

Subject headings for vocal music

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Vocal music is assigned form headings or [medium of performance headings](#) just as instrumental music is.

<u>Form headings</u>	<u>Medium of performance headings</u>
Songs	Vocal trios, Unaccompanied
Oratorios	Choruses
Cantatas	Vocal duets with harp
Masses	Sacred vocal ensembles

[Form heading](#) are usually qualified by medium of performance (vocal range or vocal grouping) unless it is implied:

Choruses (Mixed voices) no vocal group is implied; it must be stated

Songs (High voice) no vocal range is implied; it must be stated

Masses chorus is implied

[Subject headings](#) for vocal music may also indicate:

number of voices: Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices, [4 parts](#) [6])

type of accompaniment: _____
 ___ with piano
 Unaccompanied

secular or sacred use:	Choruses, Secular	Choruses, Sacred
	Songs [secular is implied]	Sacred songs
	Vocal trios [secular is implied]	Sacred vocal trios
	Secular oratorios	Oratorios [sacred is implied]

[Medium of performance headings](#) are *not* assigned to works that are

- not composed in a specific form of composition
OR
- in a form of composition not in LCSH
OR
- when the form heading in LCSH (eg. Psalms (Music)) is not to be qualified by medium of performance.

Subject headings for vocal music

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[» Note: It is not LCSH practice to bring out the medium of performance in the majority of headings assigned to popular music.]

Subject headings for liturgical music are added when applicable. Most are given in the singular, with no medium of performance:

Holy-week music.

Magnificat (Music)

Nunc dimittis (Music)

Song of Solomon (Music)

Christmas music.

These headings can also be assigned to instrumental music.

The subject heading "Psalms (Music)" is given in the plural, with no medium of performance. When appropriate, subdivide the heading by the specific psalm:

650 0 Psalms (Music) ‡v 23rd Psalm

The numbering in subject headings for psalms follows the Authorized version (e.g., the Hebrew and Protestant Bible) and to the table under BS1450 in the LC Classification schedule. [Wikipedia](#) [7] gives a summary:

- Catholic official liturgical texts follow the Greek numbering, but modern Catholic translations often use the Hebrew numbering, sometimes adding, in parenthesis the Greek numbering as well.
- Eastern Orthodox translations are based on the Greek numbering.
- Protestant translations are based on the Hebrew numbering.

Hebrew (and Protestant)
numbering

Greek/Latin (Catholic)
numbering (also referred to as "vulgate")

1–8

1–8

9-10

9

11-113

10–112

114-115

113

116

114–115

117-146

116–145

147

146–147

148-150

148–150

Instrumental accompaniment of vocal works

A **single instrument** is named following the word "with":

_____ with accordion

_____ with violoncello

The name of **two of the same keyboard instrument** follows the word "with" and is qualified with "(2)":

_____ with pianos (2)

_____ with harpsichords (2)

Use "keyboard instrument ensemble" when there are **two different keyboard instruments**:

_____ with keyboard instrument

Note: previous practice was to name each, in alphabetical order:

_____ with organ and piano

When there are

» two or more of the **same non-keyboard instrument**

OR

» **two or more non-keyboard instruments from the same**

instrumental family [8]

use the instrumental family name followed by "ensemble":

_____ with string ensemble

This would include string quartets, quintets, etc.

_____ with woodwind ensemble

This would include woodwind quartets, quintets, etc.

When there are **two or more instruments from different instrumental families (one to a part)**, use "instrumental ensemble":

_____ with instrumental ensemble

When there are **two or more instruments from different instrumental families (two or more to a part)**, use the name of the ensemble:

_____ with orchestra

_____ with band

When there are **two or more of the same solo instruments (one to a part)**, use the name of that instrument followed by "ensemble":

_____ with violoncello ensemble

Subject headings for vocal music

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[Works for one voice with or without accompaniment](#) See also [Songs vs. solo cantatas](#) [9]

Songs

The heading "Songs" implies secular; for sacred works use "Sacred songs". Note that "Sacred songs" is not in inverted order	Songs	
	Sacred songs	
The range of the solo voice, when known, is indicated as high, medium, or low.	Songs (High voice)	
Even if the specific voice type is known, it is not designated in a subject heading, unlike in a uniform title, in which either specific voice type or vocal range may be indicated.	Sacred songs (Low voice)	

Other forms

Variations (Voice ...)

Accompaniment

Unaccompanied

Unaccompanied songs are qualified as such: Songs (Medium voice), Unaccompanied

Accompanied

Accompaniment is indicated by the phrase "with _____."

