

I can choose
some good
dynamics
for my piece



'Dynamics'

is the musical word for **volume**

Dynamics tell us

how **loud** or

soft to play

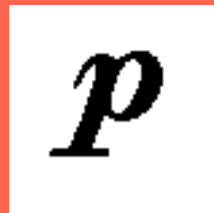


We use **Italian** words
and special **symbols** for the
dynamics



This is the
symbol for
forte

It tells us to play **loud**



This is the
symbol for
piano

It tells us to play **soft**

Did you know...

Sometimes it can be a bit confusing that piano means soft, when it is also the instrument we're playing too!

Actually, the formal name for the piano (the instrument!) is the 'pianoforte'

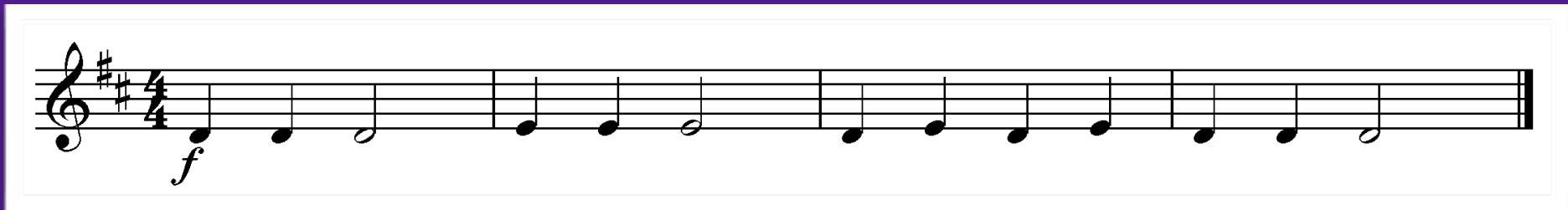
So when we translate it into English, the instrument is called the 'soft-loud'!

This is because it was the first keyboard instrument that could play both loud and soft

Similar instruments at the time, could only play at one volume

Time
to
play!

Let's practise!

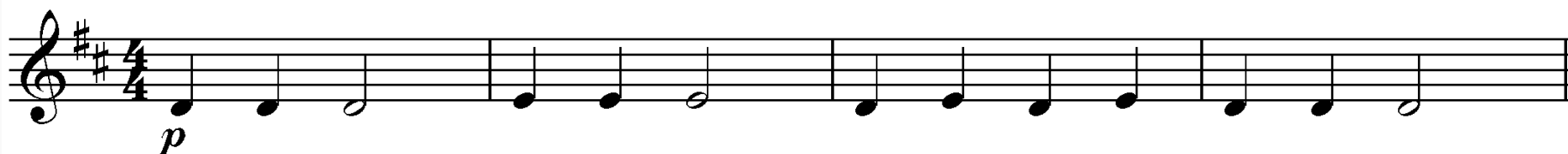


f

The forte symbol
tells us to play loud.

Time
to
play!

Let's practise!



p

The piano symbol
tells us to play softly.

Dynamics help to make a piece more
interesting

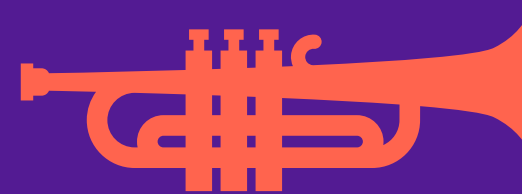
They can also help us to play
expressively

What
dynamic
might you
use to
convey
anger?



What
dynamic
might you
use to make
a calm
sound?

Listen to how these
composers used dynamics
in their music



In the Hall of the Mountain King
from Peer Gynt by Grieg



Nimrod from Enigma Variations
by Elgar

Slavonic
Dance
number 8
by Dvorak

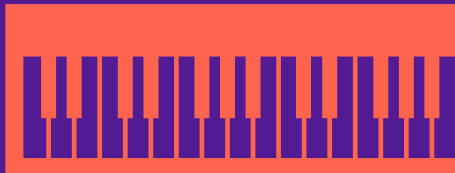
Can Can from Orpheus in the Underworld
by Offenbach

Dynamics can also make repeated phrases sound more interesting

Try playing this tune without dynamics first
Then try it with the dynamics

A musical score for a 4/4 piece, consisting of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a quarter rest, then D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, and C6. The second staff starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking and follows the same melodic pattern. The third staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then switches to a piano (*p*) dynamic for the second half of the phrase. The fourth staff starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Your turn!



Play it first to help you find any patterns in the music. Once you've found the patterns, think about what dynamics you could make each section to make the music interesting

Two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains a chromatic scale starting on G4 and ending on G5, with rests after every second note. The second staff contains a chromatic scale starting on G4 and ending on G5, with rests after every second note, and a double bar line at the end. A measure number '9' is written above the first note of the second staff.

More?

pp

p

mp

mf

f

ff

Pianissimo

Piano

Mezzo
Piano

Mezzo
Forte

Forte

Fortissimo

Very soft

Soft

Moderately
soft

Moderately
loud

Loud

Very loud

