



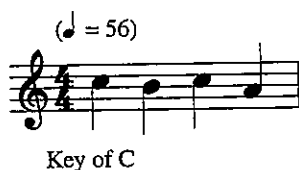
TEMPO

Name _____

TEMPO

Tempo is how fast or slow the steady beat is counted in music. Composers of today will often use a note followed by a number to indicate tempo. This note and number system tells the musician how many beats to count in one minute and what kind of note gets that beat.

Example:



In this example, the quarter note (♩) gets the beat and the composer wants 56 beats per minute. This would be like a normal heart rate (60 beats per minute). A mechanical device called a metronome is used to indicate different tempi.

Experiment: Use a stopwatch or clock. Have a friend clap a steady beat. Determine the number of claps or beats per minute. Switch and pick a faster or slower tempo.

Tempo Math:

1. If 60 beats per minute is considered moderate speed, would 120 beats per minute be a faster or slower speed? _____
2. Which is faster, 30 beats per minute or 180 beats per minute? _____
3. Write a tempo that is slower than (♩ = 100). _____

Tempo terms are often written in Italian or other languages. Some of the most common terms are listed below.

<u>Italian</u>	<u>Pronounced</u>	<u>English meaning</u>
Largo, Lento	LAHR-goh	very slow
Adagio	ah-DAH-jee-oh	moderately slow
Andante	ahn-DAH-neh	"walking tempo"
Andantino	ahn-dahn-TEE-noh	a little faster than Andante
Moderato	mah-deh-RAH-toh	moderately
Allegretto	ah-leh-GRE-toh	a little slower than Allegro
Allegro	ah-LEH-groh	fast
Vivace	vee-VAH-cheh	lively
Presto	PREH-stoh	very fast

Other terms are used to indicate a gradual change in tempo:

Italian	Pronounced	English meaning
Ritardando (rit.)	(ree-tahr-DAHN-doh)	gradually becoming slower
Accelerando (accel.)	(ahk-chel-leh-RAHN-doh)	gradually becoming faster
Poco a Poco	(POH-koh ah POH-koh)	little by little
Molto	(MOHL-toh)	much, very

Matching: Match the English meanings to the Italian terms by drawing a line.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Vivace | much |
| 2. Accelerando | very slow |
| 3. Allegro | lively |
| 4. Molto | gradually becoming faster |
| 5. Largo | fast |

Terms may be combined to indicate very specific directions to a performer.

Allegro moderato is moderately fast.

Bonus: What do you think molto ritardando means? _____

A composer may indicate a temporary change in tempo by using these signs.

Term	Sign	Meaning
Fermata (pronounced fur-MAH-tah)	⤿	hold the note longer than its normal value
Caesura (pronounced seh-SAY-oo-rah)	//	sudden silence; break or pause in the music

