

rubato

with freedom

SATB

an acronym representing soprano, alto, tenor and bass, the four vocal types that comprise a full choir

scale degree numbers

numbers used to identify each note on a scale

scat

improvised 'nonsense' syllables that are sung; common in jazz music

score

written music

sequence

the immediate repetition
of a melodic fragment at
a different pitch

sforzando

with sudden
emphasis

sforzando-piano

with sudden emphasis
then suddenly
decreasing in loudness

slur

notes joined
together; must be
two different notes

solo

part sung or played by a
singer or instrument
performing by
themselves

soprano

female vocal type,
higher than alto

Sprechstimme

speech with melodic
contours

staccato

notes short and
detached

strophic form

vocal form in which the music
contains verses only, each
with the same melody but
different lyrics, as in a hymn

structure

the design or form in
music; the way a piece of
music has been put
together

subito

suddenly

subito forte

suddenly louder

subito piano

suddenly softer

suspension

when a note in one chord is held on into the next chord, to which it doesn't belong; usually resolved with the completion of the second chord

swing rhythm

a feel or 'groove' heard in jazz, especially in swing music, based on two emphasised subdivisions of the beat

symphony

orchestral form of music
containing four (or
occasionally three)
movements distinguished by
their tempo, form and key

syncopation

an emphasis on the
weak or off beats,
created through accents,
rests and ties

synthesised sound

sound made by
combining sounds from
electronic outputs

tempo

the speed at which a
piece of music is
performed

tenor

male vocal type,
higher than baritone
and bass

tension

a term that applies to a piece of music that has a sense of anxiety; sometimes followed by a release or musical resolution
