

Class M

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Class M

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [Call numbers](#) [2]

Library of Congress Classification: Class M: M1-M5000

[Outline of Library of Congress Classification: Class M](#) and [detailed charts](#) [3] (these do not include the entire Class M schedule)

Sources: *Class M*; Mark McKnight. *Music classification systems*, 2002.

Class numbers in the Library of Congress Classification system are alpha-numeric. The letter portion includes one or more capital letters to indicate the general subject area. The number portion includes one or more arabic numbers to subdivide the subject area.

Class M, for music, is subdivided into three main sections:

M notated music (scores)

ML literature of music (books about music, such as biographies, histories, discographies, thematic indexes, etc.)

MT musical instruction and study (method books, [studies and exercises](#) intended for pedagogical use (as opposed for concert use), treatises, books on music theory, music-appreciation textbooks (even those with extensive musical examples), etc.; includes scores and books)

General guidelines for Class M (taken from http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/LCC_M_GL.pdf [4])

Definitions of **collection**:

1. an item containing compositions by two or more composers,
 2. an item containing works by one composer and selected from two or more of the composer's works,
- or
3. an item containing one composer's works in more different forms or for a greater variety of performers than are provided for by any more specific class.

A collection is not to be confused with a **set**, which is a group of compositions published as a single work. This can be determined by an identifying number, such as an opus number or book number, etc., or a qualifying number that indicates the individuals parts are part of a larger work.

Further subclasses of collections are:

Miscellaneous collection: contains both original and arranged works

General collection: contains a greater variety of forms or types of works than may be provided for by any more specific neighboring class.

Special collection: contains two or more works by one or more composers that are of the type indicated for separate works, e.g., class collections of string quartets as well as individual string quartets in [M452-M452.4](#) [5].

Class numbers for [instrumental music](#)

Class numbers for instrumental music focus on number of instruments and are easy to remember. Music for **two** instruments is *generally* classed in **M2XX**; **three** instruments in **M3XX**, etc., until **M9XX**, where music for **nine** instruments is classed as well as for chamber music for ten or more instruments, one to a part.

Many class numbers are subarranged according to whether it is a collection (a miscellaneous collection of original and arranged works; a collection of original works; or a collection of arranged works) or a separate work that is original or a separate work that is arranged. When this subarrangement is used, a span of 5 class numbers are given, to be subarranged according to Table 2, *Table of original works and arrangements*.

Each number in the first row is the last digit in the first number of a span of numbers (i.e., **M60-M64**, **M224-M228**).

Class M

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

type of collection or work	assign the five numbers in the span as follows:					
Miscellaneous collections	0	1	2	3	4	5
Original compositions						
Collections	1	2	3	4	5	6
Separate works	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arrangements						
Collections	3	4	5	6	7	8
Separate works	4	5	6	7	8	9

The table has been expanded to include the first digit 0

For example, the span of numbers for viola and piano music is [M224-M228](#) [6]. Take the last letter (4) of the first number in the range (224) and go to Table 2. Find "4" in the top row and following the numbers down from there:

M224 for a **collection** (2 or more works) of **original** and **arranged** works for viola and piano

M225 for a **collection** (2 or more works) of **original** works for viola and piano by one or more composers

M226 for a **single original work** for viola and piano by one composer

M227 for a **collection** (2 or more works) of **arranged** works for viola and piano by one or more composers

M228 for a **single arranged work** for viola and piano by one composer (including excerpts from a single work by one composer)

The span of numbers for five wind instruments is [M555-M559](#) [7], which is also subarranged using Table 2.

M555 for a **collection** (2 or more works) of **original and arranged** works for five wind instruments (woodwind and/or brass)

M556 for a **collection** (2 or more works) of **original** works for five wind instruments (woodwind and/or brass)

M557 for a **single original work** for 5 woodwind and brass instruments

 M557.2 for a **single original work** for viola and piano by one composer for 5 *woodwind* instruments

 M557.4 for a **single original work** for viola and piano by one composer for 5 *brass* instruments

M558 for a **collection** (2 or more works) of **arranged** works for five wind instruments (woodwind and/or brass)

M559 for a **single arranged work** for five wind instruments (woodwind and/or brass) (including excerpts from a single work by one composer)

The complication is that there are two subfamilies of wind instruments:

[woodwinds](#) [8]: flute, oboe, clarinet, recorder, saxophone, bassoon, etc.

and

[brasses](#) [9]: horn, cornet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba, etc.

Note that the class number M557 is further subdivided: M557 is for quintets for a combination of *both* woodwind and brass instruments; M557.2 for *only* woodwind quintets, and M557.4 for *only* brass quintets. (Adding to the confusion is the terminology "woodwind quintet," which is used for quintets with flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon. These qualify as "wind" quintets for cataloging purposes because they include a non-woodwind instrument; the horn is a brass instrument.) The rest of the span of numbers is *not* similarly subdivided. For example, M556 is used for collections of original works for either wind quintets, woodwind quintets, or brass quintets, *not* M556, M556.2, and M556.4. M559 is used for a single work arranged for either wind quintet, woodwind quintet, or brass quintet; M559.2 and M559.4 are not used.

