Overview of LCMPT

The Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music (LCMPT) has been developed jointly by the Music Library Association Cataloging and Metadata Committee (formerly the Bibliographic Control Committee) and the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division. When work began on the music portion of the Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT), it was decided early on that medium of performance terms (i.e., the voices, instruments, and other entities needed to perform a piece of music) would be out of scope; therefore, development began on LCMPT as a separate vocabulary to house those terms.

LCMPT consists of over 800 medium of performance terms, including most of the medium terms currently in LCSH, as well as some new terms. The terminology in LCMPT is designed to be used in both authority records (as an alternative to the RDA medium of performance vocabulary) and in bibliographic records (as a complement to terms from LCGFT, and as an eventual replacement for LCSH subject headings that include medium and genre/form terms).

LCMPT is amenable for use in Linked Data applications\(^1\), but this document focuses on its implementation within the MARC environment, specifically in MARC field 382.

LCMPT terms are generally singular and not capitalized.

These best practices are intended to serve as a supplement to the forthcoming manual to be released by the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division.

Structure of LCMPT

LCMPT is a true thesaurus, in that every term has at least one broader term except for the three top terms: ensemble (generally more than one performer), performer (generally one performer), and visuals (currently has no narrower terms). Below is an overview of the first three levels of hierarchy:

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ensemble
  audience
  instrumental ensemble
    accordion band
    balalaika orchestra
    band
    bowed string ensemble
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\(^1\) For more information, see [http://id.loc.gov/authorities/performanceMediums.html](http://id.loc.gov/authorities/performanceMediums.html)
concertina ensemble
continuo
dulcimer ensemble
electronics
gamelan
gonrang
keyboard ensemble
harmonica ensemble
jug band
khrūrng sāi
mahōrī
orchestra
percussion ensemble
pipe band
pīphāt
plucked instrument ensemble
plung orchestra
string band
toy orchestra
washboard band
wind ensemble
zither ensemble
mixed media
vocal ensemble
chorus
solo vocal ensemble
performer
actor
audience
celebrant
conductor
dancer
tap dancer
instrument
aerophone
electronic instrument
friction instrument
idiophone
keyboard instrument
mechanical instrument
membranophone
percussion instrument
plucked instrument
string instrument
toy instrument
mixed media
mime
signer
voice
singer
speaker
visuals
**Guidelines**

**Choice of term**

- Generally choose the most specific term appropriate. (Note: LCMPT allows for more granularity in some areas than did LCSH.)

  Medium of performance: alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, and baritone saxophone:
  382 01 $a alto saxophone $n 1 $a tenor saxophone $n 1 $a baritone saxophone $n 1 $s 3 $2 lcmpt

  NOT

  382 01 $a saxophone $n 3 $s 3 $2 lcmpt

  Medium of performance: alto voice and piano:
  382 01 $a alto voice $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

  NOT

  382 01 $a low voice $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

  Medium of performance: 4 melody instruments:
  382 01 $a melody instrument $n 4 $s 4 $2 lcmpt

  NOT

  382 01 $a instrument $n 4 $s 4 $2 lcmpt

**MARC coding (382)**

Additional instructions on coding the 382 can be found in the MARC Formats ([Authority Format](#)) and the [Descriptive Cataloging Manual, Z1. Name and Series Authority Records](#).

**First indicator (Display constant controller)**

- # - No information provided
- 0 - Medium of performance
- 1 - Partial medium of performance

- Generally code 0 unless giving only a partial medium statement.

**Second indicator (Access Control) (Bibliographic Format only)**

- # - No information provided
- 0 - Not intended for access
- 1 - Intended for access

- Code 1 when using LCMPT terms in bibliographic records; code [blank] when using LCMPT terms in authority records.
Use of subfields

- LCMPT terms can be coded in $a (Medium of Performance), $b (Soloist), $d (Doubling Instrument), and $p (Alternate Medium of Performance).

- Use the terms as they appear in the 162 of the LCMPT authority record; do not pluralize terms even if there is more than one of the medium represented, and do not capitalize the first word of the term unless it is capitalized in the authority record.

