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 (unspecifed or unidentified keyboard instrument)
celesta
clavichord
electronic keyboard
electronic piano
harpischord
organ
piano
reed organ

Wind instruments

wind instrument (unspecifed woodwind or brass instrument)
° woodwind instrument (unspecifed woodwind instrument)
° reed instrument (unspecifed reed instrument)
° double reed instrument (unspecifed double reed instrument)
° single reed instrument (unspecifed single reed instrument)
° brass instrument (unspecifed 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
° bassett 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>electronic instrument</td>
<td>Includes computer, electronics, live electronics, MIDI controller, ondes Martenot, pre-recorded audio, sampler, sequencer, synthesizer, theremin.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Other instruments

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

## Voices (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 profundo
  - 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