

Numeric designation of musical work or expression (MARC 383)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [MARC tagging](#) [2]

Note: this page was created with music cataloging in mind.

Use in conjunction with [Recording numeric designation for musical works](#) [3] (RDA 6.16) and [Best practices for music cataloging](#) [4].

In 2024, the field was renamed and the definition and scope was broadened to accommodate numeric designations of musical expressions. See [Interim Music Library Association Best Practices for Recording Numeric Designations of Musical Works and Expressions in Field 383 of the MARC Bibliographic and Authority Formats](#) [5].

See also [380 \[6\]](#): Form of work | [381 \[7\]](#): Other distinguishing characteristics of a work or expression | [382 \[8\]](#): Medium of performance | [384 \[9\]](#): Key

Sources: LC MARC 21 format for [bibliographic date](#) [10] and [authority data](#) [11] and [DCM Z1](#) [12]

[Indicators](#) | [Subfields](#) | [Examples](#)

In **bibliographic** and **authority** records: a serial number, opus number, or thematic index number assigned to a musical work by the composer, publisher, or a musicologist.

- May be used to differentiate a musical work from another with the same title.

Instructions for PCC catalogers in [Descriptive Cataloging Manual \(DCM\) Z1 \[12\]](#), section on field 383:

- Best practice: Encode when available.
- Create separate 383 fields for different numbering schemes associated with a single work.

Indicators

1st	0 = Work: Numeric designation associated with the work. 1 = Expression: Numeric designation associated with the expression
2nd	blank

Subfields

‡a	Serial number: a numeric designation of musical work that is assigned by a composer or a reference source that indicates a sequence of musical works that share the same title or that share the same title and the same representative medium of performance.
‡b	Opus number: a numeric designation of musical work that is assigned from a list of works of a composer indicating the chronological order of composition. The thematic index numbers used in an authorized access point should come from a recognized thematic index, but you may record numbers not found in such a source in the 383 field.
‡c	Thematic index number: a numeric designation of musical work that is assigned from a list of works of a composer, usually arranged in chronological order or by categories, with the theme given for each composition or for each section of large composition.
‡d	Thematic index code: code identifying thematic index represented by the number recorded in subfield ‡c. ◦ For codes, see Thematic Indexes Used in Library of Congress NACO Authority Files [13]
‡e	Publisher associated with opus number: brief identification of publisher associated with number recorded in ‡b. ◦ Use only when different publishers assign

» different opus numbers to the same work

or

» the same opus number to different works.

‡2 Source of term: MARC code that identifies the source of the term in subfield ‡a when it is from a controlled list.

° use ‡2 mlati for [Thematic Indexes Used in Library of Congress NACO Authority Files](#) [13].

Examples

Serial number:

383 __ no. 4

383 __ N. 1

383 __ 1. colección

383 __ conatum 15

383 __ 3r quadern

383 __ book 2

Range of consecutive serial numbers:

383 __ No. 5-6

383 __ no. 14-17

Opus number:

383 __ ‡b op. 31

383 __ ‡b op. 30a

383 __ ‡b op. 99A

383 __ ‡b op. posth.

° op. posth. numbers are not used in authorized access points, but may be recorded in a 383 field.

383 __ ‡b WoO 53

° WoO (Werke ohne Opus) numbers are not used in authorized access points, but may be recorded in a 383 field.

Publisher associated with opus number:

383 __ ‡b op. 3 ‡e André

383 __ ‡b op. 5 ‡e Hummel

Different opus numbers associated with the same work from different publishers:

no2014154638

383 __ ‡b op. 30 ‡e André

383 __ ‡b op. 14 ‡e Hummel

383 __ ‡b op. 30 ‡e Sieber

Serial number and opus number:

383 __ no. 1 ‡b op. 38

383 __ no. 8 ‡b op. 27

383 __ book 1 ‡b op. 4

383 __ no. 1 ‡b op. 77d

383 __ 4e recueil ‡b op. 118

Serial number within an opus number:

383 __ ‡b op. 11, no. 1

383 __ ‡b op. 125, no. 1b

383 __ ‡b op. 78, no. 2

383 __ ‡b 35, no. 2a

Different serial number with opus numbers associated with the same work from different publishers:

no2011193943

383 __ ‡b op. 23, no. 1 ‡e Gombart

383 __ ‡b op. 23, no. 3 ‡e Longman

383 __ ‡b op. 23, no. 2 ‡e Mollo

383 __ ‡b op. 35, no. 1 ‡e Sieber

Serial number within an opus number with consecutively numbered works:

383 __ no. 1 ‡b op. 8, no. 1

383 __ no. 1 ‡b op. 125, no. 46

Opus number with consecutive range of serial numbers:

383 __ ‡b op. 8, no. 1-4

Thematic index numbers:

