Terms

Group A
Accelerando – *accel.* – a symbol indicating to gradually quicken the tempo
Allargando (*allarg.*) – becoming slower and more stately
Allegro – lively, fast
A Tempo – returning to the original tempo. (after a *ritard* or *rubato*)
L’istesso tempo – the same speed as before, returning to a previous tempo
Non troppo – not too much
Presto – very fast, quick
Rallentando – becoming slower. A gradual change in tempo
Ritardando – becoming slower. A gradual change in tempo
Rubato – where strict tempo is abandoned for a flexible one, allowing speeding up or slowing down
Vivace – brisk, lively

Group B
Adagio – slow-moving, restful, at ease
Allegretto – moderately fast
Andante – at a moderate speed, walking tempo
Grave – very slow, solemn
Larghetto – somewhat slow, not as slow as Largo
Largo – broad and slow
Moderato – at a moderate rate of speed
Poco pui mosso – a little faster (poco = little, piu = more, mosso = motion)
Meno mosso – less motion, slower (meno = less)
Molto – very much (as molto staccato or molto allegro)
Stringendo – pushing forward, hastening the tempo

Group C
A Cappella – without accompaniment
Accent – to make more important
Alla Marcia – in the style of a march
Animato – animated, lively
Appassionata – with passion or emotion
Cantabile – in a singing style
Con Brio – with brilliance, spirited
Con Fuoco – fiery passionately
Con Sordino– with a mute
Dolce – sweetly
Espressivo – a direction to play expressively
Gigue – a lively dance usually in ‘2’

Group D
Grandioso – to be played grandly
Grazioso – to be played gracefully
Legato – connecting notes in a smooth way
Maestoso – majestic, in mood or speed
Marcato – marked, emphasized
Pesante – heavy, ponderous
Sfz – a sudden strong accent
Scherzo – dance-like
Sostenuto – sustained, smoothly
Staccato – separated or detached
Subito – suddenly, as *subito p*
Tenuto – hold full value or longer

Group E (These are extra – not included on the SLO’s)
Clef – symbol defining pitch on a particular staff
Coda – closing section
Crescendo – *cresc.* or < - gradually increasing in volume
DaCapo – repeat to the beginning
DalSegno – repeat from the “sign”
Decrescendo - *decresc.* or > - gradually decreasing in volume
Diminuendo – *dim.* – gradually decreasing in volume
Dynamics – pertaining to volume
Fermata – an indication to hold a not beyond its written value
Forte – *f*– strong, forceful
Fortissimo – *ff* – very loud
Fortepiano – *fp* – loud, then immediately soft (very dramatic!)
Mezzo – as in *mf* or *mp*–medium. Medium loud or medium soft
Piano – *p* – soft, gently
Pianissimo – *pp* – very soft
Slur – a curved line over notes indicating *legato*