

Styles of Articulation

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“Various styles of articulation are achieved with BEGINNINGS of notes, NOT ENDS of notes.”
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Legato

Play a connected airflow using a “dee” or “doo” articulation.

Non-legato/Non-accented

Play a connected airflow, but use more of the tip of the tongue to interrupt the airstream through a “tee” or “too” articulation.

Staccato

Play a connected airflow, but use even more of the “tee” or “too” to interrupt the airflow. Each note, if isolated, would sound like a little explosion of air at beginning of note with a natural decay at end

Marcato

Play a connected airflow, but use even more of the “tee” or “too” to interrupt the airflow. Each note, if isolated, would sound like a bigger explosion of air than a staccato.

fp* vs *sfzp

What is the difference between an *fp* and an *sfzp*?

An *fp* should be played with legato articulation and breath accent at the beginning of the note. Imagine the sound of a gong struck with a soft mallet when playing at *fp*. The *sfzp* should be played with marcato articulation AND breath accent and should hear a little “sizzle” in the sound