383 __ †c H. 431
 383 __ †c H. VIIIh, 1
 383 __ †c H. VI, D1
 383 __ †c WoO 32
 383 __ †c T. 6
 383 __ †c B. 15bis
 383 __ †c WV 5.22
 383 __ †c HWV Anh. B
 383 __ †c W. B Inc 2
 383 __ †c GraunWV Av:XV:50
 383 __ †c VdGS no. 8

Thematic index number with serial number of part:

383 __ †c P. 249. No. 3
 383 __ †c WV 4.11-4.13. No. 3
 383 __ †c B. 410-415. No. 4-6

Range of consecutive thematic index numbers:

383 __ †c T. 66-71
 383 __ †c G. 437-442
 383 __ †c H. XV, 24-26
 383 __ †c P. IX:24-26
 383 __ †c BWV 1007-1012

Range of consecutive thematic index numbers with serial number of part:

383 __ †c W. B 43-48. No. 2
 383 __ †c WV 4.11-4.13. No. 3

Range of consecutive thematic index numbers with consecutive serial numbers of parts:

383 __ †c W. B 36-41. No. 5-6

Thematic index numbers, with thematic index code and source of information code (in these examples: [mlati](#) [13]):

383 __ †c B. 77 †d Burghauser †2 mlati
 383 __ †c H. II, 46 †d Hoboken †2 mlati
 383 __ †c TWV 54:D3 †d Ruhnke †2 mlati
 383 __ †c F. I, 22-25 †d Fanna †2 mlati
 383 __ †c GraunWV Av:XIII:36 †d Henzell †2 mlati
 383 __ †c WoO 10 †d McCorkle †2 mlati
 383 __ †c TVWV15:15 †d Menke †2 mlati
 383 __ †c RV 269 †c RV 315 †c RV 293 †c RV 297 †d Ryom †2 mlati
 383 __ †c BWV 1001 †c BWV 1002 †c BWV 1003 †c BWV 1004 †c BWV 1005 †c BWV 1006 †d BWV †2 mlati

Separate 383 fields for different types of numeric designations:

383 __ Nr. 1
 383 __ †c WoO 9 †d McCorkle †2 mlati

 383 __ †c W. B70-B75 †d Warburton †2 mlati
 383 __ †b op. 11

 383 __ †c L III:121 †d Lee †2 mlati
 383 __ †b op. 1, no. 4<

Different numeric designations for the same work from different sources:

383 __ †c H. 559 †d Helm †2 mlati
 383 __ †c W. 137 †d Wotquenne †2 mlati

Numeric designations from current and older editions of the same source:

Both editions of the source have [mlati](#) [13] codes:
 383 __ no. 21 †c K. 304 †d **Köchel** †2 mlati ← The mlati code for the 1937 (4th) edition of Köchel
 383 __ †c K. 300c †d **Köchel6** †2 mlati ← The mlati code for the 1983 (6th) edition of Köchel

Numeric designations from current and older editions of the same source and from an alternate source:

Separate 383 fields for alternate numbers from different sources (Ryom and Fanna) and numbering from an older

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edition of one of those sources (Ryom):

The number in the current (2007) edition of Ryom is RV Anh. 103. In the current edition, there is a reference from an older form of numbering (RV 102), taken from the 1986 edition. Even though it is referenced in the current edition, it is considered to have been taken from the older edition. Because there is no [mlati](#) [13] code for the 1986 edition, there is no ‡2 code in the 383 field for the older form of number:

383 __ ‡c RV Anh. 103 ‡d **Ryom** ‡2 mlati

← The mlati code for the 2007 edition of Ryom

383 __ ‡c RV 102 ‡d **Ryom, 1986**

← The 1986 edition of Ryom doesn't have a mlati code

383 __ ‡c F. XII, 52 ‡d Fanna ‡2 mlati

← Numeric designation from another source (mlati code Fanna), to be used in variant access points for the work

Unusual examples:

Symphony no. 5, op. 76; first published as Symphony no. 3; once known as op. 24

383 __ no. 3

383 __ no. 5

383 __ ‡b op. 76

383 __ ‡b op. 24

Divertimento no. 3 op. 15 also published as op. 16

383 __ ‡b op. 15, no. 3

383 __ ‡b op. 16, no. 3

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC383>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music> [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marc-tagging> [3]

<http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/numbers> [4]

<http://access.rdatoolkit.org/document.php?id=mlabp6&target=mlabp6-743#mlabp6-743> [5]

<https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/02/MLA-Best-Practices-for-383.pdf> [6]

<http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC380> [7] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC381>

[8] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC382> [9]

<http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC384> [10] <http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd383.html> [11]

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/authority/ad383.html> [12] <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/dcmz1.pdf> [13]

<https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/thematic-indexes-used-in-library-of-congress-naco-authority-files/>