COMMON MUSICAL SYMBOLS for piano

ARPEGGIOS & GLISSANDI

Arpeggio Play the notes of the chord “broken”, one after the other bottom to top.	**Down arpeggio** Play the notes of the chord “broken”, one after the other top to bottom.	**Glissando** Continuously play all the notes, “slide”, from one pitch to the next.

ARTICULATIONS

Slur Play the passage smoothly and shape as if it’s a sentence.	**Accent** “Accent” the note by playing it louder.	**Staccato** “Spring”. The note should be short and detached from the next.	**Tenuto** Hold the note for its full value. The note should sound defined.	**Marcato** Emphasise the note.

BARLINES

Barline Indicates a rhythmic unit of the time signature, marking where beats begin and end.	**Double barline** Separates two sections of music.	**Start repeat sign** Indicates where to start a repeated section (if not from the beginning).	**Repeat sign** Instruction to repeat a section of music.	**End barline** Marks the end of a piece of music.

BREATHS & PAUSES

Fermata Pause, take longer than the strict note value.	**Breath mark** Take a breath, like a comma in a sentence.

CLEFS

Treble clef Represents notes in the high register, above Middle C	**Bass clef** Represents notes in the low register, below Middle C

DYNAMICS

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

OTTAVA

8 **Ottava alta** To be played an octave higher than written.	8 **Ottava bassa** To be played an octave lower than written.

REPEAT ENDINGS

1. **1st ending** Played the first time only (before the repeat).	2. **2nd ending** Played the second time only (after the repeat).

PEDALLING

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