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 (unspecificed or unidentified keyboard instrument)
celesta
clavichord
electronic keyboard
electronic piano
harpsichord
organ
piano
reed organ

Wind instruments
wind instrument (unspecificed woodwind or brass instrument)
  ° woodwind instrument (unspecificed woodwind instrument)
  ° reed instrument (unspecificed reed instrument)
    ° double reed instrument (unspecificed double reed instrument)
    ° single reed instrument (unspecificed single reed instrument)
  ° brass instrument (unspecificed 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

- 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)
° 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