MUSICAL WORDS AND SIGNS

Tempo (Speed) Markings shown on Top Left Corners of Songs

"allegro"	Play at a fast, lively speed.
"allegretto"	Play lively, but not as fast as allegro.
"moderato"	Play at medium speed.
"andante"	Play moderately slow and smooth.

Style Markings

"staccato" — A dot placed above or below a note. Play this note short or detached.

"accent" — A > placed above or below a note. Play the beginning of this note with extra energy.

Repeat Signs

"Repeat Dots" Go back to the beginning and play the music a second time.
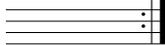
"D.C. al Fine" It stands for "Da Capo al Fine." It means to play the entire song once, then REPEAT FROM THE BEGINNING of the song and stop at the "Fine."

"D.S. al Fine" It stands for "Dal Segno al Fine." It means to play the entire song once, then REPEAT FROM THE SIGN 𝄋 and stop at the "Fine."

"Fine" means to finish or end.

"First and Second Endings" The first time through play Ending #1 and then repeat. The second time skip Ending #1 and play Ending #2 instead.
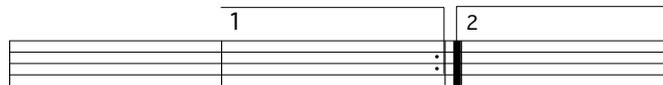
Dynamics or Degrees of Loud and Soft

f	"forte"	Play loud.
p	"piano"	Play soft.
mf	"mezzo forte"	Play medium loud.
mp	"mezzo piano"	Play medium soft.
	"crescendo"	Play gradually louder.
	"decrescendo"	Play gradually softer.

Other Musical Signs and Words

"tie" It is a curved line placed over or under notes of the SAME pitch, connecting them together into one tone for the total number of beats.
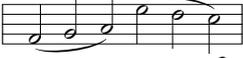
"slur" It is a curved line placed over or under notes of DIFFERENT pitch. Tongue just the first note of the group and glide smoothly to the other note(s).

"leger lines" They are short lines for writing music above or below the staff.

"sharp sign" ♯ It raises a tone by one/half step.

"flat sign" ♭ It lowers a tone by one/half step.

"natural sign" ♮ It is written in front of a note that has been raised or lowered. It changes the note back to normal.

"enharmonic tones" These are two tones (a sharp and a flat) which look different but sound the same (C$^{\#}$ and D^{b}).