

INVERSION.—A change of position with regard to intervals and chords; so that the upper notes are placed below, and the lower notes above, &c.

ITALIAN SIXTH.—The name given by some authors to a chord composed of a major third and augmented sixth; as, D sharp.

A
F

K.

KEY.—The lever by which the notes of a pianoforte or organ are made to sound. Flutes, Hautboys, and other wind instruments, have also their Keys, by which certain holes are opened or shut. The word key is also synonymous with scale, and implies a succession of notes, according to a certain order of tones and semitones from any note to its octave. Keys are major and minor, according as the third of the scale is one or the other, with other modifications.

KEY-NOTE.—A note to which a series of other subordinate notes bears a distinct relation.

KIT.—A small or pocket violin used by dancing-masters.

L.

LARGHETTO.—Indicates a time slow and measured in its movement, but less so than LARGO.

LARGO.—A very slow and solemn degree of movement.

LEADING NOTE.—The seventh note of the scale of any key, when at the distance of a semitone below the key-note.

LEDGER, OR, LEGER LINES.—Those temporary lines which are occasionally drawn above or below the stave, in order to obtain additional situations for the heads of the notes.

LEGATO.—In a smooth and connected manner.

LEGGIERISSIMO.—With the utmost lightness and facility.

LENTO.—In slow time.

LICENSES.—Freedom from restraint in composition as to rules.

LIRE.—To read, as regards music.

LOCO.—This word implies that a passage is to be played just as it is written in regard to pitch: it generally occurs after *SUB ALTA*, or *SUB BASSA*.

M.

MAJOR MODE.—One of the two modern modes; that in which the third from the Key-note is major.

MANDOLIN.—An instrument of four double strings and with frets like a guitar. It is played with a quill, or plectrum, held in the left hand. It is tuned in fifths like the Violin.

MASS.—A musical service of the Roman Catholic Church, consisting of several movements. The extent, as well as the substance, of the words of the Mass renders it one of the most important of musical compositions.

MEDIANT.—The Mediant or third note of the Scale.

MELODIAL SYNCOPATIONS.—Short and irregular suspensions of the essential notes, or of passing notes and appoggiaturas.

MELODEON ORGAN.—This instrument has a key-board, like the Organ, but its sound results like that of the Concertina—from the vibration of free metallic reeds, over which passes a current of air, which is produced by a bellows, put in motion by the feet of the performer.

DO. DO. WITH PROLONGED SOUND.—By means of an invention, which gives the player the power of sustaining for an indefinite time, by a simple movement of his knee, a note, or chord, throughout the compass of the key-board, after his fingers have ceased to press the keys.

MELODY.—A particular succession of single sounds.