

Common French and German Musical Terms

Don't just guess what important musical terms mean!

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These are the terms most commonly encountered in horn solo literature. Terms related to stopped and muted horn are * marked.

French

- à plein son: a full sound
- au mouvt: with movement/A tempo
- *avec sourdine: muted
- cède: go slower
- comme un echo lointain: like a distant echo
- *cuivrés: brassy
- *enlevez sourd.: remove mute
- legerement: lightly
- legerement retenu: slightly slower
- lent: slow
- *mettez sourd.: insert mute
- moins vif: less lively
- *ouvert: open
- plus lent: more slowly
- retenu: ritard
- revenez: gradually faster
- *sons bouchés: stopped
- *sons naturels: open
- très: very
- très marque: very markedly
- très modere: very moderately
- très vif: very lively

German

- allmählich: gradually
- bewegt: moved, agitated
- breit(er): (more) broadly
- *Dämpfer: mute
- erste Zeitmass: first tempo
- etwas breiter: somewhat more broadly
- etwas lebhafter: somewhat faster
- etwas zurückhaltend: holding back (tempo) somewhat
- frisch: fresh
- *gedämpft: muted
- *gestopft: stopped
- Hauptzeitmass (haupttempo): Tempo of the beginning (Tempo I)
- immer: still (continuing)
- langsam: slowly
- lebhaft(er): (more) lively [Allegro]
- mässig: moderately
- Mit grossem Ton: with a big tone
- *offen: open
- ohne: without
- *ohne Dämpfer: without mute
- ruhig: calmly
- sehr: very
- Volles Zeitmass: full tempo
- wie vorher: as before
- wieder: again
- Zeitmass: tempo

For a somewhat longer list focused on orchestral terms I recommend the list at the back of the *Horn Player's Audition Handbook*, edited by Arthur LaBar, published by Warner Bros. Publications.

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