Commonly used terms in the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Terms for Music (LCMPT)


This is a list of commonly used names of instruments, voices, and ensembles as found in the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Terms for Music (LCMPT). This is not a complete list. Please consult Classification Web [3] (subscription required) or the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music [4] website for the complete list.

These terms are used in conjunction with MLA's Best practices for using LCMPT [5] (version 1.41, 3/31/2020)) and Recording medium of performance for musical works [6] (RDA 6.15) in the 382 field in bibliographic and authority records. See Medium of performance (MARC 382) [7] for MARC coding in the 382 field

Instruments: keyboard | wind: woodwind | brass | bowed string | plucked string | percussion | electronic | other | early | unspecified
Voices
Ensembles: instrumental | vocal

Keyboard instruments
keyboard instrument (unspecified or unidentified keyboard instrument)
celesta
clavichord
electronic keyboard
electronic piano
harpsichord
organ
piano
reed organ

Wind instruments
wind instrument (unspecified woodwind or brass instrument)
° woodwind instrument (unspecified woodwind instrument)
° reed instrument (unspecified reed instrument)
° double reed instrument (unspecified double reed instrument)
° single reed instrument (unspecified single reed instrument)
° brass instrument (unspecified brass instrument)

Woodwind instruments
flute
° piccolo
° alto flute
° bass flute
° contrabass flute
oboë
° English horn
° oboe d’amore
clarinet
° soprannino clarinet (use for E♭ clarinet)
° alto clarinet
° bass clarinet
° contra-alto clarinet
° contrabass clarinet
° basset horn
bassoon
° contrabassoon

Bowed string instruments

bowed string instrument (unspecified string instrument played with a bow)
violin
viola
cello
double bass
viola d'amore
### Electronic Instruments

- electronic instrument
  - computer
  - electronics
  - live electronics
  - MIDI controller
  - ondes Martenot
  - pre-recorded audio
  - sampler
  - sequencer
  - synthesizer
  - theremin

### Other Instruments

- bayan
- accordion
- bagpipe
- bandoneon
- hurdy-gurdy

### Voices

- voice (unspecified vocalized part)
  - singer (a performer who uses her or his voice to produce musical tone)
    - child's voice
    - boy soprano voice
    - high voice
    - soprano voice
    - countertenor voice
    - tenor voice
    - medium voice
    - mezzo-soprano voice
    - baritone voice
    - low voice
    - alto voice
    - bass-baritone voice
    - bass voice
    - basso profondo
    - lead singer
    - female voice
    - male voice
    - speaker (a performer who uses a speaking, rather than a singing, voice)

### Vocal Ensembles

- vocal ensemble (two or more unspecified voices)
  - solo vocal ensemble (solo voices)
  - chorus (unspecified chorus of voices)
    - children's chorus
    - chorus changing voices
    - equal voices (all the voices parts are for one type of voice)
    - girls' chorus
    - boys' chorus
    - men's chorus (adult male voices)
    - mixed chorus
    - spoken chorus (performers who use a speaking voice rather than a singing voice)
    - women's chorus

### Instrumental Ensembles

- instrumental ensemble (diverse instruments that cannot be described by a more specific term)
  - orchestra
  - chamber orchestra
  - string orchestra
  - band
° **band** versus **wind ensemble**:  
° a "band" is a large ensemble consisting primarily of winds, brass, and percussion.  
° may include non-wind instruments.  
° a "wind ensemble" is an ensemble consisting of two or more mixed wind instruments.  
° consists **solely** of wind instruments.  

source: MLA's Best Practices for Using LCMPT [8], page 12
° big band (generally 10-15 solo instruments, sometimes including a vocalist)  
° brass band (brass instruments, sometimes percussion)  
° keyboard ensemble (two or more varied keyboard instruments)  
° harpsichord ensemble  
° organ ensemble  
° piano ensemble  
° wind ensemble (two or more mixed wind instruments) (see **band** for the difference between "band" and "wind ensemble")  
° woodwind ensemble (two or more different woodwind instruments)  
° flute choir  
° oboe ensemble  
° clarinet choir  
° saxophone ensemble  
° brass ensemble (diverse brass instruments that cannot be described by a more specific term)  
° cornet ensemble  
° trumpet ensemble  
° horn ensemble  
° trombone ensemble  
° tuba ensemble  
° bowed string ensemble mixed or unspecified ensemble of bowed string instruments)  
° violin ensemble  
° viola ensemble  
° cello ensemble  
° plucked instrument ensemble  
° guitar ensemble  
° harp ensemble  
° lute ensemble  
° mandolin ensemble  
° percussion ensemble  
° handbell choir  
° mallet ensemble  
° marimba ensemble  
° steel band  
° electronics (unspecified electronic sounds, either produced live or from a recording)  
° live electronics  
° processed sound

**Source URL:** [https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/LCMPT](https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/LCMPT)

**Links**
[1] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music)  
[2] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marc-tagging](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marc-tagging)  
[6] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/medium](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/medium)  
[7] [http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC382](http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC382)  