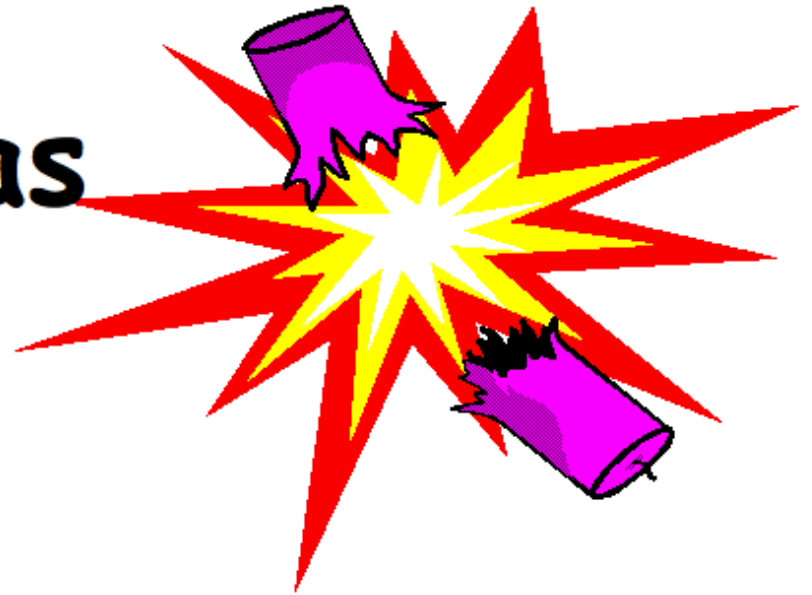


Dynamics = Power

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



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.

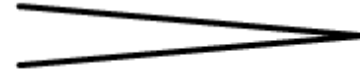
molto means "a lot" or "much"
indicating a more drastic change

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

Get softer

gradually

decrescendo



decresc.

diminuendo

dim.

CONDUCTORS (Directors) may use a

larger or **smaller** beat patterns or CUES to indicate dynamics, but a **musician** is ALWAYS responsible for performing at the composer's indicated dynamic level and **listening** when performing in a group to match levels with others (**blend**) in the section and with the larger ensemble (**balance**).