

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-Dur**, **Fis-Dur**
 - In minor, it is not capitalized: **a-Moll**, **fis-Moll**
- 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-Dur** op. 61
- Konzert für Violoncello und Orchester **a-Moll**, op. 129
- Messe in **Es** op. 155
- Concerto in **A** minor (Wq 166, H 431) for flute, strings and basso continuo
- Sonata per cembalo in **sol** maggiore
- Koncert **C dur**² pro fagot a smyccce

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

¹This 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

²D 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 **Opus** 72
- String trio **opus** 45
- Symphonies Nr. 2 C-Dur **op.** 61
- Quartet **op.** 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, **Nr.** 1
- Fantasie für Klavier ohne D-Nummer = Fantasy for piano without "D" **number**

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

- Quartet **No.** IV für 2 Violinen, Viola & Violoncello, op. 40
- Sonata in D major op. 2 **no.** 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.musicocclusers.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>