

Intermediate Ornaments

Ornaments are used to decorate a note...

Originally they were used in the Baroque period when harpsichords (the first type of piano) couldn't play dynamics. Instead of making the music interesting with *forte* and *piano*, they would add in ornaments.

Grace notes or acciaccaturas

Acciaccaturas look like this:



They are small notes that appear before the written note.

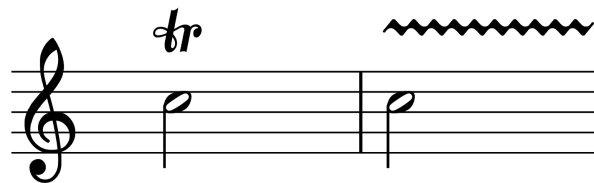
They are normally the note directly above or below the written note.

The slash through the note means that we play the acciaccatura *really quickly*. Sometimes we call this a *crushed note*.

Sometimes we play the acciaccatura **just before the beat** and sometimes we play it **on the beat** depending on the style of music.

Trills

Trills look like this:



The symbol is either the letters **tr** or a **wiggly line** over the note.

When we see this, it means that we have to move between the note written and the note above repeatedly.

The trill lasts for as long as the written note length is.

So for the example above, we would play the trill for a minim (for two beats).

Spread chord or arpeggiation

A spread chord looks like this:



You only find it on music for instruments that can play more than one note at a time! The vertical wiggly line means that rather than playing the notes as a chord (so all at once), you spread each note out.

In this example, we would play the G - B - D in quick succession after each other.

Mordent

A mordent looks like this:



The zigzag symbol is how we recognise to play a mordent. It means that we play the note written, then go up to the note directly above and then back down to the original note.

In this example it would D - E - D.

There is also a lower mordent which looks like this:



Can you notice the difference? - *The symbol for a lower mordent has a line going through it.*

When we see this, we know to play the note lower, rather than upper. It means that we play the note written, then go down to the note directly below and then back up to the original note.

In this example it would be E - D - E.