Accompaniment of **one** instrument:

Songs (High voice) with piano
Sacred songs (Low voice) with violoncello

Accompaniment of **one to two keyboard** instruments:

Songs (High voice) with pianos (2)
Sacred songs (Medium voice) with organs (2)

Accompaniment of **one keyboard** instrument and **one non-keyboard** instrument OR

Songs (High voice) with instrumental ensemble
Variations (Voice with instrumental ensemble)

two or more non-keyboard instruments is indicated as "instrumental ensemble"

Songs (High voice) with ~~piano and harp~~
Songs (High voice) with ~~string quartet~~

→ "Instrumental ensemble" could mean piano and violin; or flute and harp; or string quartet; or four horns. Indicating each would be incorrect:

Solo cantatas

The heading "Solo cantatas" implies neither secular nor sacred. Both must be indicated, and the headings are in inverted form.

Solo cantatas, Secular
Solo cantatas, Sacred

The range of the solo voice, when known, is indicated as high, medium, or low.

Solo cantatas, Secular (High voice)
Solo cantatas, Sacred (Low voice)

Even if the specific voice type is known, it is not designated in a subject heading.

Accompaniment

Accompaniment for solo cantatas is not indicated in the subject heading.

[Works for two or more voices, one to a part](#) See also [Vocal ensembles](#) [10]

Form headings

These are some of the form headings for works for two or more solo voices:

Part songs

The heading "Part songs" implies secular.

Part songs

For sacred works use "Part songs, Sacred." Note that it is in inverted order

Part songs, Sacred

For secular Part songs all in one language, qualify the heading by that language.

Part songs, English

Latin is implied in the heading "Part songs, Sacred"

Part songs, Sacred *not*: Part songs, Sacred, Latin

For sacred Part songs in other languages are assigned 2 headings:

Part songs, Sacred
Part songs, English

Specific forms of Part songs

These headings may also be used for works for choral ensemble (two or more voices, two or more to a part).

Accompaniment is not indicated in subject headings for Part songs or any of the specific types of Part songs.

Secular:

Polyphonic chansons

Sacred:

Motets

Anthems

Other forms

Canons, fugues, etc. (Vocal quartet)

Subject headings for vocal music

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Medium of performance headings

The headings "Vocal duets," "Vocal trios," "Vocal quartets," etc. are used for groups of two to nine solo voices. For ten or more solo voices, use "Vocal ensembles." Neither the vocal range nor voice type is designated. These headings imply secular works. For sacred works, use "Sacred vocal duets," "Sacred vocal trios," "Sacred vocal quartets," etc., and "Sacred vocal ensembles"

Secular:	Vocal duets Vocal quintets Vocal ensembles
Sacred:	Sacred vocal duets Sacred vocal quintets Sacred vocal ensembles

Accompaniment

Unaccompanied works are qualified as such:	Vocal duets, Unaccompanied Sacred vocal quintets, Unaccompanied Sacred vocal ensembles, Unaccompanied
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Accompaniment is indicated by the phrase "with _____."

Accompaniment of one instrument:	Vocal sextets with piano Sacred vocal quartets with harp Vocal ensembles with guitar
---	--

Accompaniment of one to two keyboard instruments:	Sacred vocal trios with pianos (2) Vocal quartets with harpsichords (2)
--	--

Accompaniment of one keyboard instrument and one non-keyboard instrument OR	Vocal trios with instrumental ensemble
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two or more non-keyboard instruments is indicated as "instrumental ensemble"

→ "Instrumental ensemble" could mean piano and violin; or flute and harp; or string quartet; or four horns. Indicating each would be incorrect:

Vocal trios with piano and harp

[Works for two or more voices, two or more to a part](#) See also [Choruses vs. cantatas](#) [11]

[Choruses](#) See also [Those darn chorus subject headings!](#) [6]

The heading "Choruses" implies neither secular nor sacred and is used without designation of secular or sacred for collections of both secular and sacred works.

For individual works or collections that are either secular or sacred, the term "secular" or "sacred" is added to the heading, in inverted form.

Collections for more than one voice grouping which do not all have the same accompaniment: Do not add: voice grouping number of voices accompaniment → Do not consider solo voices in formulating subject headings for choruses.	Choruses, Secular Choruses, Sacred
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Single works and collections for one voice grouping : Add: voice grouping mixed voices, women's voices, men's voices, children's voices, equal voices , unison [not unison voices] number of voices <i>may</i> be added. → Do not consider solo voices in formulating subject headings for choruses.	Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices) Choruses, Secular (Equal voices) Choruses, Sacred (Children's voices)
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Number of voices is indicated only when these conditions apply: a. 8 parts or fewer AND	Choruses, Secular (Women's voices, 4 parts) with piano
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b. accompaniment of either one instrument (i.e., piano, violoncello, harp, etc.) two of the <i>same</i> keyboard instrument	Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices, 4 parts) with pianos (2) Choruses, Secular (Children's voices, 3 parts), Unaccompanied.
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Subject headings for vocal music

