

9-12 All-State Music Vocabulary List 2019-2020

Words in **bold** and with (*) indicates new terms added to list from previous years.

1. A tempo- return to the original tempo after some deviation
2. ***Accelerando – becoming gradually faster**
3. Allargando- slowing of tempo, usually with increasing volume; most frequently occurs toward the end of a piece
4. Allegro con spirito- fast tempo with spirit
5. ***Anacrusis – upbeat or pickup**
6. Andante- rather slow, at a moderate walking speed
7. Arpeggio- the notes of the chord played in succession to one another, rather than simultaneously; a broken chord
8. Bel canto- “beautiful singing”; an Italian Opera term
9. Binary form- AB- form of a composition that has two distinct sections
10. Cantabile- in a singing style; singable
11. Chromatic- motion by half steps; also describes harmony or melody that employs some of the sequential 12 pitches (semi-tones) in an octave
12. D. C. or Da Capo- repeat from the beginning of the composition
13. ***Descant – a high obligato part above the melody**
14. Divisi- performers singing the same part are divided to sing different parts.
15. Dolce- sweetly, usually also softly
16. Espressivo- to play or sing with expression
17. Falsetto- type of vocal phonation that enables the singer to sing notes beyond the normal vocal range.
18. Fermata- a pause or hold
19. ***Form – the organization and structure of a composition**
20. ***Grandioso – grand, majestic**
21. ***Improvisation – music that is created spontaneously**
22. Interval- the relationship between two pitches, the distance between an upper and a lower pitch
23. Largo- very slow and broad
24. ***Ledger lines – short horizontal lines used to extend a staff either higher or lower**
25. Legato- to play or sing in a smooth, connected manner
26. ***L’istesso – the beat remains constant when the meter changes**
27. Meno mosso- less motion
28. Meter- indicated by a time signature, can be simple or compound

29. Mezzo forte- medium loud
30. ***Modulation – to change key within a composition**
31. Motif- a short musical idea or melodic theme, usually shorter than a musical phrase
32. Niente- dying away to nothing
33. Opera- a major vocal work that involves theatrical elements
34. Oratorio- large scale musical composition on a sacred subject.
35. ***Part song – an unaccompanied homophonic choral composition for three or more voices**
36. Poco piu mosso- a little more motion
37. Presto- very fast; faster than allegro
38. Rallentando- gradually slowing down
39. Rubato- Making the established pulse flexible by accelerating and slowing down the tempo; an expressive device
40. Senza- without
41. Sforzando- strongly accented; forced
42. Solfege- a system used for teaching sight-singing (Do-Re-Mi)
43. Sotto voce- Softly; with subdued sound; performed in an undertone
44. Strophic- describes a song where the stanzas are all sung to the same music
45. Subito- suddenly; quickly
46. Tessitura- most widely used range of pitches in a piece of music
47. ***Tranquillo – to perform in a relaxed tempo**
48. Triad- three note chord consisting of the root, third, and fifth
49. ***Vibrato – a rapid fluctuation of pitch slightly higher or lower than the main pitch**
50. Vivace- lively; briskly

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