Recording preferred titles for musical works (RDA 6.14)

For general instructions, see Recording titles of works (RDA 6.2.1) See also recording: medium of performance (6.15) | numeric designation (6.16) | key (6.17) | other distinguishing characteristic of the expression (6.18)

The preferred title (RDA 6.2.2) for a musical work is
° the title or form of title chosen to identify the musical work
° the basis for the authorized access point representing that work.

Sources of information (6.14.2.2) | Choosing the preferred title (6.14.2.3)

Recording the preferred title for: a musical work (6.14.2.4) | title consisting solely of the name of one type of composition (6.14.2.5) | duets (6.14.2.6) | a part or parts of a musical work (6.14.2.7) | compilations of musical works (6.14.2.8)

(6.14.2.2) Sources of information
Works created after 1500: Determine the title to be used as the preferred title from resources embodying the work or from reference sources.
Works created before 1500: Determine the title to be used as the preferred title from modern reference sources.
If the evidence of modern reference sources is inconclusive, use (in this order of preference):
° modern editions
° early editions
° manuscript copies

(6.14.2.3) Choosing the preferred title for a musical work
Choose the composer's original title in the language in which it was presented.

Exceptions:
° Better known: If the work has become better known by another title in the same language, choose it as the preferred title (see also 6.2.2.4–6.2.2.5).
° Long title: If the title is very long, choose (in this order of preference)
  » a brief title by which the work is commonly identified in reference sources
  » a brief title devised by the cataloger.
° Numbered sequence: Use the name of the type of composition as the preferred title if:
  » all the titles of a composer's works include the name of a type of composition and
  » the works are also cited as a numbered sequence of compositions of that type.

(6.14.2.4) Recording the preferred title for a musical work
When recording the title chosen according to 6.14.2.3, omit from the title:
° a statement of medium of performance (even if such a statement is part of a compound word, provided that the resulting word or words is the name of a type of composition)
° key
° serial, opus, and thematic index numbers
° numbers (unless they are an integral part of the title)
° date of composition
° adjectives and epithets not part of the original title of the work

See also general guidelines for on recording a title [9]

Examples:
2013020654
  Cinq sonates & un divertissement
  Remove number: Cinq sonates & un divertissement
  What remains:: Sonates & un divertissement

The placement of the generic information ahead of the distinctive portion does not mean all of the title (statement of medium included) should be retained.
  Quatuor à cordes "Ainsi la nuit"
Best practices for music cataloging [10]: For pre-twentieth century works, normally consider phrases such as "a due," "a cinque" to be statements of medium of performance and not part of the title as defined in this rule.

For pre-twentieth century works with titles such as Duo concertant, Quartetto concertante (but not titles naming a form, such as Sinfonia concertante, Rondeau concertant, etc.), consider the word "concertant" or its equivalent to be an adjective or epithet not part of the original title of the work, and omit it from the preferred title.

(6.14.2.5) Preferred title consisting solely of the name of one type of composition
If the application of 6.14.2.3-6.14.2.4 results in a preferred title consisting solely of the name of one type of composition [8], record:
° the accepted form of that name in a language preferred by the agency creating the data.
° in the plural unless the composer wrote only one work of the type.

LC-PCC PS: Language: Record the accepted form of name in English if the name has an English cognate form or if the same name is used in English.

However: For works intended for concert performance called étude, fantasia, or sinfonia concertante or their cognates, record the form of the name in the original language.

Best practices for music cataloging [10]:
° When a composer uses a word that is normally the name of a type of composition as the title of a work that is definitely not a work of the type designated by the word, do not consider the title to be the name of a type of composition.
° A title consisting of two words, each of which alone would be the name of a type of composition, may in combination produce a distinctive title. Generally treat such a compound title as a distinctive title.

Singular vs. plural:
6.14.2.5.2: Record the accepted form of the name of the type of composition [8] in the singular form unless the composer wrote more than one work of that type with the same title.

LC-PCC PS: Singular vs. plural: The medium of performance is a separate element from the preferred title. If the composer wrote one piano sonata and one violin sonata, consider that the composer wrote two sonatas, and therefore the plural form for the type of composition must be used as the preferred title.