Class numbers for orchestra, string orchestra, and band music

The class numbers for orchestra, string orchestra, and band music (not including works for solo instrument(s) and orchestra, string orchestra, or band) vary from those for chamber music. Many individual forms within these ranges are assigned separate numbers. The same class number is applied to both individual works and collections of works.

Class M

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M1000-M1075 for orchestra

M1100-M1175 for string orchestra

M1200-M1268 for band (the numbers in this range vary some from the individual numbers in M1000-M1075 and M1100-M1175)

M1001 = an individual symphony or a collection of symphonies for orchestra

M1101 = an individual symphony or a collection of symphonies for string orchestra

M1201 = an individual symphony or a collection of symphonies for band

M1002 = an individual symphonic poem or a collection of symphonic poems for orchestra

M1102 = an individual symphonic poem or a collection of symphonic poems for string orchestra

M1202 = an individual symphonic poem or a collection of symphonic poems for band

M1003 = an individual suite, variations or a collection of suites, variations for orchestra

M1103 = an individual suite, variations or a collection of suites, variations for string orchestra

M1203 = an individual suite, variations or a collection of suites, variations for band

M1004 = an individual overture or a collection of overtures for orchestra

M1104 = an individual overture or a collection of overtures for string orchestra

M1204 = an individual overture or a collection of overtures for band

M1042 = an individual concerto or a collection of concertos for orchestra

M1142 = an individual concerto or a collection of concertos for string orchestra

M1242 = an individual concerto or a collection of concertos for band

Works *not* in one of these forms fall under the catch-all term "pieces," although even these have numbers for individual forms:

M1045 = an individual piece or a collection of pieces for orchestra

M1145 = an individual piece or a collection of pieces for string orchestra

M1245 = an individual piece or a collection of pieces for band

M1046 = an individual march or a collection of marches for orchestra

M1146 = an individual march or a collection of marches for string orchestra

M1247 = an individual march or a collection of marches for band

M1047 = a collection of dances for orchestra

M1147 = a collection of dances for string orchestra

M1247.9 = a collection of dances for band

The class numbers for dances are further subdivided according to two-rhythm (polka, etc.) and three-rhythm (waltz, etc.):

M1048 = an individual two-rhythm dance or a collection of two-rhythm dances for orchestra

M1148 = an individual two-rhythm dance or a collection of two-rhythm dances for string orchestra

M1248 = an individual two-rhythm dance or a collection of two-rhythm dances for band

M1049 = an individual three-rhythm dance or a collection of three-rhythm dances for orchestra

M1149 = an individual three-rhythm dance or a collection of three-rhythm dances for string orchestra

M1249 = an individual three-rhythm dance or a collection of three-rhythm dances for band

Classifying works with *keyboard*:

Piano, etc.: "Unless specific classes are otherwise available, the term is meant to include harpsichord, clavichord, virginal, and similar keyboard instruments whose strings are plucked or struck."

Continuo: "Class works with continuo parts as if the continuo were played by one, not two, performers, and, in general, as if the chordal portion of the continuo part were for piano (harpsichord, etc.)"

Studies and exercises:

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Pedagogical works (with or without accompaniment): class in **MT** studies and exercises

Concert works: class concert works titled "studies" by medium of performance in class **M**.

Class numbers for [vocal music](#)

Class numbers for vocal music tend to emphasize the accompaniment and are less easy to remember.

Secular and sacred works of the same type and for the same medium of performance are classed in different class numbers. For example, a secular song for voice and orchestra is classed in M1613 and a sacred song for voice and orchestra in M2103. There is no pattern like M1613/M2113 or M1619/M2119 in the class schedule, making it difficult to memorize the class numbers.

Some limitations of Class M are:

➔ The schedule is inconsistent in the level of detail.

» Many classes are subdivided in detail. For example, the class numbers for music organ ([M6-M14](#) [10]), piano ([M20-M39](#) [11]), violin and piano ([M217-M223](#) [12]), violoncello and piano ([M229-M236](#) [13]), and orchestra ([M1000/M1075](#) [14]) are further subdivided by type of composition (suite, sonata, symphony, etc.)

» Other class numbers are so general that a wide variety of works are classed in it. For example, see the class numbers [M298](#) [15] and [298.5](#) [16] and [M385, M485, M685, etc.](#) [17] and [M386, M486, M586, etc.](#) [18] Most works that include percussion are classed in one of these class numbers, because percussion is not covered elsewhere in the schedule.

» Still other class numbers are in-between highly detailed and not detailed enough. For example, all music for two wind instruments, original or arranged, are classed in just two class numbers: [M288](#) [19] (collections) and [M289](#) [19] (separate works).

