

Commonly used terms in the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Terms for Music (LCMPT)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [MARC tagging](#) [2]

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
 - 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)

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.

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

- 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>
- [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marc-tagging>
- [3] <http://classificationweb.net/>
- [4] <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/performanceMediums.html>
- [5] <http://cmc.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/documents/best-practices-for-using-lcmpt/>
- [6] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/medium>
- [7] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC382>
- [8] <http://cmc.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/07/BPsForUsingLCMPT-1.pdf>