When cataloging the first occurrence of a work of a particular type of composition by a composer, choose the preferred title as follows:
If the composer is deceased consult reference sources to ascertain whether the composer wrote more than one work of that type and choose the singular form of the type of composition as the preferred title unless that case use the plural form on the assumption that the composer has written

When cataloging the second occurrence of a work of a particular type by a composer, if the singular form has been used in the authorized access point for the first work of that type, revise the preferred title to the plural.

LC-PCC PS: for both 6.14.2.5 and 6.28.1:
Mélodie/Mélodies; Melody/Melodies
When choosing the preferred title for a work for solo voice and keyboard stringed instrument having the French title "Mélodie" or "Mélodies," do not translate those titles into English as "Melody" or "Melodies" because the cognate words in English and other languages do not have the same meaning as the French words. Consider the medium of performance to be implied by the French title (6.28.1.9 [11]) and do not add medium of performance in the authorized access point.

When choosing the preferred title for a work for solo voice with accompaniment other than a keyboard stringed instrument alone or without accompaniment having the French title "Mélodie" or "Mélodies," do not translate the title into English. Apply RDA 6.28.1.9 and add the medium of performance of the accompaniment, or "unaccompanied," in the authorized access point.
When the English word "Melody" or "Melodies," or their cognates in another language (including French), is the title of a work that is not for solo voice and keyboard stringed instrument, consider it the name of a type of composition. Use the English form as the preferred title and add the medium of performance according to 6.28.1.9 [11].

Liturical words or phrases
When the preferred title is a Latin liturgical word or phrase (e.g., "Gloria," "Salve Regina," "Te Deum")
  ° record it in the singular
    » Exception: Use the plural form "Magnificats," "Masses," or "Requims" when appropriate
  ° Generally, do not add the medium of performance in the authorized access point.

Best practices for music cataloging [10]: Follow LC-PCC PS. Consult the alphabetical list at Types of Composition for Use in Authorized Access Points for Music [8] to determine whether the title in question meets the condition of the rule. Do not consider such titles as "Double concerto," "Tripelkonzert," etc. to be names of types of compositions.

When a composer uses a word which is normally the name of a type of composition as the title of a work which is definitely not a work of the type designated by the word, do not consider the title to be the name of a type of composition.

A title consisting of two words, each of which alone would be the name of a type of composition, may in combination produce a distinctive title. Generally treat such a compound title as a distinctive title.

(6.14.2.6) Duets
Record Duets for works variously titled duos, duets, etc.

(6.14.2.7) Recording the preferred title for a part or parts of a musical work

One part (6.14.2.7.1) Follow the instructions for recording the preferred title for a musical work (6.14.2.4) and the following:

RDA  Each part identified by:  Record:
6.14.2.7.  only a number  the number
1.1
6.14.2.7.  only a title or verbal designation  the title or verbal designation
1.2
6.14.2.7.  both a number and a title or verbal designation  and
1.3
° each of the parts is identified  the title or verbal designation
by its own title or verbal designation
  ° the parts are identified by the  the number
    same title or verbal designation
6.14.2.7.  a number and some are also  the number of the part followed by a comma and the title or verbal
1.4
    designation, if there is one

6.14.2.7. Part of a larger part
1.5
° and the title of the larger part  the distinctive title of the larger part followed by the title and/or
  is distinctive  designation of the smaller part
° and the title of the larger part  omit the designation of the larger part
  is not distinctive  » unless it is required to identify the smaller part
  Separate the title and/or designation of the larger part from the title and/or designation of the smaller part
by a full stop

Two or more parts (6.14.2.7.2): record the preferred titles of the parts applying the instructions given under 6.2.2.9.1: Record the preferred title for the part by applying the basic instructions at 6.2.1 [3].

