

CHORAL TERMS LIST

	A	B
1	A Cappella -	singing without instrumental accompaniment
2	Accelerando -	gradually faster
3	Accent -	stress or emphasis on certain notes
4	Adagio -	slowly
5	Agitato -	agitated
6	Air -	a melody or song
7	Allargando -	gradually slower
8	Allegro -	fast
9	Andante -	walking tempo
10	Aria -	a solo in an opera
11	Arranger -	person who adapts a musical work
12	Art songs -	classical songs
13	Balance -	relationship of one section of the choir to the rest
14	Ballad -	a song that tells a story
15	Bar line -	divides music into measures
16	Baritone -	the middle range male voice
17	Bass -	the lowest male voice
18	Basso buffo -	the comic role sung by the bass
19	Basso profundo -	sings the lowest bass notes
20	Blend -	relationship of a voice to those around it
21	Bridge -	transitional, moving from one section to another
22	Cadence -	at the end of each phrase, the point of arrival or rest
23	Cadenza -	an elaborate passage at the end of a vocal solo
24	Canon -	a single melody begun by one part and followed in imitation by one or more voices
25	Cantata -	vocal composition that contains many movements (sections)
26	Carol -	a traditional song for Easter or Christmas
27	Chanson -	French word for song
28	Chant -	a spoken recitation on a pitch
29	Chanty -	a sea song
30	Choir -	group of voices singing as one
31	Chord -	3 or more pitches sounded at the same time
32	Coda -	an added ending to a piece
33	Codetta -	a short ending
34	Coloratura -	soprano with a light, sparkling voice
35	Common time -	same as 4/4 (C)
36	Composer -	person who wrote the music
37	Conducting patterns -	hand motions used to indicate meter, tempo, and interpretation
38	Consonance -	describes qualities of agreement and stability
39	Contertenor -	highest tenor, male voice
40	Contralto -	lowest female voice, sometimes referred to as an alto
41	Crescendo -	to get louder
42	Cut time -	(Alla Breve) 2 beats per measure
43	Da Capo -	repeat from the beginning (D.C.)
44	Dal Segno -	repeat from the sign (D.S.)
45	Debut -	the first public appearance of a composition
46	Decrescendo -	to get softer
47	Diaphragm -	layer of muscle under the lungs that creates proper breath support
48	Diction -	clear pronunciation of the text
49	Diminuendo -	to gradually soften
50	Dissonance -	describes qualities of disagreement and restlessness
51	Divisi -	divided vocal parts
52	Dolce -	sweetly
53	Dominant -	the 5th degree of the scale and the chord built on that note (V) (Sol)
54	Dynamics -	the degree of volume
55	Elegy -	a sad, mournful piece

