Name _____ Date _____

Articulation and Other Markings: Staccato, Legato, Accent and Fermata

Directions: Composers write small markings into music to show how each note should be played. Think about exactly what each marking asks the musician to do.

1. Match each marking to what it tells the musician to do.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ staccato
2. _____ legato
3. _____ accent
4. _____ fermata
5. _____ pizzicato

Choices for question 1

A. grow louder bit by bit
B. give the start of the note extra force
C. slow down bit by bit
D. play the note short, separated from the next one
E. hold the note past its written length, for as long as the performer or conductor chooses
F. play the notes smoothly, joined with no gaps
G. pluck the strings rather than draw the bow across them

2. A piece about raindrops tapping on a roof should sound light and bouncy, with a tiny gap after every note. Which marking fits those notes?

A. legato B. accent C. staccato D. fermata

3. Choose the marking for the lullaby's melody.

Word bank
legato • pizzicato • accent • staccato

A lullaby's melody should glide from one note to the next with no breaks in the sound, so the composer marks it _____.

4. In a march, the band should play the first note of each group with extra force, then play the notes after it normally. Which marking belongs on those first notes?

A. fermata B. legato C. pizzicato D. accent

5. A choir keeps a steady tempo all the way to the last chord of a song. Then everyone holds that chord longer than written, until the conductor signals the end. Which marking asks for this?

A. fermata B. staccato C. ritardando D. accent

6. Complete the sentence about the violins.

Word bank
legato • pizzicato • fermata • staccato

In the middle of the dance, the violinists stop bowing and pluck the strings with their fingers, because the music there is marked _____.

7. In 4/4 time, a fermata appears over a half note. How long should that note last?

A. exactly 4 beats, twice its usual length

B. exactly 2 beats, its usual length

C. longer than 2 beats, for as long as the performer or conductor chooses

D. exactly 1 beat, half its usual length

8. A trumpet part has an accent on one note, and later a crescendo that stretches across several measures. How are these two markings different?

A. The accent stresses the start of one note, and the crescendo makes the music grow louder little by little.

B. The accent makes one note short, and the crescendo makes many notes smooth.

C. They mean the same thing: play louder right away.

D. The accent slows the music down, and the crescendo speeds it up.

9. A pianist's music shows both a staccato marking and an accent on the same note. How should that note sound?

A. short, with a strong start

B. long and smooth, with a gentle start

C. held until the conductor gives a signal

D. short and very soft

10. Which two markings ask for opposite ways of moving from one note to the next?

A. staccato and legato B. fermata and pizzicato

C. legato and accent D. accent and fermata