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Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

Stephen Hill

K-12 Band and Orchestra
Whittier Christian Schools and California High School


SARAHTIM Music Publishing




This series of 40 videos and accompanying worksheets was designed to introduce my students to the basic vocabulary and fundamental elements of reading and writing music. It is not intended as an in-depth study of all that Music Theory entails.

Though written with my students in mind and from the perspective of how I presented the concepts, the videos and worksheets are available to anyone who may find them helpful.

You can view the video tutorials and download the PDF worksheets from my website at www.stephenhillcomposer.com under *Resources*. The videos are also viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@stephenhillcomposer>.

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About the Composer...**Stephen Hill** (b. 1958) was born and raised in Southern California. He studied composition with Philip Westin at Cerritos College (CA), W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas), and Byong Kon Kim at California State University, Los Angeles. Stephen's studies with these composers connect him to a lineage that includes their teachers, Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, Bernhard Heiden, and Howard Hanson. Stephen composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music in the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Although semi-retired, Stephen continues to work with students by teaching part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege of composing beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM — a title that comes from simply combining the names of his daughter, Sarah, and son, Timothy. (*Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University*)

“Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence.” J.S.Bach

“The Lord is my shepherd...” (Psalm 23)

To listen to Stephen's music, view pdf and video scores visit:
www.stephenhillcomposer.com


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Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

18.

Tempo (How Fast and Slow)

Stephen Hill
K-12 Band and Orchestra
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SARAHTIM Music Publishing


The Basic Elements of Music

18. Tempos

Listening List

Allegro

1. Symphony No. 40 - Mozart <https://youtu.be/0sGqkMU-mGQ>
2. Symphony No. 4 - Tchaikovsky <https://youtu.be/F0oUySiC8SM>

Largo

1. Sarabande in d minor - Handel <https://youtu.be/u-qHtYfktiQ>

Grave

1. Overture to The Messiah - Handel <https://youtu.be/FLQrecgNYA0>

Andante

1. Piano Concerto No. 21 - Mozart



Adagio to Allegro

1. Symphony No. 1 (1st Mvt) - Beethoven



Tempo Chart

Source: Dictionary of Musical Terms (1895 Edition)
by Theodore Baker

Class I - Terms for Slower Tempos

- I. Largo - with slow and stately motion (♩=40-60)
 - a. Larghissimo - very, very slowly (♩=20-40)
 - b. Largamente - very slowly (♩=40-60)
 - c. Larghetto - slowly (♩=55-65)
- II. Grave - heavy, dragging (♩=20-40)
- III. Lento - Slowly (♩=40-60)
- IV. Adagio - Slow, tranquil (♩=60-70)
 - a. Adagietto (♩=65-75)

Class II - Terms for Faster Tempos

- I. Andante - moving, walking pace (♩=75-95)
 - a. Andantino (♩=80-100)
 - b. Allegretto (♩=100-110)
 - b. Moderato (♩=100-120)
- II. Allegro - Quickly (♩=120-160)
- III. Vivace - Lively (♩=160-170)
- IV. Presto - Rapidly (♩=170-200)

Class III - Terms for Changing Tempos

- I. Slowing Down
 - a. Rallentando - gradually slowing the tempo down
 - b. Ritardando - gradually slowing the tempo down (not as much)
- II. Speeding Up
 - a. Stringendo - gradually increasing the tempo slowly
 - b. Accelerando - gradually increasing the tempo quickly
- III. Slight Adjustments
 - a. Poco a poco - little by little
 - b. Meno Mosso- less motion

Time _____

Name _____

Tempo Markings Worksheet 1

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. _____ Largo | A. Gradually increasing the tempo quickly |
| 2. _____ Grave | B. Gradually increasing the tempo slowly |
| 3. _____ Lento | D. Gradually slowing the tempo |
| 4. _____ Adagio | E. Rapidly |
| 5. _____ Andante | F. Lively |
| 6. _____ Allegro | G. Less |
| 7. _____ Vivace | H. Moving at a walking tempo |
| 8. _____ Presto | I. With slow and stately motion |
| 9. _____ Ritardando | J. Little |
| 10. _____ Rallentando | K. Slow and tranquil |
| 11. _____ Stringendo | L. Slowly |
| 12. _____ Accelerando | M. Gradually slowing the tempo (not as much) |
| 13. _____ poco | N. Heavy, dragging |
| 14. _____ meno | O. Quickly |

Time _____

Name _____

Tempo Markings Scramble Worksheet 2

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. _____ tln eo | A. Rallentando |
| 2. _____ tnenada | B. Presto |
| 3. _____ grlao | D. Ritardando |
| 4. _____ setorp | E. Accelerando |
| 5. _____ vaerg | F. Poco |
| 6. _____ gdoresntni | G. Stringendo |
| 7. _____ nome | H. Grave |
| 8. _____ dogai | I. Meno |
| 9. _____ ocpo | J. Lento |
| 10. _____ rcocaa delen | K. Andante |
| 11. _____ lroea lg | L. Allegro |
| 12. _____ edanolalrnt | M. Adagio |
| 13. _____ natodidrar | N. Vivace |
| 14. _____ evaivc | O. Largo |

Tempo Markings Worksheet 1

1. I Largo

2. N Grave

3. L Lento

4. K Adagio

5. H Andante

6. O Allegro

7. F Vivace

8. E Presto

9. M Ritardando

10. D Rallentando

11. B Stringendo

12. A Accelerando

13. J poco

14. G meno

A. Gradually increasing the tempo quickly

B. Gradually increasing the tempo slowly

D. Gradually slowing the tempo

E. Rapidly

F. Lively

G. Less

H. Moving at a walking tempo

I. With slow and stately motion

J. Little

K. Slow and tranquil

L. Slowly

M. Gradually slowing the tempo (not as much)

N. Heavy, dragging

O. Quickly

Tempo Markings Scramble Worksheet 2

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <u>J</u> tlnéo | A. Rallentando |
| 2. <u>K</u> tnenada | B. Presto |
| 3. <u>O</u> grlao | D. Ritardando |
| 4. <u>B</u> setorp | E. Accelerando |
| 5. <u>H</u> vaerg | F. Poco |
| 6. <u>G</u> gdoresntni | G. Stringendo |
| 7. <u>I</u> nome | H. Grave |
| 8. <u>M</u> dogaiá | I. Meno |
| 9. <u>F</u> ocpo | J. Lento |
| 10. <u>E</u> rcocaadelen | K. Andante |
| 11. <u>L</u> lroعال | L. Allegro |
| 12. <u>A</u> edanolalrnt | M. Adagio |
| 13. <u>D</u> natodidrar | N. Vivace |
| 14. <u>N</u> evaivc | O. Largo |