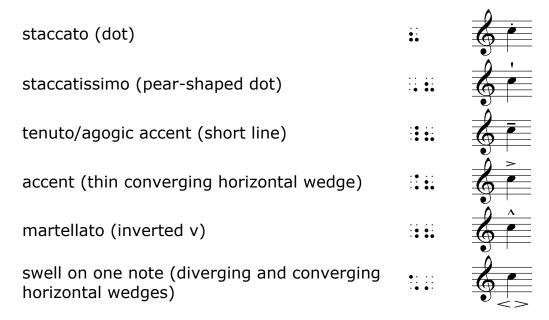
Chapter 13

Symbols of Expression and Articulation

In this chapter you will study nonverbal musical symbols which affect the expression and articulation of a particular note. In print, these nonverbal symbols appear above or below the affected note. In braille, most of them precede the note, and a few follow the note.

13.1 Symbols that Precede the Note

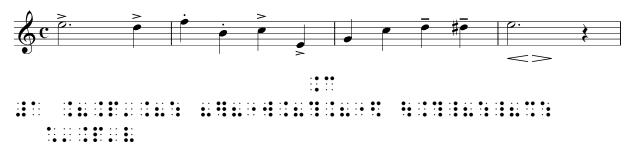
The following is a chart of the most common nuances that appear in printed music. Please refer to MBC-2015, Table 22, for a more complete list of articulations.



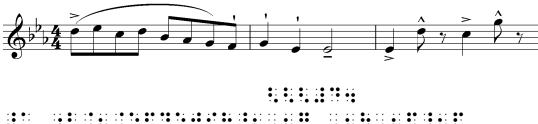
13.2 Instructions for Brailling

These symbols do not automatically require an octave mark for the note. They precede any accidental or octave mark that affects the note.

Example 13.2.1

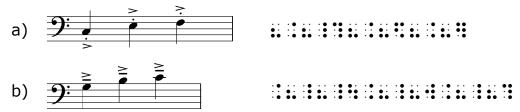


Example 13.2.2



When two or more of the symbols appear on the same note in print, they should be brailled in the following order: staccato or staccatissimo; accent; tenuto.

Example 13.2.3



13.3 Doubling of Symbols

In braille music, many symbols may be doubled if they occur four or more times in succession. To double a sign, braille it twice at the first occurrence and once at the last occurrence. All of the signs listed in this chapter's Section 13.1 may be doubled except for the swell sign, which is never doubled.

Example 13.3.1



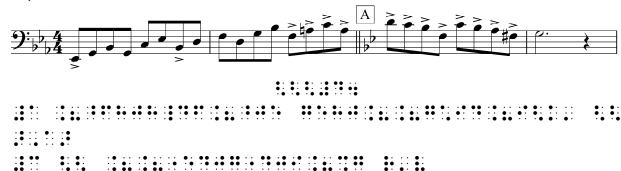
As long as the notes themselves are consecutive, the doubling process is not interrupted by an intervening rest or phrasing marks.

Example 13.3.2



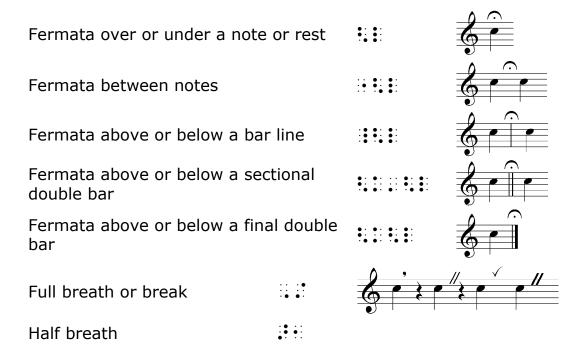
Be sure to terminate doubling before a significant new section of music such as a rehearsal sign, a sectional double bar, a change of key or time signature, or a new movement. If there are at least four occurrences at the beginning of the new section, the doubling is restarted at the beginning of the new section.

Example 13.3.3



13.4 Symbols that Follow a Note

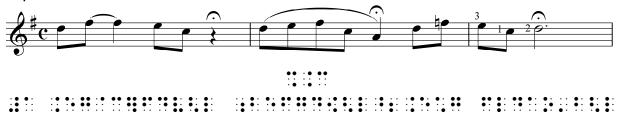
These symbols are brailled after the affected note, rest, or bar line. None of these symbols can be doubled.



13.5 Instructions for Brailling

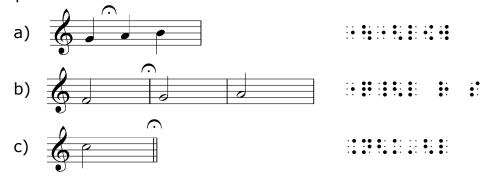
The fermata symbol follows the fingering of a note, but precedes a slur, tie, or closing bracket slur.

Example 13.5.1



The following are examples of fermatas appearing between notes and on the bar lines.

Example 13.5.2



The breath mark follows all signs that affect the note, including the fermata. An octave mark is not required for the note following a breath mark.

Various symbols for a break or breath in the music appear above the printed staff to indicate an interruption of the sound. Because these marks are variable and inconsistent, you must use your best judgment to determine whether a symbol represents a full breath or a half breath. The symbol for the full breath is appropriate when there is a rest or some other clear indication of a pause, such as a comma above the staff in vocal music or in music for a wind instrument. The symbol for the half breath is appropriate for a shorter interruption or break sign. If in doubt about the interpretation of the printed breath marks, you have the option of inserting a transcriber's note to let the braille reader know about the ambiguity.

Example 13.5.3



Example 13.5.4



Example 13.5.5



13.6 A Word of Encouragement

Familiarize yourself with all the new signs in this chapter, but do not try to memorize all of them now. You will learn them as you need them.

Doubling of signs can be a wonderfully helpful transcription device because it obviates the need for the cumbersome repetition of signs. Undoubtedly, the judicious use of doubling can make the score clearer and more legible for the braille reader. Nevertheless, you as the transcriber may be perplexed as to how and when to use this unique device. To ease your mind, remember that doubling is never mandatory and that it works best for many repetitions of a relatively simple sign such as the staccato. If in doubt, you may reasonably decide that instead of doubling the sign, you will simply braille out every occurrence. The braille reader will especially appreciate such a decision if the sign occurs only a few times in succession or if the music is complex.

13.7 Order of Signs

Notice how the new signs in this chapter fit into the patterns that you have already studied.

Preceding the note:

reminder tie
opening bracket slur
signs of expression or execution that precede a note
(staccato or staccatissimo, accent, tenuto)
accidental
octave mark

Following the note:

dot

finger mark

fermata

single slur, opening doubled slur

closing bracket slur

tie

breath mark

double bar

music hyphen

Drills for Chapter 13

(Correct transcriptions of these drills are at the end of this chapter)

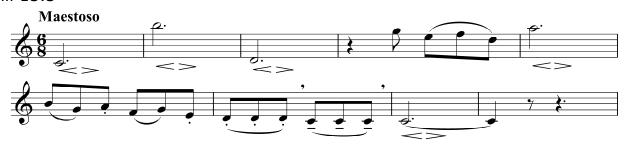
Drill 13.1



Drill 13.2



Drill 13.3



Drill 13.4



Drill 13.5



Drill 13.6



Exercises for Chapter 13

(Submit the following exercises to your instructor in BRF file format)

Exercise 13.1



Exercise 13.2



Exercise 13.3



Exercise 13.4



Exercise 13.5



Correct transcriptions of the Drills for Chapter 13