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


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]

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

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

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 [7]

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

Source: RDA Form of Musical Notation [7]