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

**Ensembles:** instrumental | vocal

**Keyboard instruments**
kneural instrument (unspecified or unidentified keyboard instrument)
celsta
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

oboe
° English horn
° oboe d'amore

clarinet
° sopranino clarinet (use for E? clarinet)
° alto clarinet
° bass clarinet
° contra-alto clarinet
° contrabass clarinet
° basset horn
bassoon
° contrabassoon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bowed string instruments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bowed string instrument (unspecified string instrument played with a bow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>double bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viola d'amore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 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

**Links**
[1] http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music