

# DYNAMICS

(The volume of the music)

## Writing Dynamics

Dynamics can create contrast in music.

Dynamics can add expression to the music.

Dynamics can allow the listener to hear the most important lines in the music.

## Describing What You Hear

Comment on any changes - don't sum up the whole example with one word (unless it doesn't change!)

The music starts... then... the music ends...

## On The Score

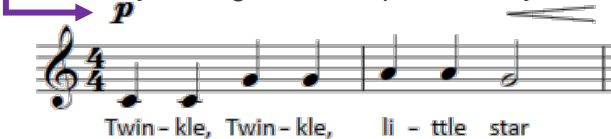
Dynamics are marked underneath the music, to show the instrument how loudly it should play:



If it is a piano, the dynamics usually go in-between the two staves:



For singers, dynamics usually go above the staff, so that they don't get mixed up with the lyrics:



Marking	Italian Term	Meaning
pp	Pianissimo	Very Quiet
P	Piano	Quiet
mp	Mezzo Piano	Moderately Quiet
mf	Mezzo Forte	Moderately Loud
f	Forte	Loud
ff	Fortissimo	Very Loud
	Crescendo	Getting Louder
	Diminuendo	Getting Quieter
sfz	Sforzando	Sudden Accent

Shh

!!!

Change gradually

**Baroque Period:** Dynamics were rarely used (no crescendos and diminuendos). Use of [Terraced Dynamics](#).

**Classical Period:** Some dynamics, to add contrast.

**Romantic Period:** Lots of crescendos & diminuendos and a large range of dynamics to add expression.

## Writing Your Own Dynamics

If using crescendos and diminuendos, make sure you say how loud/quiet you want the music to get. This will clearly show what you want.

