

# 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.

## Describing What You Hear

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

## On The Score

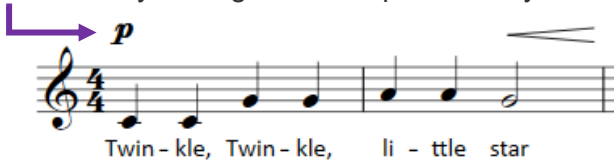
Dynamics are marked underneath the music, to show the instrument how loudly it should play:



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



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



| Marking | Italian Term | Meaning          |
|---------|--------------|------------------|
| pp      | Pianissimo   | Very Quiet       |
| p       | Piano        | Quiet            |
| mp      | Mezzo Piano  | Moderately Quiet |
| mf      | Mezzo Forte  | Moderately Loud  |
| f       | Forte        | Loud             |
| ff      | Fortissimo   | Very Loud        |
|         | Crescendo    | Getting Louder   |
|         | Diminuendo   | Getting Quieter  |
| sfz     | Sforzando    | Sudden Accent    |

Shh

!!!

Change gradually

**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.

