative name for the time signature '2/4', which is often used for music that people march to.

measure (British name: **bar**): the section of music between two bar-lines. Usually, every measure has the same number of beats as defined by the repeating pattern of that piece of music.

metronome: a device used by musicians to help them control the speed of their playing. The metronome can be adjusted to various speeds, measured as beats per minute.

music: an artistic creation made up of a series of pitches occurring with regularity of time.

music paper: see **manuscript paper**.

musical sound: a sound with a specific frequency of vibration. See 'vibration'.

noise: sound with a random mixture of frequencies. See 'frequency'.

note:

1. a **note** is a single musical sound, such as you hear when you push down one of the black or white keys on your keyboard.
2. a **note** is a symbol imprinted music that represents a single musical sound.

octave: the difference in pitch between two white keys that are 8 notes apart and have the same name. From the Latin 'oct' meaning 'eight'. (The term 'octave' also applies to black keys. More about that when you get to **Book 4: Read and Play the Music You Want to Play.**

pickup measure: a measure at the start of a piece of music that has fewer beats than indicated by the time signature.

pickup notes: The notes in a pickup measure.

pitch: our perception of the frequency of a musical sound. A high frequency (fast vibration) is perceived as a high pitch. A low frequency (slow vibration) is perceived as a low pitch. See 'frequency'.

.repeat sign or repeat mark: a symbol indicating that a section of music is to be played twice. The symbol at the start of the section is the **left repeat sign**, and the symbol at the end of the section is the **right repeat sign**.

rest:

1. a **rest** is a period in a piece of music where the instrument playing the music is silent.
2. a **rest** is a symbol in printed music that indicates the instrument is to be silent.

rhythm: a regular recurring pattern of strong and weak sounds.

second ending (also called **second time bar**): one or more measures that are played the second time through a repeated section.

simple time: any time signature in which the beats subdivide into 2 equal parts.

16th note (British name: **semiquaver**) (also written as '16th note'): a note that has a quarter of the duration of a quarter note. When the quarter note represents one beat, the 16th note has a duration of quarter of a beat.

sound: our perception of vibrations in the air. See '**vibration**'.

staff: (British name: **stave**): a set of 5 lines and 4 spaces between the lines, that is used in music to indicate pitch.

subdividing the beat: playing notes that are shorter than one beat in duration.

syncopation: a type of rhythm in which stress occurs off the beat or on beats that are normally unstressed.

tie: a symbol that means two notes of the same pitch are to be played as if they were a single note. The duration of the combined note is the duration of the first note + the duration of the second note. A tie is shown as a curved line above or below two notes.

time signature: a pair of numbers, one over the other, that indicates the pattern of the music. The top number indicates how many beats are in each measure, and the bottom number indicates which type of note represents 1 beat.

treble: high-pitched.

treble clef: a clef that shows that the 2nd line up from the bottom of the staff represents the G above middle C. Also see '**treble**', '**clef**' and '**staff**'.

triad: a chord consisting of 3 notes that appear on 3 consecutive lines or 3 consecutive spaces.

triplets: a group of 3 notes of equal duration, occupying a time that is normally occupied by 2 notes.

tune: a sequence of musical sounds that has a pleasing effect and a sense of completeness.

2-part harmony: music that has 2 different tunes played or sung at the same time, combining to create pleasing harmonies. At any moment in time, the 2 tunes create a chord made up of 2 notes.

vibration: a rapid back-and-forth motion.