Capitalization of key, opus, and number

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) **[1] ?** [Language tools](#) **[2]**

Note: These instructions apply to recording information for title and contents notes in bibliographic records and [670 field](#) [3] in authority records. They do not apply to authorized access points for music.

Key:

See also [The names of keys in French, German, Italian, and Spanish](#) [4]
- In English, the key is capitalized, but not the mode: **A** major, **D** minor.
- In [German](#)[1], D in Dur and M in Moll are capitalized.
    - In major, the key is capitalized: **D**-**D**ur, **F**is-**D**ur
    - In minor, it is not capitalized: **a**-**M**oll, **f**is-**M**oll
- In other languages,
    - when given as a letter, the key is capitalized: **F** majeur, **G** mineur
    - but when given as a word, it is not capitalized: fa majeur, sol mineur.
- Symphonie Nr. 2 **C-D**ur op. 61
- Konzert für Violoncello und Orchester **a-M**oll, op. 129
- Messe in **E**s op. 155
- Concerto in **A m**inor (Wq 166, H 431) for flute, strings and basso continuo
- Sonata per cembalo in **s**ol **m**aggiore
- Koncert **C d**ur[2] pro fagot a smycce

The LC Music Division's Bibliographic Access Section's **policy regarding transcription and recording of statements of key that are in German**:

- The words "Dur" and "Moll" will always be capitalized.
- Letters and initial letters with suffixes indicating flats and sharps (-is, -es) will be in upper case when preceding "Dur" and in lower case when preceding "Moll".

Source: e-mail on NMP-L from Damian Iseminger, Head, Bibliographic Access Section, Music Division, Library of Congress, dated 10/11/2018

[1]This policy is based on a 1977 LC memo stating that, regardless of how a word appears on the publication, for German capitalization, follow Duden Rechtschreibung der deutschen Sprache und der Fremdwörter (Mannheim : Bibliographisches Institut, c1986) It is unknown if LC is applying this policy in RDA
[2]D in dur is not capitalized here because it is not in German.

Opus:

- In [German](#)[1], opus is capitalized when spelled out, but not when abbreviated: Opus, op.
- In other languages, neither is capitalized.
- Vier Fugen **O**pus 72
- String trio **o**pus 45
- Symphonies Nr. 2 C-Dur **o**p. 61
- Quartet **o**p. 73 for 2 violins, viola, and cello

Numbers:

See also [The names of numbers in French, German, Italian, and Spanish](#) [5]
- In [German](#)[1], number and its abbreviations are capitalized: Number, Nr., No.
- In other languages, it is not: number, no., nr.
- Duo concertant für zwei Klarinetten op. 3, **N**r. 1
- Fantasie für Klavier ohne D-**N**ummer = Fantasy for piano without "D" **n**umber

- Quartet **N**o. IV für 2 Violinen, Viola & Violoncello, op. 40
- Sonata in D major op. 2 **n**o. 2

Source URL:https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/capitalization-of-key-opus-and-number

Links
[1] http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music [2] http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/language-tools [3] http://www.musicoclcusers.org/NMP/nmphdbk.htm#citingtitle [4] http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/names-keys-french-german-italian-and-spanish [5] http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/foreign