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

oboet
° 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
    - child soprano 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)
  ° violín 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