  Medium of performance: 4 violins
  382 01 $a violin $n 4 $s 4 $2 lcmpt

  Medium of performance: English horn and piano
  382 01 $a English horn $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

- 382 $b is defined in MARC as "featured instrument or voice accompanied by an ensemble." Therefore, do not designate an instrument or voice in $b when the accompaniment is a single instrument (e.g., songs with piano, concertos with accompaniment reduced for piano). Use $b routinely when the accompanying ensemble is expressed using an ensemble term. For works of chamber music whose medium statement is expressed as individual instruments/voices, designate an instrument/voice in $b only when the soloist role is clearly indicated on the resource or in reference sources.

  Medium of performance: solo flute with band
  382 01 $b flute $n 1 $a band $e 1 $2 lcmpt

  Medium of performance: solo soprano and mixed choir
  382 01 $b soprano voice $n 1 $a mixed chorus $e 1 $2 lcmpt

  Medium of performance: solo viola with string quartet and piano
  382 01 $b viola $n 1 $a violin $n 2 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 6 $2 lcmpt

  BUT

  Medium of performance: solo piano with orchestra (the orchestra reduced for a 2nd piano)
  382 01 $a piano $n 2 $s 2 $2 lcmpt
• Generally record alternative media in $p following the appropriate $a, $b, or $d (or $a/$n, $b/$n, or $d/$n combination).

**Medium of performance: violin, viola (or clarinet), cello, and bassoon (or double bass)**

382 01 $a violin $n 1 $a viola $n 1 $p clarinet $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $a bassoon $n 1 $p
doouble bass $n 1 $s 4 $2 lcmpt

• If it is not practicable to record alternative media in the same 382 field (e.g., the alternative results in a different total number of players, or certain media are designated "ad lib."), then record each alternative in a separate 382 field. Do not use $p in this case.

**Medium of performance: soprano and piano with violin ad lib.**

382 01 $a soprano voice $n 1 $a violin $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 3 $2 lcmpt
382 01 $a soprano voice $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

• Record doubling instruments in $d following the appropriate $a, $b or $p (or $a/$n, $b/$n, or $p/$n combination).

**Medium of performance: clarinet (doubling castanets) and oboe (doubling finger snapping)**

382 01 $a clarinet $n 1 $d castanets $n 1 $a oboe $n 1 $d finger snapping $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

• When one or more players of a particular instrument double on another instrument and other players do not, indicate the doubling and non-doubling instruments separately, inputting $n following each term.

**Medium of performance: 3 flutes, one of which doubles piccolo**

382 01 $a flute $n 1 $d piccolo $n 1 $a flute $n 2 $s 3 $2 lcmpt

• Record a numeral in $n after each medium from the performer hierarchy, if the number is known. Do not record a value in $n if the number is unknown or variable.

**Medium of performance: 2 trumpets and 2 trombones**

382 01 $a trumpet $n 2 $a trombone $n 2 $s 4 $2 lcmpt

**Medium of performance: solo flute, doubling piccolo, alto flute, and bass flute**

382 01 $a flute $n 1 $d piccolo $n 1 $d alto flute $n 1 $d bass flute $n 1 $s 1 $2 lcmpt
• Record a numeral in $e$ after each medium from the ensemble hierarchy.

  Medium of performance: solo viola with orchestra  
  382 01 $b$ viola $n$ 1 $a$ orchestra $e$ 1 $2$ lcmpt

  Medium of performance: an ensemble of an indeterminate or unknown number of flutes  
  382 01 $a$ flute choir $e$ 1 $2$ lcmpt

  Medium of performance: string quartet and double string orchestra  
  382 01 $b$ violin $n$ 2 $b$ viola $n$ 1 $b$ cello $n$ 1 $a$ string orchestra $e$ 2 $2$ lcmpt

  Medium of performance: double chorus (each SATB)  
  382 01 $a$ mixed chorus $v$ SATB, SATB $e$ 2 $2$ lcmpt

• If known, record a numeral indicating the total number of performers in $s$ after the last $a$, $b$, $d$, $n$, or $p$.

  Do not record a value in $s$ if:
  1. The medium statement is partial (1st indicator 1)
  2. One or more ensemble terms are present in the medium statement
  3. The medium components can be determined, but not the exact number of performers

• Record a free-text note in $v$ when further detail is desired. Place $v$ directly after the subfield to which it most closely pertains:
  1. after the associated $a$, $b$, $d$ or $p$ (if the note describes the nature of a particular medium component);
  2. after $n$ or $e$ (if the note describes the numbering of a particular medium component);
  3. or directly before $s$, after all other subfields (if the note describes the performing forces as a whole).