Examples:

Nr. 5
  Preferred title for a part of Johannes Brahms's Ungarische Tänze in a compilation also including Nr. 6 of the same work
Nr. 6
  Preferred title for a part of Johannes Brahms's Ungarische Tänze in a compilation also including Nr. 5 of the same work
  Largo al factotum
  Preferred title for a part of Gioacchino Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia in a compilation also including the part
Una voce poco fa
   Preferred title for a part of Gioacchino Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia in a compilation also including the part Largo al factotum
   No. 2
   Preferred title for a part of Franz Schubert's Impromptus, piano, D. 899 in a compilation also including No. 4 of the same work
   No. 4
   Preferred title for a part of Franz Schubert's Impromptus, piano, D. 899 in a compilation also including No. 2 of the same work

If a composer assembles a group of excerpts from a larger work and calls the group suite, record that word as the designation for the part

Alternative: When identifying two or more parts of a work, instead of (or in addition to) recording the preferred title for each of the parts, record the conventional collective title Selections as the preferred title for the parts unless the parts form a group called suite by the composer.

(6.14.2.8) Compilations of musical works
This rule is used for a compilation of works that is not known by a title used in resources embodying that compilation or in reference sources.

If a compilation of musical works has become known by a title through use in resources embodying that compilation or in reference sources, apply the instructions at 6.2.2.4-6.2.2.5.

For other compilations, record the preferred title for a compilation that consists of, or purports to be, the complete musical works or complete works for a broad or specific medium in various or a single type by a composer by applying the instructions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RDA</th>
<th>Type of compilation:</th>
<th>Record:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.14.2.8. Complete works</td>
<td>Works</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consider complete works to include a compilation that consists of, or purports to be, the complete musical works of a composer. Treat compilations that are complete at the time of publication as complete works.

6.14.2.8. Complete works for one broad medium
   in various types

one of the following conventional collective titles:
   - Chamber music
   - Choral music
   - Instrumental music
   - Keyboard music
   - Vocal music

If none of the above is appropriate, record an appropriate specific collective title.

Best practices for music cataloging [10]: Use only those conventional collective titles given as examples

LC-PCC PS: For a collection of popular songs by a composer such as George Gershwin or Cole Porter, normally use the conventional
Recording preferred titles for musical works (RDA 6.14)  
Published on Yale University Library (https://web.library.yale.edu)

collective title “Songs. Selections” regardless of whether some of the songs may have originally been intended for theatrical productions. If, however, the resource being cataloged provides clear evidence that all the songs in the compilation are from larger works of a single type of composition, use the authorized form of the type as the basis of the conventional collective title (e.g., “Musicals. Selections”).

Complete works for one specific medium  
° in a single type

6.14.2.8. Complete works of one type for one specific medium or various media

apply the instructions given under 6.14.2.8.5.

one of the following conventional collective titles:
° Concertos
° Musicals
° Operas
° Polonaises
° Quartets
° Sonatas
° Songs
° Symphonies

If none of the above is appropriate, record an appropriate specific collective title.

Best practices for music cataloging [10]: To the extent possible, use names of types of compositions given in Types of Composition for Use in Authorized Access Points for Music [8]. If none of those is suitable, use an appropriate a genre/form term (e.g., Motion picture music, Incidental music). As the RDA examples show, use an English-language form if one is available.

6.14.2.8. Compilation corresponding to one of the categories above and the compilation is incomplete

Identify each of the works in the compilation separately by applying the instructions at 6.14.2.4-6.14.2.7

Example:
Renaissance concerto  
Salomon Rossi suite  
Orpheus and Euridice  
Resource described: Orchestral works / by Lukas Foss

Alternative: When identifying two or more works in an incomplete compilation, record a conventional collective title as instructed at 6.14.2.8.2-6.14.2.8.5, as applicable, followed by Selections. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to recording the preferred title for each of the works in the compilation.

Example:
Orchestra music. Selections  
Resource described: Orchestral works / by Lukas Foss

LC-PCC PS: LC practice for Alternative: Instead of recording the preferred title for each of the works in the compilation, record a conventional collective title followed by “Selections.” Give an authorized access point for the first or predominant work (25.1) or expression (26.1).

Best practices for music cataloging [10]: Generally follow LC-PCC PS for the alternative. If deemed useful for identification and access, also give separate access points for all individual works embodied in the resource.