Semester 1 Music Vocab

Instructions: This is the vocab portion of your Semester 1 study guide. You are responsible for learning all music terms listed on this handout - this includes the term, abbreviation, symbol, and definition. For your assignment review the material and then locate an example of each term in your Christmas music.

Tempo Markings (music terms that give you instructions on how fast or slow to sing)

Music Terms	Music Terms Abbreviation Definition		Example in Music (Song & measure #)
Tempo		A music term that gives you instructions on how	
		fast or slow to sing	
Largo		A tempo marking indicating to sing very slow	
Lento		A tempo marking indicating to sing slow	
Adagio		A tempo marking indicating to sing slow	
Andante		A tempo marking indicating to sing at a walking tempo	
Moderato		A tempo marking indicating to sing at a moderate tempo – not too slow, not too fast	
Allegro		A tempo marking indicating to sing quickly and cheerfully	
Vivace		A tempo marking indicating to sing lively and fast	
Ritardando	rit. or ritard.	A tempo marking indicating that you should gradually sing slower	
Poco Ritardando	Poco rit	A tempo marking indicating that you should gradually slow down just a little bit	
Rallantando	Rall	A tempo marking indicating that you should gradually slow down	
Rallantando al fine	Rall al fine	A tempo marking indicating that you should continue to gradually slow down until you get to the end of the song.	
Accelerando	accel.	A tempo marking indicating that you should gradually sing faster	
A tempo		A phrase that tells you to sing at the previous tempo or speed.	
= 100		A tempo marking indicating that you should sing at a tempo (speed) of singing 100 quarter notes	
= 69		A tempo marking indicating that you should sing at a tempo (speed) of singing 69 half notes () per minute	
J = 145		A tempo marking indicating that you should sing at a tempo (speed) of singing 145 quarter notes	

	() per minute	

Dynamics (music terms that give you instructions on how loud or soft to sing)

Music Terms	Abbreviation	Symbol	Definition	Example in Music (Song & measure #)
Dynamics			A music term that gives	
			instructions on how loud or soft to	
			sing	
Pianissimo	pp		To sing very soft	
Piano	р		To sing soft	
Mezzo Piano	mp		To sing medium soft	
Mezzo Forte	mf		To sing medium loud	
Forte	f		To sing loud	
Fortissimo	ff		To sing very loud	
Crescendo	cresc		To gradually sing louder	
Poco crescendo	Poco cresc		To gradually get a little bit louder	
Decrescendo /	decresc		To gradually sing softer	
Diminuendo	dim			

Time Signatures

Where do you find a time signature?

• Time signatures are found at the beginning of a piece of music. They are located on the very first measure of the song. Time signatures appear as 2 numbers stacked on top of each other



What information does a time signature give you?

- The top number of a time signature tells you how many beats are in a measure
- The bottom number of a time signature tells you what kind of note (quarter, eighth, half, etc) is equal to 1 beat or count.
 - When you see a 4 on the bottom this refers to a quarter note () the quarter note will equal 1 beat
 - When you see an 8 on the bottom this refers to an eighth note (1) the eighth note will equal 1 beat
 - \circ When you see a 2 on the bottom this refers to a half note ($\stackrel{\downarrow}{\circ}$) the half note will equal 1 beat

Time Signature	Beats per Measure	Type of note that = 1 beat	Example in Music (Song & measure #)
4/4 time	4	quarter note ()	
C time (same as 4/4)	4	quarter note ()	
3/4 time	3	quarter note ()	
2/4 time	2	quarter note ()	
6/8 time	6	eighth note (♪)	
3/8 time	3	eighth note (🗥)	
2/2 time	2	half note ()	

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C	2		
		half note (d)	