Name _____ Date _____

Tempo Terms from Largo to Presto: Italian Words for Speed

Directions: These questions are about tempo and the Italian terms that composers write to show it. Read each description of a piece carefully before you choose.

1. In music, what does the word *tempo* describe?

A. how fast or slow the music goes
B. how high or low the notes are
C. which instruments are playing
D. how loud or soft the music is

2. Match each Italian tempo term to what it tells the players to do.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ largo
2. _____ andante
3. _____ allegro
4. _____ presto
5. _____ accelerando
6. _____ ritardando

A. play very fast
B. slow down little by little
C. get louder little by little
D. play fast and cheerfully
E. play slowly and broadly
F. play at a walking pace
G. speed up little by little

3. Kiara is writing music for a graduation ceremony. She wants the opening to sound slow and broad, with long, stately notes. Which tempo term should she write at the start?

A. presto
B. largo
C. allegro
D. accelerando

4. Choose the tempo marking for this song.

Word bank

andante • ritardando • accelerando • presto

A song about strolling through a park should move at an easy walking pace, so its tempo marking is _____.

5. A class is learning a quick, happy folk dance. Which tempo term matches the music?

A. largo
B. allegro
C. andante
D. ritardando

6. Complete the sentence about Omar's band piece.

Word bank

ritardando • presto • andante • largo

The last section of Omar's band piece should race by very fast, so it is marked _____.

7. In a piece about a train pulling out of a station, the music should speed up little by little. Which term tells the players to do that?

A. accelerando B. ritardando C. crescendo D. presto

8. At the very end of a lullaby, the music slows down little by little before the last note. Which marking belongs there?

A. largo B. decrescendo C. ritardando D. accelerando

9. A piece slows down during a ritardando. A few measures later, the music is marked *a tempo*. What should the players do at that point?

A. Get louder little by little.

B. Keep slowing down until the end.

C. Play as fast as they can.

D. Go back to the speed from before the slowdown.

10. Which list puts these tempo terms in order from slowest to fastest?

A. largo, andante, allegro, presto B. andante, largo, allegro, presto

C. largo, allegro, andante, presto D. largo, andante, presto, allegro