  In cases of doubt, use the last method listed above.

  When indicating chorus scoring, prefer the standard abbreviations S, Mez, A, T, Bar and B, using a comma to separate choral groups. For other uses, except where prescribed elsewhere in these best practices guidelines, there is no standard syntax or terminology for such free-text notes.

  Medium of performance: double chorus (each SATB)  
  382 01 $a$ mixed chorus $v$ SATB, SATB $e$ 2 $2$ lcmpt

  Medium of performance: clarinet in A and piano  
  381 01 $a$ clarinet $v$ clarinet in A $n$ 1 $a$ piano $n$ 1 $s$ 2 $2$ lcmpt

  Medium of performance: 1 or more pianists who also play radios and produce auxiliary
sounds by singing or other means
382 01 $a piano $v 1 or more pianists $d radio receiver $d voice $2 lcmp

Medium of performance: 4 or more voices with piano
382 01 $a singer $n 4 $ $a piano $n 1 $s 5 $2 lcmp
382 01 $a singer $v 4 or more voices $a piano $n 1 $2 lcmp

Medium of performance: 4 solo trombones and at least 8 additional trombones
382 01 $b trombone $n 4 $a trombone $n 8 $s 12 $2 lcmp
382 01 $b trombone $n 4 $a trombone $v 4 solo trombones and at least 8 additional trombones $2 lcmp

- Record $2 lcmp at the end of each 382 field.

- There is no prescribed order of voices/instruments in the 382, but generally use cataloger’s judgment. (Choose the order listed or score order when feasible for readability.)

- When cataloging a manifestation containing several works (e.g., an anthology or an audio recording), generally provide a 382 field for each different combination of media. If this is not feasible, omit the 382 or provide a partial 382 (first indicator 1).

  CD containing nine pieces: four for solo cello, two for violin and cello, two for string quartet, and one for violin, viola, and cello
  382 01 $a cello $n 1 $s 1 $2 lcmp
  382 01 $a violin $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmp
  382 01 $a violin $n 2 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $s 4 $2 lcmp
  382 01 $a violin $n 1 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $s 3 $2 lcmp

  Songbook consisting of 100 songs for tenor and piano, some including other voices or accompanying instruments
  382 11 $a tenor voice $a piano $2 lcmp
Ensembles

Most ensemble terms of the type [instrument] ensemble in LCMPT have a simple definition: an ensemble consisting of two or more [instruments]. Most of the distinctions that exist in LCSH between ensembles consisting of solo instruments and ensembles consisting of instruments playing with more than one to a part have been removed in LCMPT. These terms are designed to be useful to catalogers who are unsure of the exact composition of an ensemble or who conclude it is not feasible to record each individual member of a medium- or large-sized ensemble.

- Generally prefer to record the individual instruments and/or voices in a chamber ensemble; if unknown or not feasible, record a less granular term.

  Medium of performance: 13 winds (2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, bass clarinet, 2 trumpets, trombone, and tuba)

  Granular (preferred) 382:
  382 01 $a flute $n 2 $a oboe $n 2 $a clarinet $n 2 $a bassoon $n 2 $a bass clarinet $n 1 $a trumpet $n 2 $a trombone $n 1 $a tuba $n 1 $s 13 $2 lcmpt

  Less granular 382:
  382 01 $a wind ensemble $e 1 $2 lcmpt

- In certain cases it may be desirable to record both the individual instruments/voices AND a less granular ensemble term. Use cataloger’s judgment.

  Medium of performance: flute choir (piccolo, 4 flutes, alto flute, and bass flute)
  382 01 $a flute choir $e 1 $2 lcmpt
  382 01 $a piccolo $n 1 $a flute $n 4 $a alto flute $n 1 $a bass flute $n 1 $s 7 $2 lcmpt

- The ensemble terms are also designed to be helpful in retrospective application of LCMPT terms, when the subject headings to be converted will not contain the level of granularity possible with LCMPT.

  Medium of performance: soprano with string quartet

  LCSH heading in legacy data:
  650 #0 $a Songs (High voice) with string ensemble.

