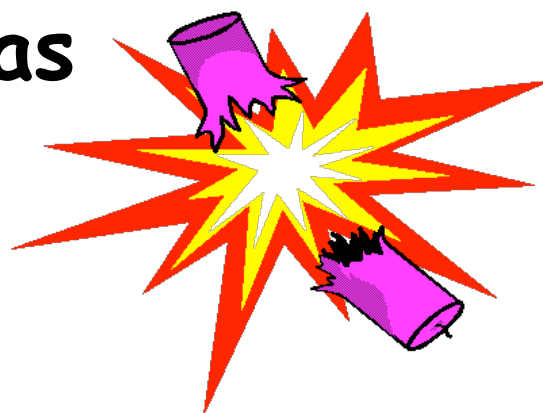


**Dynamics = Power**

**Same root word as**

**DYNAMITE**



**How powerful is the sound?**

**Soft? Loud? In between?**

The **volume control** on your iPod effectively changes the dynamic level in your earbuds, but you can still perceive whether something was performed loudly or softly.

**Music without dynamics is lifeless, uninteresting, and lacks intensity!**

**Dynamics move a piece with gradual changes and sudden changes for special effects and surprise.**

**Dynamics are listed in Italian terms**

Basic Italian for Loud: forte *f*

Basic Italian for Soft: piano *p*

Why did the Italian inventor  
Bartolomeo Christophori call  
this instrument the forte-  
piano?



Basic Italian for medium: mezzo

*mf*

This means mezzo forte or  
MEDIUM LOUD.

Can you sing mezzo forte?

Here they are in order  
from loudest to softest

*ff* fortissimo = very loud

*f* forte = loud

*mf* mezzo forte = medium loud

*mp* mezzo piano = medium soft

*p* piano = soft

*pp* pianissimo = very soft

Arrange these in order  
from soft to loud

*mp*

*pp*

*f*

*ff*

*p*

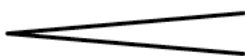
*mf*

Hands-on. Use the ActiveBoard and a Pen to drag and drop!

Get louder

gradually

**crescendo**



**cresc.**

**poco a poco** means "little by little"  
or very gradually.

**molto** means "a lot" or "much"  
indicating a more drastic change  
in volume

**Activity:** Count to 8 aloud with a steady beat making a crescendo  
or dim. with your voice.

Get softer

gradually

**decrescendo**



**decresc.**

**diminuendo**

**dim.**