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continuo OR c. unaccompanied		
Accompaniment		
Unaccompanied choruses are qualified as such:	Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices, 4 parts), Unaccompanied	
	Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices), Unaccompanied	
Accompaniment is indicated by the phrase "with _____."	Choruses, Sacred (Women's voices) with piano	
	Choruses with organ	
	Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices, 4 parts) with violoncello	
Accompaniment of one or two of the same keyboard instrument:	Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices, 5 parts) with pianos (2)	
Accompaniment of two different keyboard instruments (indicated as "keyboard instrument ensemble"):	Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices) with keyboard instrument ensemble	
Accompaniment of one keyboard instrument and one non-keyboard instrument OR	Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices) with instrumental ensemble	
two or more non-keyboard instruments is indicated as "instrumental ensemble"	Choruses, Sacred (Children's voices) with instrumental ensemble	
→ "Instrumental ensemble" could mean piano and violin; or flute and harp; or string quartet; or four horns. Indicating each would be incorrect; use "keyboard instrument ensemble" for two or more different keyboard instruments.		
→ The number of vocal parts is not indicated when the accompaniment is two or more instruments (other than two of the same keyboard instrument or continuo)		
Cantatas		
The heading "Cantatas" implies neither secular nor sacred and is used without designation of secular or sacred for collections of both secular and sacred works.		
For individual works or collections that are either secular or sacred, the term "secular" or "sacred" is added to the heading, in inverted form.		
Collections for mixed voices or for more than one voice grouping and	Cantatas, Secular	
Single works for mixed voices	Cantatas, Sacred	
Single works and collections for one voice grouping other than mixed voices	Cantatas, Secular (Women's voices)	
Add:	Cantatas, Sacred (Unison)	
voice grouping (other than "mixed voices") women's voices, men's voices, children's voices, equal voices , unison [not unison voices]		
→ The number of voices is not designated in subject headings for cantatas.		
Accompaniment		
Type of accompaniment or lack of accompaniment is not designated in subject headings for cantatas.		
Oratorios		
The heading "Oratorios" implies a sacred text. The heading is used without the designation "sacred."		
For oratorios with secular texts, use "Secular oratorios." Unlike the subject headings for choruses and cantatas, the heading is in direct order (not "Oratorios, Secular")		
Vocal grouping (mixed voices, women's voices, etc.) is not indicated in subject headings for oratorios.		
Accompaniment		
Type of accompaniment or lack of accompaniment is not designated in subject headings for oratorios.		
Works with accompaniment reduced for a keyboard instrument include the subject subdivision [12] "Vocal scores with ..."	Oratorios †v Vocal scores with organ Secular oratorios †v Vocal scores with piano	
Other forms		
Works in a specific form are assigned with the medium of performance "Chorus" added.	Canons, fugues, etc. (Chorus ...) Waltzes (Chorus ...) Polkas (Chorus ...)	
Accompaniment		

Subject headings for vocal music

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Unaccompanied works are not indicated as such:	Canons, fugues, etc. (Chorus) Rondos (Chorus) Waltzes (Chorus)	
Accompaniment is indicated by the phrase "with _____."	Polkas (Chorus with orchestra) Waltzes (Chorus with piano) Waltzes (Chorus with piano, 4 hands)	

equal voices: voices of the same type when employed in a polyphonic work, e.g., all sopranos or all tenors; sometimes also merely all male or all female (New Harvard Dictionary of Music)

[Unaccompanied works](#)

The qualifier "unaccompanied" is used with vocal music subject headings **except** for with these forms: cantatas, musicals, operas, oratorios or with subject headings in which lack of accompaniment is already implied (e.g., Canons, fugues, etc. (Voices (3)))

[Musicals and revues](#)

Musical: a theatrical production consisting of musical numbers (songs, ensembles, and dances) integrated into a dramatic framework

Revue: a theatrical production featuring a series of songs, dances, and other entertainments without any unifying dramatic element

[Arrangements](#)

The qualifier "Arranged" is not used with vocal music subject headings.

The subject heading is assigned for the medium into which the work has been arranged.

A work originally for high voice and harp, arranged for voice and piano:

Correct: Songs (High voice) with piano

Incorrect: Songs (High voice) with piano, Arranged.

A work originally for chorus and orchestra; arranged for chorus and organ

Correct: Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices) with orchestra ꝓ Vocal scores with organ.

Incorrect: Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices) with organ, Arranged.

However, LC is using "Arranged" in the subject heading "Oratorios":

An oratorio with accompaniment originally for piano or organ, arranged for orchestra

Oratorios, Arranged.

[Qualifying by language of text](#)

Source: *LC Subject Cataloging Manual* H 1916.3

Vocal works are qualified by the language of the text when they are:

- entirely or chiefly ballads, folk songs, children's songs, or songs
- in the original language
- in one or two languages
 - when three or more languages all from the same language group are involved, add the name of that language group [e.g., Scandinavian, Slavic, etc.]

Vocal works are **not** qualified by the language of the text when they:

- imply national emphasis
- are translations
- are in three or more languages from different language groups

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/subvocal>

Links

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