

**All-State Band and Orchestra Terminology Sheet**  
**(Revised – June 2008 & June 2009 - Definitions taken from the Oxford**  
**Dictionary of Music)**

1. accelerando (accel.) - gradually growing faster
2. accidental – chromatic alteration of a note from the key signature until the next bar line (can be extended by a tie) technical or musical problem
3. ad libitum (ad lib) or a piacere – at pleasure, at will
4. a due ( a 2 ) – for two parts
5. affetuoso – tenderly, with feeling
6. alla breve (.....) – 2/2 time, cut time
7. allargando – getting slower and louder
8. amoroso – with love, with warm feeling
9. animato or con anima – lively, animated, spirited
10. appassionato or passione – passionate, fervent
11. assai – much, very
12. a tempo – return to the original tempo
13. attacca – continue without a pause of a selection indicating its key
14. bravura – great technical skill, virtuosity
15. brillante – sparkling, spirited
16. cadenza – a brilliant (often highly technical) solo, often found at the end of a movement or a piece
17. cadence – the close of a melodic or harmonic phrase
18. calmando or calmato – quieting down, subsiding
19. cantando or cantabile – in a singing style, lyrical
20. capriccioso – fanciful, freely
21. coda – a concluding passage added to the form proper
22. con –with
23. con brio – with vigor, vigorously
24. con forza – with force, strength
25. con fuoco – with fire, passionately
26. con sordino – with mute
27. con spirito or spiritoso – with spirit
28. crescendo – becoming louder
29. da capo ( D.C.) – from the beginning
30. dal segno (D.S.) – from the sign ( . )
31. decrescendo (decresc.) – becoming softer
32. diatonic – notes within a given scale or key
33. diminuendo (dim.) – becoming softer
34. divisi – divided parts where there is normally one
35. dolce – sweet, gentle
36. doppio movimento – twice as fast
37. double flat ( ... ) – lower by one full step
38. double sharp ( . ) -- raise by one full step without altering the duration of the measure as a whole
39. dynamics – the level of loudness
- ...pianississimo – (ppp) – very, very soft

...pianissimo – (pp) – very soft  
...piano – (p) – soft  
...mezzo piano – (mp) – medium soft  
...mezzo forte – (mf) – medium loud  
...forte – (f) – loud  
...fortissimo – (ff) – very loud  
...fortississimo – (fff) – very, very loud

40. e, ed or et – and
41. espressivo – with feeling, with expression
42. etude – a study or exercise focusing on a particular
43. fermata – a pause or hold (...)
44. finale – last movement of a multi-movement work.
45. fine – the end
46. forzando – a strong accent
47. giocoso – humorous, playful
48. giusto – exact, appropriate or usual tempo
49. glissando – a glide from one note to the next
50. grazioso – graceful
51. interval – pitch difference between two notes
52. key signature – sharps or flats placed at the beginning
53. largamente – broadly
54. legato – smooth, even, without breaks between notes
55. l'istesso tempo – at the same tempo
56. loco – return to normal position
57. maestoso – majestic, with dignity
58. marcato – accented, stressed
59. marcia – march
60. meno – less
61. molto – much, very
62. morendo – fading away
63. mosso or moto – moved, motion
64. non – no, do not
65. nuance – subtle shading in style
66. ossia – an alternate version
67. pesante – weighty, ponderous.
68. piu – more
69. pochissimo – as little as possible
70. poco a poco – little by little
71. pomposo – stately, pompous
72. quasi – almost, as if
73. rallentando (rall.) – becoming slower
74. ritardando (ritard. or rit.) – becoming slower
75. ritenuto (riten.) – immediately slower
76. rinforzando (rfz.) – a sudden accent
77. rubato – free use of accel. and rit. within a measure
78. sans or senza – without
79. scherzando – playfully

- 80. segue – continue without pausing
- 81. sempre – always, throughout
- 82. sforzando (sfz. ) – a sudden accent
- 83. simile – in the same manner
- 84. soli – a section solo, a group of soloists
- 85. solo – a part for one performer
- 86. sonore – resounding, loud
- 87. sordino – mute
- 88. sostenuto ( sost. ) – sustained

