Subject headings for vocal music


Instrumental accompaniment of vocal works | Subject headings for liturgical works

Works for one voice with or without accompaniment: Songs | Accompaniment | Solo cantatas | Accompaniment
Works for two or more voices, one to a part with or without accompaniment: Accompaniment

Works for two or more voices, two or more to a part with or without accompaniment: Choruses | Accompaniment | Cantatas | Accompaniment | Oratorios | Accompaniment
Unaccompanied works
Musicals and revues
Arrangements
Qualifying by language of text

Vocal music is assigned form headings or medium of performance headings just as instrumental music is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form headings</th>
<th>Medium of performance headings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Songs</td>
<td>Vocal trios, Unaccompanied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oratorios</td>
<td>Choruses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantatas</td>
<td>Vocal duets with harp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masses</td>
<td>Sacred vocal ensembles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Songs [secular is implied]
Vocal trios [secular is implied]
Oratorios

Sacred
Sacred songs
Sacred vocal trios
Oratorios [sacred is implied]

Medium of performance headings are not assigned to works that are

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

[» 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew (and Protestant) numbering</th>
<th>Greek/Latin (Catholic) numbering (also referred to as &quot;vulgate&quot;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–8</td>
<td>1–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10</td>
<td>10–112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116–115</td>
<td>114–115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117–146</td>
<td>116–145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>146–147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148–150</td>
<td>148–150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instrumental accompaniment of vocal works

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

- with accordion
- with violoncell
- with pianos (2)
- with harpsichords (2)

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 ensemble

When there are two or more of the same non-keyboard instrument

- with string ensemble

This would include string quartets, quintets, etc.

OR

- with woodwind ensemble

This would include woodwind quartets, quintets, etc.

Use the instrumental family name followed by "ensemble":

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

- with orchestra

When there are two or more instruments from different instrumental families (two or more to a part), use the name of the
### Subject headings for vocal music

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ensemble: When there are two or more of the same solo instruments (one to a part), use the name of that instrument followed by &quot;ensemble&quot;:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Works for one voice with or without accompaniment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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)
  - Sacred songs (Low 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.

#### Other forms

- Variations (Voice ...)

#### Accompaniment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unaccompanied</th>
<th>Accompanied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied songs are qualified as such:</td>
<td>Accompaniment of one instrument:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Songs (Medium voice), Unaccompanied
- Songs (High voice) with piano
- Sacred songs (Low voice) with violoncello
- Sacred songs (Medium voice) with organs (2)

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

#### 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part songs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The heading "Part songs" implies secular. For sacred works use "Part songs, Sacred." Note that it is in inverted order. 
For secular Part songs all in one language, qualify the heading by that language. 
Latin is implied in the heading "Part songs, Sacred" For sacred Part songs in other languages are assigned 2 headings: |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part songs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part songs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part songs, Sacred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part songs, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part songs, Sacred not: Part songs, Sacred, Latin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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
### Subject headings for vocal music

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#### Other forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anthems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canons, fugues, etc. (Vocal quartet)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secular:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocal duets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal quintets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal ensembles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacred:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacred vocal duets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred vocal quintets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred vocal ensembles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Accompaniment

- Unaccompanied works are qualified as such:
  - Vocal duets, Unaccompanied
  - Sacred vocal quintets, Unaccompanied
  - Sacred vocal ensembles, Unaccompanied

- Accompaniment is indicated by the phrase "with __________.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accompaniment of one instrument:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocal sextets with piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred vocal quartets with harp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal ensembles with guitar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accompaniment of one to two keyboard instruments:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacred vocal trios with pianos (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal quartets with harpsichords (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accompaniment of one keyboard instrument and one non-keyboard instrument OR two or more non-keyboard instruments is indicated as &quot;instrumental ensemble&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Instrumental ensemble&quot; could mean piano and violin; or flute and harp; or string quartet; or four horns. Indicating each would be incorrect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

#### Choruses

- 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.

- 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 may be added.
  - Do not consider solo voices in formulating subject headings for choruses.

- Number of voices is indicated only when these conditions apply:
  - a. 8 parts or fewer
  - AND

**Choruses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choruses, Secular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choruses, Sacred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices) |
| Choruses, Secular (Equal voices) |
| Choruses, Sacred (Children's voices) |

| Choruses, Secular (Women's voices, 4 parts) with piano |
| Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices, 4 parts) with pianos (2) |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. accompaniment of either</th>
<th>Choruses, Secular (Children's voices, 3 parts), Unaccompanied.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>one instrument (i.e., piano, violoncello, harp, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>two of the same keyboard instrument</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continuo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. unaccompanied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accompaniment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unaccompanied choruses are qualified as such:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices, 4 parts), Unaccompanied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices), Unaccompanied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accompaniment is indicated by the phrase "with ________.”

| Choruses, Secular (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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices, 5 parts) with pianos (2)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Accompaniment of two different keyboard instruments (indicated as "keyboard instrument ensemble"):  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choruses, Sacred (Men's voices) with keyboard instrument ensemble</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Accompaniment of one keyboard instrument and one non-keyboard instrument OR 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; 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 Single works for mixed voices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cantatas, Secular</th>
<th>Cantatas, Sacred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Single works and collections for one voice grouping other than mixed voices  

Add:
- 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

| Canons, fugues, etc. (Chorus ...) |                                         |

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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))

Do not add "Unaccompanied" to parenthetical qualifiers in headings of this type (for two or more solo voices) when voice is the sole medium of performance (H1917.5, 8)

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 ‡v 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., Scandanavian, Slavic, etc.]

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