

Musical Terms and Expressions

Expression and Technique

cantabile play in a singing or flowing style

doloroso play in a sorrowful or lamenting style

dramatico play in a dramatic style with a striking and exaggerated show of emotion

e this letter is an Italian word meaning *and*

fluido play in a flowing and smooth style

fourths the distance between the right and left hand parts is an interval of a fourth

(an interval is the distance between two notes)

gioioso play in a joyous and cheerful style

giulivo play in a merry, festive and joyful style

grazioso play in a graceful and elegant style

legato play smoothly and connected

leggiero play lightly

marziale play in a martial, march-like and/or military style

misterioso play with a mysterious or secretive character

nostalgia a longing for days gone by

parallel motion the right hand and left hand always move in the same direction at the same

distance from each other

sentimentale play with emotion resulting from feeling rather than thinking

sempre Italian word meaning *always*; it can be used with any musical term

(e.g. *staccato sempre*--meaning to play staccato all the time)

staccato this word means the same as a dot placed over or under a note; let go of the

note quickly as you play it detached or separated from the next note

tranquillo play in a quiet, peaceful, and calm style