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56	Espressivo	with expression
57	Etude -	a musical study
58	Falsetto -	a false tone above the normal voice range
59	Fermata -	to hold the note longer than its normal value
60	Fine -	the end
61	Flat -	lowers a note a 1/2 step
62	Form -	the orderly arrangement of music
63	Forte -	loud - f
64	Forte piano -	loud and suddenly soft - fp
65	Fortissimo -	very loud - ff
66	Glottal stop -	holding your breath while singing/release of air that causes an attack against the larynx
67	Harmony -	2 or more tones sounded at the same time
68	Heterophonic -	different, varied, diverse, some instruments used
69	Homophonic -	characterized by church hymn. Melody in top part/others are harmonic support
70	Hymn -	a religious or sacred song
71	Improvisation -	making up the melody and line within the given key on the spot
72	In tempo -	in time
73	Interval -	the distance between two notes
74	Intonation -	the accuracy of pitch
75	Introduction -	preparation for the piece to begin
76	Keynote -	pitch that is the tonal center of the key (do)
77	Largo -	the slowest tempo marking
78	Legato -	smoothly
79	Leger lines -	small lines added above or below the staff
80	Libretto -	the words of an opera (or musical)
81	Lieder -	art song
82	Liturgy -	the formal program of music in a worship service
83	Lullaby -	cradle song
84	Lyric soprano -	has a "warm" voice
85	Madrigal -	a cappella secular songs with 4 to 6 parts and polyphonic in texture
86	Maestoso -	majestically
87	Marcato -	strong with accents
88	Measure -	group of beats divided by bar lines
89	Melody -	a succession of single musical tones
90	Meno -	less
91	Meno mosso -	less motion
92	Messa di voce -	attack of a sustained vocal tone pp, crescendo to ff, and return to pp
93	Mezzo - soprano -	the middle range female singing voice
94	Mezzo forte -	medium loud - mf
95	Mezzo piano -	medium soft - mp
96	Moderato -	moderately
97	Molto -	much
98	Monophonic -	one melody line, no embellishments, and with no accompaniment
99	Morendo -	to die away
100	Mosso -	motion
101	Motif -	the musical idea around which the composition is developed
102	Multimeter -	a composition consists of frequent meter changes
103	Natural -	cancel any sharp or flat
104	Neumes -	the name of early notes
105	Nodules -	thickened tissue/callouses on the vocal folds
106	Octave -	The interval of an 8th
107	Opera -	a musical drama that is sung rather than spoken
108	Operetta -	a lighter opera in which some parts are spoken
109	Oratorio -	a long work without costumes or scenery, usually religious in nature

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110	Ostinato -	a repeated rhythmic or melodic pattern
111	Phonic -	produces sound
112	Phrase -	the expansion of the motif, an incomplete statement
113	Pianissimo -	very soft - pp
114	Piano -	soft - p
115	Poco a poco -	little by little
116	Polyphonic -	many sounds
117	Presto -	very fast
118	Prime -	interval of a unison
119	Programmatic -	attempted to tell a story, set a mood, or describe a scene
120	Range -	a spectrum of notes a voice can sing, from lowest to highest
121	Repeat -	to sing again
122	Requiem -	a mass sung for the dead
123	Retrograde -	to sing backwards
124	Retrograde canon -	one voice sings from beginning to end/another voice sings from end to beginning
125	Ritardando -	to slow down
126	Rondo -	ABACA
127	Rubato -	a change in tempo according to the composition's melodic line
128	Scale -	an arrangement of pitches in succession through a certain order of whole and half steps
129	Score -	notation of a composition
130	Segue -	to continue on immediately
131	Senza -	without
132	Serenade -	a romantic song
133	Sforzando -	hit the note and get down in volume
134	Sharp -	raises a note a 1/2 step
135	Sight-singing -	the ability to sing music at first sight (solfege)
136	Simile -	to continue in a like manner
137	Slur -	a curved line connecting notes of different pitch
138	Song form -	song with a verse and a chorus
139	Soprano -	the highest female singing voice
140	Sostenuto -	sustained
141	Sotto voce -	under the breath
142	Spiritual -	a Negro song dealing with a religious subject
143	Staccato -	short and snappy
144	Staff -	5 lines and 4 spaces
145	Subdominant -	the 4th degree of the scale and the chord built on that note (IV) (fa)
146	Subito -	suddenly
147	Syncopation -	strong note on a weak beat
148	Tacet -	silent, not to be performed
149	Tempo -	rate of speed
150	Tenuto -	to hold the note for its full value
151	Tessitura -	the general "lie" of a vocal part, an average pitch level
152	Texture -	how the music is put together
153	Tie -	a curved line connecting notes of the same pitch
154	Timbre -	tone color of the singing voice
155	Time signature -	top number - how many beats in measure/bottom - what kind of note gets one beat
156	Tonic -	the first degree of the scale and the chord built on that note (I) (do)
157	Transpose -	to rewrite and perform in a key other than the original
158	Tutti -	all
159	Unison -	interval where both pitches are the same/all sing the same note
160	Vocalise -	a vocal exercise or etude, sung to vowels or syllables