

Format of notated music and form musical notation (MARC 348)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [MARC tagging](#) [2]

Note: this page was created with music cataloging at Yale in mind.

The 348 field is used to indicate the musical or physical layout of the content of a resource that is presented in the [format of notated music](#), as well as the [form of musical notation](#) itself. It is used in addition to the 300 field and any applicable 655 fields and may contain data that duplicates that in the 300 and/or 655 fields.

Format of notated music

The physical layout of the content of a resource that is presented in the form of musical notation, such as score, part, vocal score, etc.

Both indicators are blank.

‡a = Format of notated music term

‡2 = Source of term and code: rdafnm (nm=notated music) from RDA Format of Notated Music.

The terms are used in the singular, for example "part," even when the resource has more than one part.

Examples:

348 __ ‡a chorus score ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a condensed score ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a part ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a piano conductor part ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a piano score ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a score ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a study score ‡2 rdafnm

348 __ ‡a vocal score ‡2 rdafnm

Note that the source code for format of notated music (rdafnm) is similar to the source code for Form of musical notation (rdafmn)

Format of notated music terms and definitions

The is a list of commonly used terms. For a complete list of terms, codes, and definitions, see [RDA Format of Notated Music](#) [3]

Term	Definition
chorus score	a score of a work for solo voices and chorus showing only the parts for chorus, at least in sings, with the instrumental accompaniment either arranged for keyboard or other chordal
condensed score	a score in which the number of staves is reduced to two or a few, generally organized by i with cues for individual parts.
part	the music for the use of one or more, but not all, performers; for music for a solo performer, see score [4].
piano conductor part	music consisting of a performance part for a piano performer in an ensemble, with cues fo performer of that part also to conduct.
piano score	a score consisting of the reduction of an instrumental work or a vocal work with instrumen
score	notated music consisting of graphical, symbolic, or word-based musical notation represent or a work for solo performer or electronic media.
study score	a score issued in a musical image of reduced size, not primarily intended for use in perform
vocal score	a score showing all vocal parts, with the instrumental accompaniment either omitted or arr instrument or instruments.

sources: [348 Format of Notated Music](#) [5] (OCLC) and [RDA Format of Notated Music](#) [3]

Form of musical notation

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Published on Yale University Library (<https://web.library.yale.edu>)

The characters or symbols used to express musical content, such as staff notation, tablature, etc.

MLA's [Interim Best Practices update for form of musical notation in field 348 and 546](#) [6] of May 2022 outlines interim practice for adding form of musical notation in the 348 field, as per MARC updates of June 2021. It is recommended to use field 348 ‡c; however field 546 ‡b may still be used if required by local policy.

‡c = Form of musical notation term

‡2 = Source of term and code: rdafmn (mn=musical notation) from RDA Form of Musical Notation.

Note that the source code for Form of musical notation (rdafmn) is similar to the source code for format of notated music (rdafnm)

Note: OCLC prefers that multiple controlled 348 terms be entered in separate fields.

Examples:

348 __ ‡c graphic notation ‡2 rdafmn

348 __ ‡c staff notation ‡2 rdafmn

348 __ ‡c tablature ‡2 rdafmn

When a term is not found, code the information in ‡b or ‡c without ‡2:

348 __ ‡c verbal instructions

348 __ ‡c guitar chord diagrams

This information may also be included in a [546 field](#) [7], as information in the 348 field does not currently display in the catalog. Yale Music Library policy is to include a 546 when the form of notation includes staff notation *and* one or more other forms. When the form is only staff notation, the 348 field will suffice.

Form of musical notation terms and definitions

This is a list of commonly used terms. For a complete list of terms, codes, and definitions, see [RDA Form of Musical Notation](#) [8]

Term	Definition
graphic notation	musical notation that uses various suggestive lines, symbols, color, etc., to prompt or guide the performer.
letter notation	musical notation that uses the letters of the alphabet to designate pitches.
mensural notation	musical notation, beginning around 1260 and continuing through about 1600, employing the long, breve, semibreve, and minim to notate duration.
number notation	musical notation conveying pitch by use of numbers, assigned to the notes of a scale, the holes of a string instrument, or to the holes or valves of a wind instrument.
staff notation	musical notation in wide use for Western art music, conveying pitch and duration using a staff and other staves.
tablature	musical notation that uses letters of the alphabet or other symbols not found in staff notation to indicate the action required to produce the music from a specific instrument, rather than an abstract representation.

Source: [RDA Form of Musical Notation](#) [8]

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC348>

Links

[1] <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music> [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marc-tagging> [3] <http://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/formatNoteMus/> [4] <https://web.library.yale.edu/score> [5] <https://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/3xx/348.html> [6] <https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/05/Interim-Music-Library-Association-Best-Practices-for-Form-of-Musical-Notation.pdf> [7] <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marcscor#546> [8] <http://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/MusNotation/>