## **Describing What You Hear**

Comment on any changes - don't sum up the whole example with one word (unless it doesn't change!)

The music starts... then... the music ends...

# **DYNAMICS**

(The volume of the music)

# **Writing Dynamics**

Dynamics can create contrast in music.

Dynamics can add expression to the music.

Dynamics can allow the listener to hear the most important lines in the music.

#### On The Score

Dynamics are marked underneath the music, to show the instrument how loudly it should play:



If it is a piano, the dynamics usually go in-between the two staves:



For singers, dynamics usually go above the stave, so that they don't get mixed up with the lyrics:



Marking	Italian Term	Meaning	
рр	Pianissimo	Very Quiet	Shh <b>T</b>
Р	Piano	Quiet	
mp	Mezzo Piano	Moderately Quiet	
mf	Mezzo Forte	Moderately Loud	
f	Forte	Loud	
ff	Fortissimo	Very Loud	111
	Crescendo	Getting Louder	adually
	Diminuendo	Getting Quieter	Change gradually
sfz	Szorzando	Sudden Accent	

Baroque Period: Dynamics were rarely used (no crescendos

and diminuendos). Use of Terraced Dynamics.

Classical Period: Some dynamics, to add contrast.

Romantic Period: Lots of crescendos & diminuendos and a

large range of dynamics to add expression.

### **Writing Your Own Dynamics**

If using crescendos and diminuendos, make sure you say how loud/quiet you want the music to get. This will clearly show what you want.

