A comparison of uniform titles and preferred titles


A comparison of uniform titles (AACR2) and preferred titles (RDA) for musical works

Initial title element (AACR2)/preferred title (RDA): Language (6.14.2.5.1) | Singular vs plural (6.14.2.5.2)

Statement of medium of performance: Medium | Number of elements | Implied numbering | Standard chamber combinations | vocal | Song and choral accompaniment | Adding medium of performance to resolve conflicts

Further additions: Selections | Language of text | Librettos | Arrangements | Selections/arrangements/language

Initial title element (AACR2)/preferred title (RDA) (6.14.2.5) [3] and LC-PCC PS for 6.14.2.5)

Language (6.14.2.5.1) [3]

In AACR2, when the initial title element was a type of composition, all foreign language forms of the name of that type were translated into the accepted English form when it had cognates in English, French, German, and Italian. In RDA, when the preferred title is a type of composition, the English form is used whenever the name of the type in another language is a cognate. Those forms of the name that are not cognates are used in the original language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Movimenti, ‡m instrumental ensemble</td>
<td>Movements, ‡m organ, piano, recorders (2), flutes (2), clarinets (2), saxophone, violin, guitar, percussion, viola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The change in medium of performance follows 6.15.1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pezzi, ‡m piano, ‡n op. 24</td>
<td>Pieces, ‡m piano, ‡n op. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P’esy, ‡m piano, †n op. 110</td>
<td>Pieces, ‡m piano, †n op. 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P’esy, ‡m piano, †n op. 12. ‡p IUmoristicheskoe skertso</td>
<td>Pieces, ‡m piano, †n op. 12. ‡p IUmoristicheskoe skertso</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the preferred title is in English; the title of the part remains in Russian.

Music, ‡m violoncello

In AACR2, the word "music" had cognates in English, French, German, and Italian. Therefore, all foreign titles were translated into English. In RDA, the change in medium of performance from "violoncello(s)" to "cello(s)" was implemented with RDA.

Trio sonatas

In AACR2 (25.29C1), the uniform title Trio sonata(s) was used for 17th- and 18th-century works for two treble instruments and continuo. This instruction was not carried over into RDA.

In RDA use:

Trio(s) for 17th- and 18th-century works for two treble instruments and continuo with the title "Trio" (or cognates of it)

Sonata(s) for 17th- and 18th-century works for two treble instruments and continuo with the "Sonata" (or cognates of it)

Trio sonata(s) for 17th- and 18th-century works for two treble instruments and continuo with the title "Trio sonata" (or cognates of it)

Singular vs plural (6.14.2.5.2) [4]

InAACR2, it was unclear whether a title would be given in singular or plural form when a composer wrote two works of the same type. RDA makes explicit that the title of a type of composition should be recorded in the plural if the composer wrote more than one.

Statement of medium of performance (6.15.1.5 [5])

Medium

In AACR2, the medium was given according to the list in 25.30B4. RDA LC-PCC PS 6.28.1.9.1: use LCMPT [6] terms in the authorized access point, adjusting the form to plural if needed.

Number of elements

In AACR2, the number of elements that could be named in the statement of medium of performance was limited to three, except when the initial title element was "trio(s)," "quartet(s)," or "quintet(s)." In RDA, more than three elements are allowed.

AACR2: Fantasies, ‡m recorder, strings
A comparison of uniform titles and preferred titles