  Potential automatically converted 382:
  382 01 $b high voice $n 1 $a string ensemble $2 lcmpt

  More granular, cataloger-supplied 382:
  382 01 $b soprano voice $n 1 $a violin $n 2 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $s 5 $2 lcmpt
**Number of hands**

There are currently no LCMPT terms that represent more than one performer—or a non-standard number of hands—on conventional instruments (e.g., piano 4 hands, organ 1 hand). Rather, encode the number of performers required in $n$ and record details in 382 $v$ (Note).

**Medium of performance: piano, 4 hands:**

382 01 $a$ piano $n$ 2 $v$ piano, 4 hands $s$ 2 $lcmp$ $t$

**Guidance for specific situations**

**Continuo**

Record the term "continuo" in $a$; do not include $n$ or $e$ after "continuo" and do not include $s$ in that 382 field. If it is desirable to describe the particular instrument(s) employed in a continuo realization, record that data in a separate 382 field. When a continuo group forms part of a larger ensemble (e.g., a Baroque orchestra or string orchestra), generally do not record "continuo" separately, unless its presence is unusual or noteworthy.

A trio sonata for two violins and continuo, with the continuo realized for harpsichord

382 01 $a$ violin $n$ 2 $a$ continuo $lcmp$ $t$
382 01 $a$ violin $n$ 2 $a$ harpsichord $n$ 1 $s$ 3 $lcmp$ $t$

A Baroque cantata for soprano, strings and continuo (the figured bass unrealized):

382 01 $b$ soprano voice $n$ 1 $a$ string orchestra $e$ 1 $lcmp$ $t$

A 20th-century concert aria for baritone, 12-part string ensemble and continuo:

382 01 $b$ baritone voice $n$ 1 $a$ bowed string ensemble $e$ 1 $a$ continuo $lcmp$ $t$

**Electronics**

Record the general term "electronics" unless a more specific term applies, and in cases of doubt as to whether a more specific term applies.

Generally do not give $n$ or $e$ after the terms "electronics," "live electronics" or "processed sound," unless the number of persons or ensembles operating/realizing or required to operate/realize the electronic component(s) is obvious. Do not record these terms as a doubling instrument in $d$ unless this fact is obvious.
Operas and other dramatic works

For operas and other dramatic works, it is permissible to omit the 382 altogether if the full medium of performance would be burdensome to record or is difficult to ascertain. If all solo vocal parts are clearly indicated, use judgment in deciding whether to record a complete medium statement in 382. In other cases, record a partial medium statement if certain vocal parts and/or instrumental forces are unusual or noteworthy.

A chamber opera for soprano and piano quintet
382 01 $b soprano voice $n 1 $a violin $n 2 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 6 $2 lcmpt

An oratorio for SATB solo, SATB chorus and orchestra
382 01 $b soprano voice $n 1 $b alto voice $n 1 $b tenor voice $n 1 $b bass voice $n 1 $a mixed chorus $v SATB $e 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $2 lcmpt

A musical featuring a child solo singer
382 11 $b child's voice $n 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $2 lcmpt
OR
382 11 $b child's voice $2 lcmpt

Percussion

When indicating percussion as part of a medium statement, observe the following guidelines:

1. If a performer plays one specific percussion instrument, record that instrument.
2. Otherwise, generally follow the presentation on the resource in determining whether to indicate the specific instrument(s) or to use the general term "percussion."
   i. If indicating the specific instrument(s) played by one performer, optionally give an additional 382 field with "percussion $n 1"
3. If using the general term "percussion," and the number of performers is stated or readily ascertainable, give $n following "percussion."
4. If two or more performers are indicated in terms of specific percussion instruments, give an additional 382 field with "percussion" followed by $n indicating the number of performers.
5. If the number of performers cannot be ascertained:
   i. Give "percussion" (not followed by $n) if percussion forms part of a larger ensemble otherwise expressed as individual instruments/voices.
   ii. Give "percussion ensemble" if the ensemble consists only of percussion, or one or more soloists with percussion.

