

Music Tempos bpm (beats per minute)

The tempo of a tune and what to call it has been and will be a source of confusion and controversy. I hope this list and music samples helps sort it out. If you have a second hand on your watch and count along with each tick, that's 60 beats per minute (bpm) or a fast ballad.

49 bpm.....	very slow ballad
52 bpm.....	slow ballad
55 bpm.....	ballad
62 bpm.....	fast ballad
70 bpm.....	swing ballad
76 bpm.....	swing ballad
86 bpm.....	medium slow
100 bpm	
112 bpm	
123 bpm.....	medium
131 bpm.....	medium
140 bpm.....	medium
148 bpm	
170 bpm.....	medium fast
178 bpm	
188 bpm	
194 bpm.....	medium up/bright
208 bpm	
222 bpm	
230 bpm	
245 bpm.....	up
270 bpm	
286 bpm	
314 bpm.....	faster than fast
324 bpm	

It's very important to understand that each tempo category, ballad, medium, and up, are broken down into three parts, slow, medium, and fast. These terms better describe how fast or slow your tune is to be played.

Music Tempos 49 bpm to 170 bpm

CD #1

- 1...49 bpm...very slow ballad.....Wouldn't It Be Lovely
Kitty Margolis / Charles Brown
- 2...52 bpm...slow ballad.....A House Is Not A Home
Kellye Gray
- 3...52 bpm...12/8 feel slow blues ballad.....Stormy Monday
Eva Cassidy
- 4...55 bpm...ballad.....I'm Glad There Is You
Carmen McRae
- 5...62 bpm...ballad.....Embraceable You
Ella Fitzgerald
- 6...70 bpm...swing ballad.....Teach Me Tonight
Etta James
- 7...76 bpm...swing ballad.....Any Old Time
Carmen McRae
- 8...86 bpm...medium slow.....Small Day Tomorrow
Kellye Gray
- 9...100 bpm...medium shuffle.....Love Me Like A Man
Diana Krall
- 10...112 bpm...medium.....Our Love Is Here To Stay
Shirley Horn
- 11...123 bpm...medium...surf & turf....3-2 Clave/Swing
Just Squeeze Me
Tierney Sutton

- 12...131 bpm...medium.....Come Dance With Me
Shirley Horn
- 13...140 bpm...medium jazz waltz.....Waltz For Debby
Tierney Sutton
- 14...148 bpm...medium.....You Stepped Out Of A Dream
Shirley Horn
- 15...170 bpm...medium fast.....Cheek to Cheek
Eva Cassidy

Music Tempos 178 to 328 bpm CD #2

- 1...178 bpm...medium fast.....Don't Let Me Lose This Dream
Barbara Morrison
- 2...188 bpm...medium fast.....I Hear Music
Carmen McRae
- 3...194 bpm...medium up / bright....rumba / baion.....Old Devil Moon
Tierney Sutton
- 4...208 bpm...medium up jazz waltz.....Speak Low
Kellye Gray
- 5...222 bpm...medium up jazz waltz.....My Romance
Kitty Margolis
- 6...230 bpm...medium up.....surf and turf....Latin Jazz / Swing
I Believe In You
Kelly Gray

- 7...245 bpm...up.....Anthropology
Kitty Margolis
- 8...270 bpm...fast up.....Billie's Bounce
Kelley Gray
- 9...286 bpm...fast up.....voice and drums.....Just You, Just Me
Tierney Sutton
- 10...314 bpm...fast.....Autumn Leaves
Tierney Sutton
- 11...324 bpm...very fast.....Them There Eyes
Anita O'Day
- 12...328 bpm...very very fast.....You Do Something To Me
Susannah McCorkle