## ORNAMENTATION IN MUSIC

**Anticipation:** An anticipation occurs when a note is played before the chord to which the note belongs and resolves when the "anticipated" chord is reached:



**Appoggiatura:** a note preparatory to another or to a chord acting as an unprepared suspension. The appoggiatura is always played on the beat - the principal note follows. The duration of the appoggiatura in performance is determined by the note value of the principal note; for an undotted principal note, the appoggiatura, as performed, takes half its value - the principal takes the remainder; for a dotted principal note, the appoggiatura, as performed, takes the remainder. The appoggiatura is written as a grace note prefixed to a principal note and printed in small character, usually without the oblique stroke:



This would be executed as follows:



**Escape Tone:** An escape tone (ET) or echappée is a particular type of unaccented incomplete neighbor tone which is approached stepwise from a chord tone and resolved by a skip in the opposite direction back to the harmony:



**Gruppetto (or Turn):** The general shape of the turn is a sequence of four notes, the note above, the note itself, the note below, then the note itself again.



<u>Grace Note:</u> A form of appoggiatura, the 'grace note' is played either just before the beat resolving speedily to the principal note which is itself on the beat or is played on the beat but resolves speedily to the principal note which is accented. In all cases the 'grace note' is short.



**Mordent:** a mordent is an ornament indicating that the note is to be played with a single rapid alternation with the note above or below. Like trills, they can be chromatically modified by a small flat, sharp or natural accidental. The upper mordent is indicated by a short squiggle, the lower mordent is the same with a short vertical line through it:



At a moderate tempo the marks above would be performed thus:



**Neighbor Tone:** A neighbor tone or auxiliary note is a nonchord tone that passes stepwise from a chord tone directly above or below it (which frequently causes the neighbor tone to create dissonance with the chord) and resolves to the same chord tone:



A neighboring tone that is a step higher than the surrounding chord tones is called an upper neighboring tone or an upper auxiliary note while a neighboring tone that is a step lower than the surrounding chord tones is a lower neighboring tone or lower auxiliary note.

**Passing Tone:** A passing tone is a nonchord tone prepared by a chord tone a step above or below it and resolved by continuing in the same direction stepwise to the next chord tone (which is either part of the same chord or of the next chord in the harmonic progression):



**<u>Retardation</u>**: A retardation is similar to a suspension except that it resolves upward instead of downward:



**Suspension:** A suspension occurs when the harmony shifts from one chord to another, but one or more notes of the first chord (the "Preparation") are either temporarily held over into or are played again against the second chord (against which they are nonchord tones called the "Suspension") before resolving to a chord tone stepwise (the "Resolution"). Note that the whole process is called a suspension as well as the specific non-chord tone(s). Suspensions may be further described using the number of the interval forming the suspension and its resolution; e.g. 4-3 suspension, 7-6 suspension, or 9-8 suspension:



**Trills:** The trill is a musical ornament consisting of a rapid alternation between two adjacent notes, usually a semitone or tone apart. The usual way of executing a trill is to rapidly alternate between the note indicated and the note directly above it in the given scale (unless the trill indicates an accidental). Before Mozart, trills start on the pitch above the printed note. After Mozart, they start on the printed note and go up.