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
° soprano 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
    - Contralttenor voice
    - Tenor voice
  - Medium voice
    - Mezzo-soprano voice
    - Baritone voice
  - Low voice
    - Alto voice
    - Bass-baritone voice
    - Bass voice
    - Bass 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  