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| **COURSE: Music Technology I UNIT #: 5 Vocabulary Terms** |
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| **Music Technology Glossary**  Amplitude: Technical term meaning the height of the waveform above or below the zero line. A visual representation of the signal strength or volume of a sound.    High Amplitude  Low amplitude  Automation: An editing and mixing tool used to program automatic changes in certain parameters during audio playback such as volume, pan, echo, and reverb.    Consonant pitches: Two pitches that blend or sound pleasant when played together. Ex. octave, P4, P5, Major and minor 3rds and 6ths.  Crescendo: Musical term meaning a gradual increase in volume.  Decrescendo: Musical term meaning a gradual decrease in volume.  Dissonant pitches: Two pitches that clash or sound unpleasant when played together. Ex. major and minor 2nds and 7ths.    Dynamics: Musical term meaning the relative loudness or softness of a sound.  Fade in: A technical effect created through volume automation where the volume level starts at 0 and gradually increases to the desired amplitude.    Fade out: A technical effect created through volume automation where the volume level starts at an audible level and gradually decreases to 0.    Forte: A musical term meaning loud in volume.  Fortissimo: A musical term meaning very loud in volume.  Harmony: The progression of combinations of notes played together in a song or composition. One of the 5  elements of music.  Key: The name of a scale as identified by its tonic pitch and organization of whole and half steps.  Legato: A musical term describing a melodic line with pitches that are smoothly connected to each other.    Major scale: A scale organized with the following sequence of intervals: whole step- whole step -half step -whole  step -whole step -whole step -half step. Major scales are often identified as sounding happy or bright.  Mezzo: A musical term meaning *medium.* Ex. mezzo forte (medium loud)  Minor scale: A scale organized with the following sequence of intervals: whole step - half step - whole step – whole step - half step - whole step - whole step. Minor scales are often identified as sounding sad or dark.  Modulation Wheel: A control found on a MIDI synthesizer or controller. It is used to add expression to a sound by modulating or varying the intensity or amplitude of the sound.  Piano: A musical term meaning soft or quiet volume.  Pianissimo: A musical term meaning a very soft or very quiet volume.  Pitch Bend Wheel: A control found on a MIDI synthesizer or controller. It is used to add expression to a sound by changing the pitch of a sound in a continuously variable manner.  Scale: A sequence of pitches organized in whole steps and half steps around a home, or tonic pitch.  Staccato: A musical term describing a melodic line with pitches that are detached and spaced from one another.    Synthesizer: An audio instrument that produces its own sounds with a self-contained library of sound samples.  Tempo: The speed of the beat, measured in beats per minute (bpm).  Track: A single line in a sequencer or DAW that contains each individual instrument or voice recording  or loop used in the song or composition.  Velocity: A MIDI message parameter that indicates the force or speed that a key or trigger was struck. Higher velocity results in louder signals or sounds. |