

Common terms used in German music publications and thematic indices

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

compiled by Diane Napert
revised with terminology from
the Symphony Orchestra Library Center's [Glossary of German publishing terminology](#) [3]

Note: The terms in this list are defined according to their usage in music publications; other definitions are also possible.

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A

German word	abbrevi ation	English
Abdruck	Abdr.	impression, print, reproduction
Abschrift	Abschr.	reprint, copy
Abteilung	Abt.	part
Anhang	Anh.	appendix, supplement
Anmerkung	Anm.	commentary
arrangiert		arranged
Aufführung(en); Aufführungsdauer		performance(s); performance duration
Aufführungspraxis		performance practice
Auflage	Aufl.	impression, edition
Ausgabe	Ausg.	edition
ausgewählte		selected
Autograph		holograph

B

German word	abbrevi ation	English
Band	Bd.	volume
Bearbeiter; bearbeitet; Bearbeitung(en)	Bearb.	arranger; arranged, revised; arrangement(s)
Beiheft		supplement
Beispiel		example
Bemerkungen		remarks, annotations, commentary
Bericht		report, commentary
Besetzung		setting (usually referring to instrumentation)
Bibliothek		library
Blatt		leaf, page (of book); folio (of manuscript); sheet
Buhnenwerke		dramatic works
Brief		letter

D

German word	abbrevi ation	English
Druck		impression, print
Dur		major (key)
durchgesehen		revised

[E](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
eigentlich	eigtl.	introduction
Einleitung	Einl.	introduction
Einrichtung		fingering
Erhaltene Werke		surviving works
erscheinen		to publish
Erstausgabe		first edition
erweitert	erw.	enlarged
etwa		approximately

[F](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Fassung		version
Festschrift		publication on the occasion of a celebration
Folge		series
Fundort Verzeichnis		found/discovered index

[G](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
geboren	geb.	born
gedruckt	gedr.	printed
Gegenwart		present time
Generalbass	Gb.	continuo
Gesamtausgabe		complete works
Geschichte		history
Gesellschaft		society, association, club
gestorben	gest.	died
getauft	get.	baptized

[H](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Handschrift		manuscript
heilig		sacred
herausgegeben von	hrsg. von	edited by
Herausgeber	Hrsg.	editor
Heft	H.	number, part

[I](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
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[J](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Jahr		volume, annual, year
Jahrhundert	Jh.	century

[K](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Katalog		catalog
Klavierauszug		piano-vocal score
Komponist		composer
korrigiert		corrected
Kritischer Bericht		critical report or commentary
Kunst		art

[M](#)

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

German word	abbreviation	English
Manuskript	Ms.	manuscript
Mitarbeiter		collaborator
Moll		minor (key)
Musikforschung		music research
Musikschule		music school
Musikwissenschaft		musicology

[N](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Nachdruck		reprint
Nachweise		proof, records
Nachwort		afterword
Namenszug		signature
Neudruck	Neudr.	reprint
Neue Ausgabe; Neuauflage		new edition
Nummer	Nr.	number

[O](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Opus	op.	opus

[P](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Partitur	Part.	score

[Q](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Quelle		source

[R](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Redakteur; Redaktion		editor; editing
redigiert		edited
Register		index
Reihe		series
revidiert	rev.	revised
Revisionsbericht		critical commentary

[S](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Sammlung	Samml.	collection
Sämtliche Werke		complete works
Satz		movement
Schrift		writing, book, periodical, etc.
Seite	S.	page
Skizzen		sketches
Sprechgesang; Sprechstimme		speech-song
Stimmen		instrumental parts; voices

[T](#)

German word	abbreviation	English
Teil	T.	part, volume
Textbuch		libretto
Titelblatt		title page
Tonkunst		art music; music

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U

German word	abbreviation	English
Überschrift		heading, title
Übersetzung		translation
Übertragung(en)		transcription, transcriptions
unbekannt		unknown
Untergeschoben		attributed falsely
Urtext		original text

V

German word	abbreviation	English
Verfasser		composer, author
Verlag; Verleger		publishing house or firm; publisher
verlorengegangene		lost
veröffentlicht;		published; publication
Veröffentlichung		
Verzeichnis	Verl.	list (usually of works)

W

German word	abbreviation	English
weltlich		secular
Werke(s)		work(s)
Widmung		dedication
Wissenschaft		science, knowledge

XYZ

German word	abbreviation	English
Zahl		number
zusammengestellt		compiled
zweifelhaft		doubtful, questionable; usually applied to attribution of a work

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