

FVA 2011-2012
All-State Musicianship Examination
High School Terms Study Guide

NOTE: Bold items are new to the 2011-2012 list.

1. A tempo- return to the original tempo after some deviation
2. Accidentals- symbol used to raise or lower a given pitch by 1 or 2 semi-tones, or to cancel a previous sign or part of a key signature
3. Adagio- slow, leisurely tempo
4. Al fine- to the end, generally used after a repetition
5. Allargando- slowing of tempo, usually with increasing volume; most frequently occurs toward the end of a piece.
6. Allegretto- slightly slower than allegro, often implying lighter texture and character as well
7. Allegro- fast
8. Allegro con spirito- fast tempo with spirit
9. Amabile- sweet, loveable
10. Ancora meno mosso- once more, but a little slower
11. Andante- rather slow, at a moderate walking speed
12. Arpeggio- the notes of a chord played in succession to one another, rather than simultaneously; a broken chord
13. Art song- a composed song in which the text, melody, and accompaniment, are interrelated to create a unified effect.
14. Atonal- music that lacks a tonal center; absence of key
15. Augmented- raised or enlarged. Generally refers to the raising of a pitch by one half-step
16. Cadenza- an improvised or written-out ornamental passage performed by a soloists usually near the final cadence
17. Cantabile- in a singing style; singable
18. Catch breath- a short or partial breath to renew lung supply quickly
19. Chord-3 or more pitches sounded simultaneously or functioning as if sounded simultaneously
20. Chromatic- motion by half steps; also describes harmony or melody that employs some of the sequential 12 pitches (semi-tones)in an octave
21. **Coda- a passage that brings a piece of music to its conclusion; an ending.**
22. **Concerto- composition for instruments in which a solo instrument is set against an orchestral ensemble.**
23. D.C. or Da Capa- repeat from the beginning of the composition
24. D.S. or Dal Segno- repeat from the sign
25. Diminished- lowered, or reduced; generally refers to the lowering of a pitch chromatically by one half step
26. **Diminuendo- gradually reduce volume, getting softer**
27. Divisi- performers singing the same part are divided to sing different parts.
28. Dolce- sweetly, usually also softly
29. Embellishment- ornamentation added to music to make it more beautiful or effective, or to demonstrate the abilities of the performer
30. **Falsetto- type of vocal phonation that enables the singer to sing notes beyond the normal vocal range.**
31. Fermata- a pause or hold
32. **Fortissimo- very loud**
33. Forward tone- focused tone; a tone with major frontal resonance of the mouth and vocal mask
34. Grave- solemn, with dignity
35. Grazioso- graceful
36. Gruppo ad lib- a group of notes played or sung at the will or pleasure of the singer
37. Half-step- a semi-tone. There are 12 half-steps in an octave

38. Harmony- any collection of pitches as they sound simultaneously, or when pitches are in agreement
39. Interval- the relationship between two pitches, the distance between an upper and a lower pitch
40. Key- the pitch relationships that establish a tonal center
41. Key signature- sharps or flats at the beginning of each staff to indicate which pitches are to be raised or lowered from their natural state during the piece
42. Largo- very slow and broad
43. Leading tone- the seventh degree of the diatonic scale, when it is only a half-step below the tonic, gives the feeling of wanting to move up to the tonic
44. Ledger lines- lines written above or below the staff representing a continuation of the staff, used to indicate pitches above or below the staff
45. Leggiero- lightly
46. Lunga- a long pause that is determined by the performer or director
47. Major scale- A diatonic scale where the half-steps fall between the third and fourth, and the seventh and octave
48. Marcato- marked, stressed
49. **Meter- indicated by a time signature, can be simple or compound**
50. **Mezzo piano- medium soft**
51. Misterioso- play or sing in a mysterious manner
52. Motif- a short musical idea or melodic theme, usually shorter than a musical phrase
53. Natural- a note that is not affected by either a sharp or a flat, a natural sign cancels a previous sharp or flat
54. Niente- dying away to nothing
55. Octave- an interval eight diatonic scale degrees a pitch. Two notes an octave apart have the same letter name, and form the most consonant interval possible.
56. **Oratorio- large scale musical composition on a sacred subject.**
57. **Pesante- heavy, ponderous**
58. **Perdendosi- gradually dying away, softer and slower**
59. Phrase- a single musical idea or element which is often defined by a repeated rhythmic pattern or a melodic contour
60. Portamento- special manner of singing where the voice glides from one tone to the next through all the intermediate pitches
61. Prestissimo- as fast as possible
62. Presto- very fast, faster than allegro
63. Primo- first or upper part
64. Rallentando- gradually slowing down
65. Rubato- making the established pulse flexible by accelerating and slowing down the tempo, an expressive device
66. Sempre- always
67. Senza- without
68. Sequence- the repetition of a phrase at different pitch levels using the same or similar intervals
69. Sforzando- strongly accented, forced
70. Simile- continue to perform in a similar manner
71. Sotto voce- softly; with subdued sound; performed in an undertone
72. Staccato- detached, crisply played
73. Stringendo- pressing forward, becoming faster and usually louder, in a hurrying manner
74. Strophic- describes a song where the stanzas are all sung to the same music
75. Subito- suddenly, quickly
76. Tacet- indicates that a particular voice or instrument is silent for an extended passage or movement
77. Tenuto- fully sustained, occasionally even a bit longer than the note value requires
78. **Tessitura- most widely used range of pitches in a piece of music**
79. Tonic- the key center, the foundation of a scale or melody
80. Vivace - lively, briskly