









COMMON MUSICAL SYMBOLS for piano






ARPEGGIOS & GLISSANDI

 <p>Arpeggio Play the notes of the chord "broken", one after the other bottom to top.</p>	 <p>Down arpeggio Play the notes of the chord "broken", one after the other top to bottom.</p>	 <p>Glissando Continuously play all the notes, "slide", from one pitch to the next.</p>
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ARTICULATIONS

 <p>Slur Play the passage smoothly and shape as if it's a sentence.</p>	 <p>Accent "Accent" the note by playing it louder.</p>	 <p>Staccato "Spring". The note should be short and detached from the next.</p>	 <p>Tenuto Hold the note for its full value. The note should sound defined.</p>	 <p>Marcato Emphasise the note.</p>
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BARLINES

 <p>Barline Indicates a rhythmic unit of the time signature, marking where beats begin and end.</p>	 <p>Double barline Separates two sections of music.</p>	 <p>Start repeat sign Indicates the start of a repeated section (if not from the beginning).</p>	 <p>End repeat sign Instruction to (go back) and repeat a section and indicates the end of a repeated section.</p>	 <p>End barline Marks the end of a piece of music.</p>
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BREATHS & PAUSES

 <p>Fermata Pause, take longer than the strict note value.</p>	 <p>Breath mark Take a breath, like a comma in a sentence.</p>
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CLEFS

 <p>Treble clef Represents notes in the high register, above Middle C</p>	 <p>Bass clef Represents notes in the low register, below Middle C</p>
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DYNAMICS

<i>pp</i> Pianissimo Very soft	<i>p</i> Piano Soft	<i>mp</i> Mezzo piano Moderately soft	<i>mf</i> Mezzo forte Moderately loud	<i>f</i> Forte Loud
<i>ff</i> Fortissimo Very loud	<i>sfz</i> Sforzando Suddenly forced	<i>fp</i> Fortepiano Loud then suddenly soft	<i>pf</i> Pianoforte Soft then suddenly loud	
<i>cresc.</i> _ Crescendo Gradually get louder	<i>dim.</i> _ Diminuendo Gradually get softer	 Crescendo Gradually get louder	 Diminuendo Gradually get softer	



GRACE NOTES & ORNAMENTS

 Acciaccatura A "crushed" note, played as quickly as possible before the main note.	 Appoggiatura A "grace" note, delaying the main note.	 Trill A rapid alternation between the main note and its upper neighbour.	 Mordent A rapid 3-note ornament -- main / upper neighbour / main note.	 Turn A 4-note melodic decoration following the main note -- upper neighbour / main / lower neighbour / main.
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OTTAVA

 Ottava alta To be played an octave higher than written.	 Ottava bassa To be played an octave lower than written.
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REPEAT ENDINGS

 1st ending Played the first time only (before repeating a section of music).	 2nd ending Played the second time only (after repeating a section of music).
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PEDALLING

 Pedal mark Depress the sustain pedal (right pedal), then release.	 Pedal mark Depress the sustain pedal (right pedal), then release.	 Pedal mark Depress the sustain pedal (right pedal), then release.	 Pedal mark Depress the sustain pedal (right pedal), then release.
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