Implied numbering

RDA:
Fantasies, ‡m recorder, violins (2), viola, cello
AACR2:
Partita, ‡m brasses
RDA:
Partita, ‡m trumpets (2), horn, trombone, tuba
AACR2:
Movimenti, ‡m woodwinds, horn
RDA:
Movements, ‡m flute, oboes (2), clarinets (2), horn, bassoons (2)
The initial title element Movimenti was also changed to the preferred title Movements as per 6.14.2.5.1
AACR2:
Pieces, ‡m winds, violin, violoncello
RDA:
Pieces, ‡m flutes (2), horn, trumpet, violin, cello
AACR2:
Toccatas, ‡m woodwinds, strings
RDA:
Toccatas, ‡m flute, oboe, clarinet, violins (2), viola, cello, double bass
AACR2:
Sixtets, ‡m piano, strings
RDA:
Sixtets, ‡m piano, violins (2), viola, cello, double bass
The number of violins is indicated; implied numbering has been removed from RDA
AACR2:
Sixtets, ‡m woodwinds, horn, strings
RDA:
Sixtets, ‡m oboe, horn, bassoon, violin, viola, cello
AACR2:
Octet, ‡m woodwinds, horns (2)
RDA:
Octet, ‡m oboes (2), clarinet, bassett horn, horns (2), bassoons (2)
Each instrument can now be named.
The number of each instrument is also indicated; implied numbering has been removed from RDA
AACR2:
Larghettos, ‡m woodwinds, horns (2)
RDA:
Larghettos, ‡m flutes (2), bassett horn, horns (2), bassoon
The number of each instrument is also indicated; implied numbering has been removed from RDA
AACR2:
Sonatina, ‡m winds, percussion
RDA:
Sonatina, ‡m flutes (2), oboes (2), clarinet, bassoons (2), horn, trumpets (2), trombones (3), timpani, xylophone
AACR2:
Movement, ‡m harpsichord, piano, winds
RDA:
Movement, ‡m harpsichord, piano, flutes (3), clarinets (2), bassoon, horns (2), trumpet
AACR2:
Concertinos, ‡m instrumental ensemble, string orchestra
RDA:
Concertinos, ‡m piano, saxophones (4), pedal harp, percussion, string orchestra
AACR2:
Pieces, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Pieces, ‡m piano, clarinet, horn, trumpet, pedal harp, chimes, violin, viola, cello
AACR2:
Pieces, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Pieces, ‡m organ, trumpets (4), horns (4), trombones (4), baritone, tuba, timpani, percussion, pedal harp
AACR2:
Nonet, ‡m winds, percussion, strings, ‡n op. 40
RDA:
Nonet, ‡m flute, clarinet, bassoon, horn, percussion, trumpet, trombone, violin, double bass, ‡n op. 40
AACR2:
Impromptus, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Impromptus, ‡m piano, flute, clarinet, percussion, violin, cello, ‡n op. 1, op. 133
AACR2:
Movimenti, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Movements, ‡m organ, piano, recorders (2), flutes (2), clarinets (2), saxophone, violin, guitar, percussion
The initial title element Movimenti was also changed to the preferred title Movements as per 6.14.2.5.1.
AACR2:
Octet, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Octet, ‡m flute, clarinets (2), percussion, violin, viola, cello
The number of clarinets is indicated; implied numbering has been removed from RDA
AACR2:
Introduzione, corale et marcia, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Introduzione, corale et marcia, ‡m piano, piccolo, flutes (2), oboes (2), English horn, clarinets (3), bassoons (2)
AACR2:
Music, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Music, ‡m organ, crumhorns (4), shawms (4), cornett, trombones (3), percussion, lute, theorbo, viole de gamba
AACR2:
Inventions, ‡m instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Inventions, ‡m celesta, harpsichord, piano, piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinets (3), English horn, saxophone
AACR2:
Song cycle, ‡m mezzo-soprano, instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Song cycle, ‡m mezzo-soprano, piano, flute, clarinet, cello
AACR2:
Prelude, adagio and chorale, ‡m unison voices, brasses
RDA:
Prelude, adagio and chorale, ‡m unison voices, trumpets (2), horn, trombone, tuba
AACR2:
Canti trilogy, ‡m mixed solo voices, instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Canti trilogy, ‡m soprano, tenor, bass, piano, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, percussion, violin, viola
AACR2:
Evangelienmotetten, ‡m mixed voices, instrumental ensemble
RDA:
Evangelienmotetten, ‡m mixed voices, flute, pedal harp, double bass, timpani, gong, tam-tam
This is a distinctive title that requires the medium of performance to resolve a conflict.
Note that three individual percussion instruments are named, rather than using the term percussion.
In **AACR2**, when two or more of a particular instrument or voice was required, the appropriated Arabic number in parentheses after the name of that instrument or voice unless the number is implicit in the initial title element.

