

Italian Terms for the Speed of Music

Whenever we talk about the speed of music we talk about its *tempo*

The international language for musical terms is Italian.

<i>Presto</i>	Very Fast
<i>Allegro</i>	Fast and Lively
<i>Andante</i>	At an easy walking pace
<i>Moderato</i>	At a moderate Speed
<i>Adagio</i>	Slowly

Unscramble these music terms and write their meanings:

O R E G L L A

O M A T O D R E

G A D O I A

N E T D A A N

O P S T E R

Terms for Changing Tempo

<i>Accelerando</i>	Gradually becoming faster
<i>Rallentando</i>	Gradually becoming slower
<i>Ritardando</i>	Gradually becoming slower
<i>Ritenuto</i>	Immediately slower, held back
<i>A Tempo</i>	Return to former speed

What two terms both mean “gradually becoming slower”?

After what other terms would you find the words “A Tempo” on a piece of music?

What’s the difference between Ritardando and Ritenuto?

What is the correct term for “speeding up” in a piece of music?