Medium of performance: solo percussionist with band
382 01 $b percussion $n 1 $a band $e 1 $2 lcmpt
Medium of performance: flute and glockenspiel
382 01 $a flute $n 1 $a glockenspiel $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

Medium of performance: string quartet and 2 percussionists (each playing multiple instruments)
382 01 $a violin $n 2 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $a percussion $n 2 $s 6 $2 lcmpt

Medium of performance: percussion duo (marimba/vibraphone and timpani/bass drum)
382 01 $a marimba $n 1 $d vibraphone $n 1 $a timpani $n 1 $d bass drum $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmpt
382 01 $a percussion $n 2 $s 2 $2 lcmpt

Medium of performance: soprano with percussion ensemble
382 01 $b soprano voice $n 1 $a percussion ensemble $e 1 $2 lcmpt

Separately-manifested parts

When cataloging a resource containing one or more instrumental or vocal parts which do not constitute all parts of an ensemble, use judgment in determining whether to record a complete medium statement, a statement of only those media present in the resource, or both.

A collection of orchestral excerpts for oboe
382 01 $a oboe $n 1 $2 lcmpt

A separately-published violin part of a concerto for violin and orchestra
382 11 $b violin $n 1 $2 lcmpt
382 01 $b violin $n 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $2 lcmpt

Singer and voice

Record "singer" for a performer who uses his or her voice to produce musical tone when the vocal range, gender and age of the performer is unspecified or undetermined. Record "voice" for a part for a solo vocalist when neither singing nor speaking is specified. Record "voice" also for Sprechstimme, square dance calling, rapping, and other types of heightened speech or other vocal sounds. When in doubt as to whether "singer" is appropriate, record "voice."
String orchestra and bowed string ensemble

Distinguish between these overlapping terms as follows:

1) A string orchestra is "an orchestra consisting solely or primarily of string instruments." That is, it may include certain non-bowed-string instruments such as piano, percussion, harp, etc. Medium to large ensembles with a core complement of violins, violas, cellos and double basses generally fall into this category, especially when associated with Western art music. Note that whether individual parts call for one or more than one player is not a factor in making this determination.

A prelude and fugue for 18-part string orchestra
382 01 $a string orchestra $e 1 $2 lcmpt

2) A bowed string ensemble is "a mixed or unspecified ensemble of bowed string instruments." That is, it consists solely of bowed string instruments. Ensembles that may be similar to a string orchestra, but differ in marked ways (e.g., consisting of one or more types of bowed string instruments, but not all of the standard string orchestra component instruments; smaller ensembles that are not orchestral in nature, but which cannot feasibly be described in terms of individual instruments) may be better described using this term.

A work for a consort of viols
382 01 $a bowed string ensemble $v viol consort $e 1 $2 lcmpt

Use with LCSH and LCGFT

Until LCGFT terms are fully implemented, and a method for generating genre and medium of performance terms—as well as terms for geographic region, time period, and creator, contributor and audience characteristics—from headings currently coded as LCSH has been developed and deployed:

- Use LCMPT terms in 382
- Use LCGFT terms in 655
- Continue to use LCSH headings (Genre/form, medium of performance and mixed headings) in 650 fields according to the guidelines in the Subject Headings Manual

382 01 $b bassoon $n 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $2 lcmpt
650 #0 $a Concertos (Bassoon)
655 #7 $a Concertos. $2 lcgft

2 Terms for creator, contributor and audience characteristics reside in the new thesaurus Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms (LCDGT). Methods for assigning terms for geographic and temporal facets are in development.
382 01 $a bassoon $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmt
650 #0 $a Concertos (Bassoon) $v Solo with piano.
655 #7 $a Concertos. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Arrangements (Music) $2 lcgt

382 01 $a violin $n 2 $a viola $n 1 $a cello $n 1 $s 4 $2 lcmt
650 #0 $a String quartets.
655 #7 $a Chamber music. $2 lcgt

382 01 $a cello $n 1 $a piano $n 1 $s 2 $2 lcmt
650 #0 $a Sonatas (Cello and piano) $v Scores and parts.
655 #7 $a Sonatas. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Chamber music. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Scores. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Parts (Music) $2 lcgt

382 01 $a bass clarinet$3 $n 1 $a violin $n 1 $a percussion $n 1 $a computer $n 1 $s 4 $2 lcmt
650 #0 $a Quartets (Clarinet, percussion, computer, violin) $v Scores
655 #7 $a Chamber music. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Scores. $2 lcgt

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$3$ Currently, SHM H 1917.5 does not permit the use of “bass clarinet” in this pattern heading, though the term is available in LCMPT