In **RDA**, always add the number of parts in the authorized access point when there is more than one part for a particular instrument or voice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument/Combination</th>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duets, ‡m violins</td>
<td><strong>Duets, ‡m violins (2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartets, ‡m violins, violas</td>
<td><strong>Quartets, ‡m violins (2), violas (2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintets, ‡m trumpets, horn, trombone, tuba</td>
<td><strong>Quintets, ‡m trumpets (2), horn, trombone, tuba</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sextets, ‡m violins, violas, cellos</td>
<td><strong>Sextets, ‡m violins (2), violas (2), cellos (2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Standard chamber combinations

In **AACR2** and **RDA** until April 2014, the following practice was applied to works for three to five instruments that fall into one of the standard combinations:

**Former** practice: works for three to five instruments considered to be standard combinations followed the treatment outlined in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial title element/preferred title</th>
<th>Initial title element/preferred title</th>
<th>Initial title element/preferred title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trio(s)</td>
<td>Quartet(s)</td>
<td>Quintet(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violin, viola, cello</td>
<td>strings</td>
<td>strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 violins, viola, cello</td>
<td>strings</td>
<td>strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon</td>
<td>woodwinds</td>
<td>winds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piano, violin, cello</td>
<td>piano, strings</td>
<td>piano, strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piano, violin, viola, cello</td>
<td>piano, strings</td>
<td>piano, strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piano, 2 violins, viola, cello</td>
<td>piano, strings</td>
<td>piano, strings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The April 2014 RDA update eliminated this practice.

**Current** practice: Name each instrument.

**Note:** LCSH still uses the names of standard chamber combinations followed by the word "music"; e.g., Piano trio music, String quartet music.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument/Combination</th>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trios, ‡m piano, strings</td>
<td><strong>Trios, ‡m piano, violin, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonatas, ‡m piano trio</td>
<td><strong>Sonatas, ‡m piano, violin, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trios, ‡m strings</td>
<td><strong>Trios, ‡m piano, violin, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trios, ‡m violin, viola, cello</td>
<td><strong>Trios, ‡m violin, viola, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prelude, adagio and fugue, ‡m string trio</td>
<td><strong>Prelude, adagio and fugue, ‡m violin, viola, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartets, ‡m strings</td>
<td><strong>Quartets, ‡m violin (2), viola, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variations, ‡m string quartet</td>
<td><strong>Variations, ‡m violin (2), viola, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pieces, ‡m violin (2), viola, cello</td>
<td><strong>Pieces, ‡m violin (2), viola, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The initial title element *Pezzi* was also changed to the preferred title *Pieces* as per [6.14.2.5.1](https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/67028900.html).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument/Combination</th>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pieces, ‡m woodwind quartet</td>
<td><strong>Pieces, ‡m flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintets, ‡m piano, strings</td>
<td><strong>Quintets, ‡m piano, violins (2), viola, cello</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastorale, ‡m wind quintet</td>
<td><strong>Pastorale, ‡m flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintets, ‡m winds</td>
<td><strong>Quintets, ‡m flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vocal medium of performance

**Solo voice(s)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument/Combination</th>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‡m voice</td>
<td><strong>‡m singer</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡m high voice</td>
<td><strong>‡m high voice</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use "singer" when no type or range of voice or age or gender of the performer is specified.

Use when range, but not type of voice or age or gender of the performer is specified.
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‡m female voice
use when gender (but not age) of the performer, but not range or type of voice, is specified

‡m child’s voice
use when the age (but not gender) of the performer, but not range or type of voice is specified

‡m soprano voice
used when the type of voice is specified; note that the word “voice” is included

AACR2: ‡m soprano, tenor
RDA: ‡m soprano voice, tenor voice

note that the word “voice” is included

‡m voices

AACR2: ‡m voices
RDA: ‡m soprano voice, tenor voice
‡m soprano voices (2)

note that the word “voice(s)” is included

‡m mixed solo voices

AACR2: ‡m mixed solo voices
RDA: ‡m singers (4)

Choruses

AACR2: ‡m mixed voices, ‡m women’s voices, ‡m men’s voices, ‡m children’s voices, ‡m unison voices
RDA: ‡m mixed chorus, ‡m women’s chorus, ‡m men’s chorus, ‡m children’s chorus, ‡m unison chorus

although it is not stated in RDA and it is not official LC policy, some preferred titles in the authority file include

‡m equal voices was used in AACR2 and is still used in RDA for a chorus in which all the voices parts are for equal voices.

