

## Musical Terms and Definitions Study Guide

**Allegro** - Fast tempo

**Alto Clef** - The clef in which viola music is written

**Andante** - Slower, walking tempo

**Arco** - To play with the bow on the string

**Arpeggio** - A chord whose pitches are played one at a time

**Bar Lines** - These divide the music staff into measures

**Bass Clef** - The clef in which cello and bass music is written

**Beat** - The pulse of the music

**Bow Lift** - The process of lifting the bow and retuning it to its starting point

**Chord** - Two or more pitches sounding at the same time, another name for Harmony

**Chromatics** - Notes altered with sharps, flats, and naturals, often in a pattern of two or more notes in a sequence of half steps.

**Common Time** - Another name for the time signature 4/4

**D.C. al Fine** - Play until you see the D.C. al Fine. Then go back to the beginning and play until you see Fine (fee-nay). D.C. is the abbreviation for Da Capo, the Italian term for "return to the beginning." Fine is the Italian word for "the finish."

**Dotted Half Note** - 3 beats of sound

**Double Bar** - A double bar indicates the end of a piece of music

**Down Bow** - Move the bow away from your body (to the right)

**Duet** - A composition with two different parts, played together

**Dynamics** - Tell us what volume to play or sing

**Eighth Note** - 1/2 a beat of sound, played twice as fast as a quarter note

**Eighth Rest** - 1/2 a beat of silence, played twice as fast as a quarter rest

**1st and 2nd Endings** - Play the 1st ending the 1st time through. Then, repeat the same section

of music, skip the 1st ending, and play the 2nd ending.

**Forte (f)** - Play loudly, add more weight and use faster bow strokes

**Half Note** - 2 beats of sound, played twice as long as a quarter note

**Half Rest** - 2 beats of silence, played twice as long as a quarter note

**Half Step** - The smallest distance between two notes

**Harmony** - Two or more pitches sounding at the same time, also known as a chord

**Hooked Bowing** - Two or more notes played in the same direction with a stop between each note

**Improvisation** - The art of freely creating your own music as you play

**Key Signature** - A key signature tells us what notes to play with sharps and flats throughout the entire piece

**Ledger Lines** - These lines extend the music staff higher or lower

**Measures** - A block of 5 staff lines enclosed on either end by bar lines

**Measure Number** - A number above (or below) the staff that shows how many measures you have played in the piece of music

**Moderato** - Medium tempo

**Music Staff** - The music staff consists of 5 lines and 4 spaces

**Natural** - A natural sign cancels a flat or sharp and remains in effect for the entire measure

**Piano (p)** - Play softly, Remove weight from the bow and move the bow slower

**Pickup** - Another name for an upbeat. A note (or notes) that appears before the first full measure. The remaining beats are found in the last measure

**Pizzicato (pizz.)** - To pluck the strings

**Quarter Note** - 1 beat of sound

**Quarter Rest** - 1 beat of silence

**Repeat Sign** - A sign with two dots that tell you to go back to the beginning and play the music again

**Repeat Signs (enclosed)** - Repeat the section of music enclosed by the repeat signs

**Round** - Two (or more) groups playing the same section of music at different times to create chords and harmonies

**Scale** - A sequence of notes in ascending or descending order

**Sharp** - Raises the sound of notes and remains in effect for the entire measure

**Slur** - A curved line that connects two or more different pitches

**Solo** - A composition written for one player, often with piano accompaniment

**Staccato** - Marked with a dot above or below the note. Played with a stopped bow stroke.

**Tempo Markings** - Tempo is the speed of the music. Tempo markings are usually written above the staff, in Italian.

**Theme and Variations** - A musical form where a theme, or melody, is followed by different versions of the same theme

**Tie** - A curved line that connects notes of the same pitch

**Time Signature** - A time signature tells us how many beats are in each measure and what kind of note gets the beat

**Treble Clef** - The clef in which violin music is written

**Up Bow** - To move the bow toward your body (to the left)

**Upbeat** - A note (or notes) that appears before the first full measure (also known as a pickup). The remaining beats are found in the last measure.

**Whole Note** - 4 beats of sound, played 4 times as long as a quarter note

**Whole Rest** - 4 beats of silence, played 4 times as long as a quarter note

**Whole Step** - Two half steps combined

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Musical Terms/Definitions Practice Worksheet 1

**Directions:** Write the word that best describes each definition on the line.  
Choose the word from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Fast tempo
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - These divide the music staff into measures
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - A composition with two different parts, played together
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - The smallest distance between two notes
5. \_\_\_\_\_ - A sign with two dots that tell you to go back to the beginning and play the music again
6. \_\_\_\_\_ - Medium tempo
7. \_\_\_\_\_ - Two half steps combined
8. \_\_\_\_\_ - Two or more pitches sounding at the same time, another name for Harmony
9. \_\_\_\_\_ - The clef in which violin music is written
10. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 beat of silence