\*NOTE: Anyone auditioning for the Orchestra will include the bowing terms in the shaded box at the end;

Students auditioning for the All-State Band test will not include the bowing terms

- 89. staccato – detached ~~~KEY SIGNATURES~~~
- 90. stringendo ( string. ) – growing faster
- 91. subito ( sub. ) – suddenly, at once C Major – no sharps or flats
- 92. tacet – be silent a minor – no sharps or flats
- 93. tempo – rate of speed
  - ... grave – solemn and very, very slow Flat Keys
  - ... largo – very slow Majors minors
  - ... adagio, lento, larghetto – slow
  - ... andante – moderately slow 1 – F 1 - D
  - ... andantino – slightly faster than andante
  - ... moderato – moderate, neither fast nor slow 2 – Bb 2 - G. ... allegretto – moderately fast
  - ... allegro – fast and lively 3 – Eb 3 - C. ... vivo, vivace – very fast and intense
  - ... presto – the fastest conventional tempo 4 – Ab 4 - F
  - ... prestissimo – as fast as possible
- 94. tenuto ( ten. ) – held, sustained for full value 5 – Db 5 - Bb
- 95. timbre – tone color
- 96. tranquillo – quiet, peaceful 6 – Gb 6 - Eb
- 97. trill ( tr. ) – a rapid alteration between the written note and the diatonic second above it 7 – Cb 7 - Ab
- 98. troppo – too much
- 99. tutti – all, with all performers
- 100. un, una, uno – one
- 101. unison – together on the same part or in octaves Sharp Keys  
Majors Minors  
~~~SCALES~~~
- 1 – G 1 - e  
Major Scales are diatonic scales with half-steps between  
3 -4 and 7 – 8. 2 – D 2 - b  
Natural Minor Scales are diatonic scales with half-steps  
between 2 -3 and 5 -6 3 – A 3 – f #  
Harmonic Minor Scales are natural minor scales with the  
7th scale degree raised a half-step.. This adds a 4 – E 4 – c #

half-step between 7 – 8, and an interval of 1 ½

steps between 6 – 7. 5 – B 5 – g #

Melodic Minor Scales are natural scales where the 6th and 7th

scale degrees are raised one half step in the 6 – F # 6 – d #

ascending form creating half steps between

2 – 3 and 7 – 8, These notes are lowered to their 7 – C # 7 – a #

natural state in the descending scale, making it

identical to the natural minor.

Chromatic Scales are scales which proceed by half-step

From the first note to the last note.

~~~BOWING TERMS~~~ \* ( for anyone auditioning for All-State Orchestra, winds,  
percussion and strings )

A. up bow – V – moving tip to frog L. staccato volant – linked spiccato notes in the same  
direction

B. down bow – . - moving frog to tip M. ricochet – thrown/rebound stroke usually in  
groups of 2 or 3

C. détaché – a primarily connected bow stroke with distinct, N. flautando – flute-like  
bowing played near the fingerboard

separate bows O. col legno – the effect produced by striking the string with the

D. slur – connecting more than one note per bow without stick

stopping P. sul ponticello – an icy, whistling effect produced by purposely

E. staccato – short, stopped strokes with the bow playing too close to the bridge

remaining on the string Q. alto clef – used for viola and trombone to avoid excessive

F. spiccato –stroke with the bow bouncing off the string ledger lines: middle C is the  
center line .

G. portato – slightly enunciate each note within a slur using R. tenor clef – used for  
cello, trombone, bassoon and double bass:

bow weight and speed middle C is the fourth line from the bottom .

H. arco – with the bow S. vibrato – slight variation of pitch by left hand motion used

I. pizzicato – plucked to add warmth

J. martelé – hammered; heavily accented staccato T. What is the name of this year's All-  
State Orchestra Conductor?

K. tremolo – an effect produced by rapidly alternating U. What are the names of the  
composers and pieces on this

down and up bows year's ASO concert