






MUSICAL TERMS

Name _____

TERM	DEFINITION	SYMBOL	Quiz
Tempo	the speed at which a piece is played	X	
Moderato	at a medium tempo	X	
Allegro	fast tempo	X	
Presto	very fast tempo	X	
Andante	walking tempo	X	Friday, 9/23
Lento	slow tempo	X	
Largo	very slow tempo	X	
Ritardando	gradually slow down	rit.	
Accelerando	gradually increase the tempo	accel.	
a tempo	return to the original tempo	X	
Fermata	hold the note until the director stops		Friday, 9/30
Dynamics	words or signs indicating how loud to play	X	
Piano	soft	p	
Forte	loud	f	
Pianissimo	very soft	pp	
Fortissimo	very loud	ff	Friday, 10/7
Mezzo Piano	medium soft	mp	
Mezzo Forte	medium loud	mf	
Crescendo	gradually get louder		
Decrescendo	gradually get softer		Friday, 10/14
Articulations	terms describing how a note should be played	X	
Slur	sing the notes without a break between them		
Staccato	short and detached	.	
Legato	smooth and connected	X	
Tenuto	sing the note for its entire value		Friday, 10/21
Other			
Tutti	everyone plays/sings	X	
Syncopation	shifting the beats emphasis	X	
Common Time	same as 4/4 (Time signature)	X	
Cut Time	same as 2/2 (Time signature)	X	Friday, 10/28