### Word Bank

**Whole Step**

**Allegro**

**Bar Lines**

**Chord**

**Quarter Rest**

**Repeat Sign**

**Duet**

**Half Step**

**Moderato**

**Treble Clef**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Musical Terms/Definitions Practice Worksheet 2

**Directions:** Write the word that best describes each definition on the line.  
Choose the word from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ - Two (or more) groups playing the same section of music at different times to create chords and harmonies
12. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 beats of silence, played twice as long as a quarter note
13. \_\_\_\_\_ - Indicates the end of a piece of music
14. \_\_\_\_\_ - Another name for an upbeat. A note (or notes) that appears before the first full measure. The remaining beats are found in the last measure
15. \_\_\_\_\_ - A curved line that connects two or more different pitches
16. \_\_\_\_\_ - 4 beats of silence, played 4 times as long as a quarter note
17. \_\_\_\_\_ - Another name for the time signature 4/4
18. \_\_\_\_\_ - Tells us how many beats are in each measure and what kind of note gets the beat
19. \_\_\_\_\_ - The pulse of the music
20. \_\_\_\_\_ - Tells us what notes to play with sharps and flats throughout the entire piece

### Word Bank

Whole Rest

Round

Pickup

Beat

Half Rest

Common Time

Key Signature

Time Signature

Slur

Double Bar

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Musical Terms/Definitions Practice Worksheet 3

**Directions:** Write the word that best describes each definition on the line.  
Choose the word from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

21. \_\_\_\_\_ - Slower, walking tempo
22. \_\_\_\_\_ - 3 beats of sound
23. \_\_\_\_\_ - Two or more pitches sounding at the same time, also known as a chord
24. \_\_\_\_\_ - A composition written for one player, often with piano accompaniment
25. \_\_\_\_\_ - To pluck the strings
26. \_\_\_\_\_ - Two or more notes played in the same direction with a stop between each note
27. \_\_\_\_\_ - Play the 1st of these the 1st time through. Then, repeat the same section of music, skip the 1<sup>st</sup> one, and play the 2nd of these.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ - 4 beats of sound, played 4 times as long as a quarter note
29. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1/2 a beat of sound, played twice as fast as a quarter note
30. \_\_\_\_\_ - Tell us what volume to play or sing

### Word Bank

**Dynamics**

**Solo**

**Eighth Note**

**Harmony**

**Hooked Bowing**

**Whole Note**

**Andante**

**Dotted Half Note**

**Pizzicato (pizz.)**

**1st and 2nd Endings**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Musical Terms/Definitions Practice Worksheet 4

**Directions:** Write the word that best describes each definition on the line.  
Choose the word from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

31. \_\_\_\_\_ - Notes altered with sharps, flats, and naturals, often in a pattern of two or more notes in a sequence of half steps.
32. \_\_\_\_\_ - The process of lifting the bow and retuning it to its starting point
33. \_\_\_\_\_ - The art of freely creating your own music as you play
34. \_\_\_\_\_ - Move the bow away from your body (to the right)
35. \_\_\_\_\_ - To play with the bow on the string
36. \_\_\_\_\_ - A sequence of notes in ascending or descending order
37. \_\_\_\_\_ - Play until you see this sign. Then go back to the beginning and play until you see Fine (fee-nay).
38. \_\_\_\_\_ - The clef in which viola music is written
39. \_\_\_\_\_ - A block of 5 staff lines enclosed on either end by bar lines
40. \_\_\_\_\_ - These tell you to play again the same section of music that is enclosed by these signs

### Word Bank

**Bow Lift**

**Down Bow**

**D.C. al Fine**

**Chromatics**

**Alto Clef**

**Improvisation**

**Arco**

**Repeat Signs (enclosed)**

**Measures**

**Scale**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Musical Terms/Definitions Practice Worksheet 5

**Directions:** Write the word that best describes each definition on the line.  
Choose the word from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

41. \_\_\_\_\_ - A chord whose pitches are played one at a time
42. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1/2 a beat of silence, played twice as fast as a quarter rest
43. \_\_\_\_\_ - A musical form where a theme, or melody, is followed by different versions of the same theme
44. \_\_\_\_\_ - To move the bow toward your body (to the left)
45. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 beats of sound, played twice as long as a quarter note
46. \_\_\_\_\_ - Marked with a dot above or below the note. Played with a stopped bow stroke.
47. \_\_\_\_\_ - This sign cancels a flat or sharp and remains in effect for the entire measure
48. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 beat of sound
49. \_\_\_\_\_ - Raises the sound of notes and remains in effect for the entire measure
50. \_\_\_\_\_ - A note (or notes) that appears before the first full measure (also known as a pickup). The remaining beats are found in the last measure.

### Word Bank

Arpeggio

Quarter Note

Staccato

Natural

Theme and Variations

Up Bow

Upbeat

Half Note

Sharp

Eighth Rest