➔ The entire schedule is oriented toward western art music.

➔ It is difficult to use Class M to classify sound recordings. (Some libraries use a variation of LC Class M; other libraries shelve recordings by accession number or manufacturer number. One system used by many public libraries is the [ANSCR classification system for sound recordings](#) [20], which includes over fifty major categories into which sound recordings may be organized.)

Outline of Library of Congress Classification: Class M

M1.A1-1.A15 Music printed or copied in manuscript in the United States or the colonies before 1860

M1.A5-2.3 Collections

M2-2.3 Collections of musical sources

M3-3.3 Collected works of individual composers

M3.3 First editions

M5-1490 Instrumental music

[M6-175.5](#) [3] Solo instruments

M176 Instrumental music for motion pictures

M176.5 Instrumental music for radio and television

M177-990 Music for two or more solo instruments

[M180-298.5](#) [21] Duets

[M300-386](#) [22] Trios

[M400-486](#) [22] Quartets

[M500-586](#) [22] Quintets

[M600-686](#) [22] Sextets

[M700-786](#) [22] Septets

[M800-886](#) [22] Octets

[M900-986](#) [22] Nonets and larger combinations of purely chamber music

[M990](#) [23] Chamber music for instruments of the 18th century and earlier

M 1000-1356.2 Instrumental music for large ensembles

[M1000-1075](#) [14] Orchestra

Class M

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

M1100-1160 [14]	String orchestra
M1200-1269 [14]	Band
M1270	Fife (bugle) and drum music, field music, etc.
M1350-1353	Reduced orchestra
M1356-1356.2	Dance orchestra and instrumental ensembles
M 1360-1490	Miscellaneous instrumental music
M1360	Mandolin and similar orchestras of plucked instruments
M1362	Accordion band
M1363	Steel band
M1365	Minstrel music
M1366	Jazz ensembles
M1375-1420	Instrumental music for children
M1450	Dance music
M1470	Chance compositions
M1473	Electronic music
M1480	Music with color or light apparatus
M1490	Music printed before 1700 or copied in manuscript before 1700
M1495-2199	Vocal music
M1497-1998	Secular vocal music
M1500-1527.8	Dramatic music
M1528-1529.5	Duets, trios, etc., for solo voices
[24]	
M1530-1546.5	Choruses with orchestra or other ensemble
[25]	
M1547 [26]	Collections of both accompanied and unaccompanied works
M1548-1600 [27]	Choruses, part-songs, etc., with accompaniment of keyboard or other solo instrument, or unaccompanied
M1608	Choruses, etc., in tonic sol-fa notation
M1609 [28]	Unison choruses
M1610	Cantatas, choral symphonies, etc., for unaccompanied chorus (secular and sacred) with or without solo voices
M1611-1624.8	Songs
[29]	
M1625-1626 [30]	Recitations with music
M1627-1853	National music
M1900-1978	Songs (part and solo) of special character
M1985	Musical games
M1990-1998	Secular music for children
M1999-2199	Sacred vocal music
M1999	Collections
M2000-2007 [31]	Oratorios
M2010-2017.6	Services
[32]	
M2018-2019.5	Duets, trios, etc. for solo voices
[24]	
M2020-2036 [33]	Choruses, cantatas, etc.
M2060 [26]	Collections of both accompanied and unaccompanied works
M2061-M2099	Choruses, part-songs, etc., with accompaniment of keyboard or other solo instrument, or unaccompanied
[27]	
M2102-2114.8	Songs
[29]	
M2115-2146	Hymnals. Hymn collections
M2147-2188	Liturgy and ritual
M2147-2155.6	Roman Catholic Church
M2156-2160.87	Orthodox churches
M2161-2183	Protestant churches
M2184	Other Christian churches
M2186-2187	Jewish
M2188	Other non-Christian religions

Class M

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M2190-2196	Sacred vocal music for children
M2198-2199	Gospel, revival, temperance, etc. songs
M5000	Unidentified compositions

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/class-m>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music> [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/call-numbers> [3] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m6m175> [4] http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/LCC_M_GL.pdf [5] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m300m990#string> [6] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298#m224m228> [7] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m300m990#wind> [8] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/instname#woodwind> [9] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/instname#brass> [10] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m6m175#organ> [11] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m6m175#piano> [12] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298#violin> [13] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298#cello> [14] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1000> [15] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298#specified> [16] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298#unspecified> [17] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m300m990#specified> [18] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m300m990#unspecified> [19] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298#wind> [20] http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/anscr_class.htm [21] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m180m298> [22] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m300m990> [23] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m300m990#990> [24] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1528> [25] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#acc2more> [26] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#accandunacc> [27] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#acc1unacc> [28] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#unison> [29] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1611> [30] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1611#recitations> [31] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#orat> [32] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#mass> [33] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/m1500#chor>