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
- oboe
  - ° English horn
  - ° oboe d'amore
- clarinet
  - ° soprannino clarinet ( use for E? clarinet)
  - ° alto clarinet
  - ° bass clarinet
  - ° contra-alto clarinet
  - ° contrabass clarinet
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° 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**