

A Guide to Markings for Singers

These marks go ABOVE the staff:

1. > Accent = *strike* the syllable
2. ○ Circle around the syllable = *stress the syllable* / ~ unaccented syllable
3. - Tenuto = *lean and lengthen* the syllable
4. • Staccato = *shorten* the note and syllable
5. ˘ Fermata = *sustain* note for longer than printed value

These marks go between the staff and text:

6. < Crescendo – get *louder*
7. > Diminuendo = get *softer*
8. 〰️ Spin the phrase – move forward with intensified, sustained tone
9. Ral. 〰️ Rallentando = slowing down, easing up
10. ʹ Breath mark
11. [Diction mark for a slight glottal attack
12. Ɔ Watch the conductor

Additional thoughts:

- Underline important words or syllables needing emphasis
- Make notes about the music following a page turn, especially if the page turn is fast
- Circle common notes with other voice parts
- Write in the beats on difficult rhythmic passages
- Always write in diction/pronunciation reminders