

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

## *Heath HS Vocal Music Vocabulary*

### **Music Structure:**

**Staff - 5 lines, and 4 spaces on which we write our music**

**Measure – a segment of music between two barlines**

**System – a group of related staves.**

**Repeat Sign - :|| Sign meaning to sing a section again.**

**“Da Capo” - Italian for “the head”; repeat back to the beginning**

**“Dal Segno” - Italian for “the sign”; repeat back to “the sign.”**

**Fine - the end of the piece of music.**

**Cue - a signal or gesture from the conductor**

### **Notes, Scales and Symbols**

**Major Scale -a scale from Do to Do**

**Natural Minor Scale - a scale from La to La**

**Harmonic Minor Scale - a scale from La to La WITH A RAISED SOL.**

**Chromatic Scale - a scale built entirely on half-steps**

**Sharp Sign (#) - raises a note a half-step**

**Flat Sign (b) - lowers a note a half-step**

**Natural Sign - cancels out a sharp or flat**

**Fermata - hold the note or rest until conductor cuts you off**

**Tenuto - hold note for full value**

**Accent – a note with added strength or emphasis**

**Staccato - short and choppy**

**Slur - a curved line showing one syllable on multiple notes**

**Tie - a curved line combining note lengths**

**Dynamics:** - the volumes of the music

**Pianissimo** - very soft or quiet

**Piano** - soft or quiet

**Mezzo-Forte** - medium loud or moderately loud

**Forte** - loud

**Fortissimo** - very loud

**Crescendo** - gradually getting louder

**Decrescendo** - gradually getting softer/quieter

**Beat:** - the steady pulse of the music

**Time Signature** - the numbers at the beginning of a piece of music showing how many beats in a measure and what note gets the beat.

**Syncopation** - emphasizing the upbeat

**Tempo** - the speed of the music

**Allegro - quickly**

**Adagio - slowly**

**Ritardando - gradually getting slower**

**Rubato - Robbed time or Freely**

**Molto - very much**

**A tempo - a return to the original tempo**

**Tone: - the sound**

**Pitch - the highness of lowness of a tone**

**Timbre - tone quality**

**Interval - the distance between two notes in regards to pitch**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - step; neighbor notes**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - skip; from line to line or space to space**

**Unison - all voice parts singing the same pitches**

**Harmony - different pitches being sung together at the same time.**

**Balance - the CORRECT amount of each part. Not equal amount.**

**Blend - singing with unified vowels**

**Intonation - singing in the center of the pitch**

**Diphthong - two or more side-by-side vowel sounds**

**Style:**

**Legato - smooth and connected**

**Text Painting – when the music reflects the text**

**Spiritual – songs developed out of slavery; used as forms of secret communication**

**Additional Words:**

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