Song and choral accompaniment

AACR2: Songs, ‡m guitar acc.
RDA: Songs, ‡m guitar accompaniment

AACR2: Songs, ‡m oboe, horn, strings acc.
RDA: Songs, ‡m oboe, horn, violins (2), viola, cello accompaniment

AACR2: Songs, ‡m instrumental ensemble accompaniment
RDA: Songs, ‡m piano, flute, violin, cello accompaniment

AACR2: Cantata, ‡m soprano, instrumental ensemble
RDA: Cantata, ‡m soprano voice, piano, flute, clarinet, violin, cello, glockenspiel

AACR2: Rhapsodies, ‡m soprano voice, tenor, instrumental ensemble
RDA: Rhapsodies, ‡m soprano voice, tenor voice, flute, clarinet, violins (2), viola, cello, double bass

AACR2: Vocalise, unacc.
RDA: Vocalise, unaccompanied

Adding medium of performance to resolve conflicts

In AACR2 (25.31B1), statements of medium of performance were added to identical distinctive uniform titles for two or more different works by the same composer, except when the works were all for the same medium of performance and medium of performance was insufficient to resolve the conflict. Some other element was added to render the uniform titles unique.

Some catalogers are interpreting RDA as saying medium of performance is included even when the works are all for the same medium.

AACR2: Petite suite ‡n (1889)
Petite suite ‡n (1890)

RDA: Petite suite ‡n (1889)
Petite suite ‡n (1890)

The AACR2 and RDA practices are the same in this example.

AACR2: Petite suite, ‡n op. 169
Petite suite, ‡n op. 189

RDA: Petite suite, ‡n op. 192
Petite suite, ‡n op. 198

Petite suite, ‡m guitar, ‡n op. 169
Petite suite, ‡m guitar, ‡n op. 189
Petite suite, ‡m guitar, ‡n op. 192
Petite suite, ‡m guitar, ‡n op. 198

The AACR2 and RDA practices differ in this example.

AACR2: Concert studies, ‡n op. 14, no. 1
Concert study, ‡n op. 48, no. 2

RDA: Concert studies, ‡m piano, ‡n op. 14, no. 1
Concert study, ‡m piano, ‡n op. 48, no. 2, ‡r E?

In both AACR2 and RDA, when the only difference between two distinctive titles is that one is singular and the other is plural, they are considered to be identical.

Note that medium of performance as well as key was added to the second title

Further additions
The order of further subfields in an authorized access point has changed from AACR2 to RDA:
Since Selections is considered a work element in RDA, it should be with the work subfields. For the remaining additions, RDA prescribes no order, but several of us have advocated for using AACR2 order. Thus:

- Sketches,
- Arrangement,
- Vocal score(s),
- Chorus score(s),
- Language.

In other words

- Work subfields: t, m, n, r, k
- Expression subfields: o, s, l

### Selections

"Selections" is a work [7] element and should always follow the work title.

AACR2: Médée. ‡l Italian. ‡k Selections
RDA: Médée. ‡k Selections. ‡l Italian

AACR2: Who wants a wife. ‡s Vocal score. ‡k Selections
RDA: Who wants a wife. ‡k Selections. ‡s Vocal score

AACR2: Ring des Nibelungen. ‡l Danish. ‡k Selections
RDA: Ring des Nibelungen. ‡k Selections. ‡l Danish

### Language of text

AACR2: Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht. ‡s Vocal score. ‡l English & German

In AACR2, two languages could be named, with the original language given second.

RDA: Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht. ‡s Vocal score [no language indicated because it is German, the original language].

AACR2: Barnlige sange. ‡l Polyglot
RDA: Barnlige sange. ‡l Norwegian
Barnlige sange. ‡l German
Barnlige sange. ‡l English

In RDA, separate authorized access points are created for each language expression (definition of expression [8]).

### Librettos

AACR2: Auber, D. F. E. ‡q (Daniel François Esprit), ‡d 1782-1871. ‡t Fra Diavolo. ‡l Libretto
RDA: Scribe, Eugène, ‡d 1791-1861. ‡t Fra Diavolo

See a list of authority records established in RDA for librettos [9]

### Arrangements

AACR2: Aria, ‡m organ; ‡o arr.
RDA: Aria, ‡m organ; ‡o arranged

### Selections/arrangements/language

AACR2: English. ‡k Selections
RDA: Selections. ‡l English
AACR2: English. ‡k Selections; ‡o arr.
RDA: Selections; ‡o arranged. ‡l English
AACR2: Vocal score. ‡l English. ‡k Selections
RDA: Selections. ‡s Vocal score. ‡l English

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Links

[1] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music) [2] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preferred-titles](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preferred-titles) [3] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preftitles#6.14.2.5](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preftitles#6.14.2.5) [4] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preftitles#singularplural](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preftitles#singularplural) [5] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/medium#6.15.1.5](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/medium#6.15.1.5)