

Best Practices for Using LCGFT for Music Resources

Version 1.0

Prepared by the Genre/Form Task Force and Vocabularies Subcommittee, Cataloging and Metadata Committee, Music Library Association¹

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These best practices are provided to help catalogers apply LCGFT music terms in the interim period between the release of the terms and the publication of best practices for LCGFT in the forthcoming Library of Congress genre/form terms manual.

This document will be updated on an ongoing basis until the aforementioned manual is available. Suggested additions or questions may be directed to the Chair of the MLA Cataloging and Metadata Committee, Vocabularies Subcommittee (Casey Mullin, casey@mullingroup.com).

Overview of music LCGFT terms

The *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)* terms for music have been developed jointly by the Music Library Association Bibliographic Control Committee (now the Cataloging and Metadata Committee) and the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division. The music terms are a fully integrated subset of LCGFT as a whole, which contains genre/form terms from a number of disciplines.

Most of the music terms originated from genre/form terms currently residing in the *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)*. New terms were added to fill out the thesaurus hierarchy when lacking and to correct an innate bias toward Western classical music that has developed in LCSH. LCGFT terms do not contain any medium of performance, since medium is not a genre or form. Medium of performance is recorded using the *Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music (LCMPT)*.

LCGFT terms are generally plural (except for broad headings such as “Popular music”) and the first letter is capitalized.

Structure of the LCGFT music terms

LCGFT is a true thesaurus, in that every term has at least one broader term (BT), except for the highest level terms. In the case of music, the top term is “Music,” but many music terms may also be narrower terms to high level terms outside the specifically music part of the hierarchy (e.g. Teaching pieces (Music) has BTs of “Music” and “Instructional and educational works” (a term from the “general” hierarchy)). Below is a truncated version of the top levels of the hierarchy:

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Music

Accompaniments (Music)

Arrangements (Music)

Intabulations

Piano scores

Simplified editions (Music)

Vocal scores

Art music

A'ak

Aleatory music

Open form music

Anthems

Ballades (Instrumental music)

Barcaroles

Cadenzas

Canons (Music)

...

Chants

Antiphons (Music)

Cantillations

Gregorian chants

...

Dramatic music

Ballad operas

Jigs (Music)

Ballets

Chinese operas

Folk music

Aleke

Blues (Music)

Blues-rock music

Boogie woogie (Music)

Rockabilly music

...

Functional music

Acclamations (Music)

Background music

Camp songs

...

Dance music

Aleke

Allemandes (Music)

Bailā (Music)

...

Event music

- Advent music
- All Saints' Day music
- Ascension Day music
- ...
- Carnival music

Glitch music

Humorous music

Medleys (Music)

Notated music

- Musical sketches
- Parts (Music)
 - Part books
- Scores
 - Chorus scores
 - Fake books (Music)
 - Lead sheets
 - ...
- Service books (Music)
 - Antiphonaries (Service books)
 -

Popular music

- Agbadja modern (Music)
- Arabesk (Popular music)
- Bachata
- Bailā (Music)
- ...

Sacred music

- Advent music
- All Saints' Day music
- Antiphons (Music)
- ...

Songs

- Aguinaldos
- Airs de cour
- Alma maters (Songs)
- Ayres
- ...

Teaching pieces (Music)

- Methods (Music)
- Simplified editions (Music)
- Studies (Music)

Guidelines

Choice of terms

General

Generally choose the most specific appropriate term available

655 #7 \$a Rock music. \$2 lcgft

NOT

655 #7 \$a Popular music. \$2 lcgft

- If the work being cataloged combines aspects of two genres/forms that are in different hierarchies, or exemplifies more than one genre/form, give multiple terms as appropriate

- An art song:

655 #7 \$a Songs. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Art music. \$2 lcgft

- An album of pop songs:

655 #7 \$a Songs. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Popular music. \$2 lcgft

- A virelai for solo voice:

655 #7 \$a Virelais (Formes fixes) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Monophonic chansons. \$2 lcgft

- A compilation of guitar arrangements of diverse genres, suitable for use at weddings:

655 #7 \$a Wedding music. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Art music. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Popular music. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Arrangements (Music) \$2 lcgft

- An album of traditional Irish drinking songs:

655 #7 \$a Drinking songs. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Folk songs. \$2 lcgft

- For notated music resources, assign one or more terms appropriate to the format of notated music, in addition to any genre/form terms describing the musical work. Generally observe the RDA definitions of these formats.

- A vocal score:

655 #7 \$a Vocal scores. \$2 lcgft

- A score and set of parts for a string quartet:

655 #7 \$a Scores. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Parts (Music) \$2 lcgft

- A solo piano work:

655 #7 \$a Scores². \$2 lcgft

- For sound recordings, an analogous hierarchy of terms does not exist which parallels the hierarchy of notated music terms. Do not assign “Sound recordings” for individual sound recordings that are not of a particular type³. Assign terms for particular types that are currently available in LCGFT, as applicable.

- A live recording of an opera:

655 #7 \$a Operas. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Live sound recordings. \$2 lcgft

² In RDA, a score is defined as (emphasis added): “Graphical, symbolic, or word-based musical notation representing the sounds of all the parts of an ensemble **or a work for solo performer** or electronic media.”

³ N.B., the scope note for “Sound recordings” reads (emphasis added): “this heading is used as a genre/form heading for **collections** of sound recordings that are composed of multiple genres and/or forms to which more specific headings ... can be applied.”

Specific terms

- “Art music” and “Folk music”

Do not use the terms “Art music” or “Folk music” for the music of cultures that have no art/folk music division. When in doubt as to whether the culture in question observes such a distinction, do not assign these terms.

Use “Art music” for works of art music that cannot be described using more specific terms in the Art music hierarchy (e.g., a concert piece for clarinet), and for works of art music otherwise described by terms that are not in the Art music hierarchy (e.g., Songs, Dance music).

- A gigue for harpsichord:

655 #7 \$a Jigs (Music) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Art music. \$2 lcgft

Compare with...

- A collection of traditional English jigs:

655 #7 \$a Jigs (Music) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Folk music. \$2 lcgft

- “Chamber music”

Use “Chamber music” (or one of its narrower terms) for works of art music for 2 or more performers whose medium is described in terms of individual instruments/voices and/or by unspecified ensemble terms (e.g., “bowed string ensemble”). Generally do not use “Chamber music” for:

1. Works for larger ensembles (e.g., orchestra, band, chorus)
2. Music for solo performers

- “Arrangements (Music)”

Use “Arrangements (Music)” for resources embodying one or more arrangements. In addition to genre/form terms describing the arrangement, assign one or more genre/form terms describing the original work if the arrangement retains the characteristics of that particular genre/form.

- A sonata arranged from its original medium:

655 #7 \$a Sonatas \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Arrangements (Music) \$2 lcgft

- “Excerpts”
Use “Excerpts” for resources embodying one or more excerpts of one or more musical works. In addition to genre/form terms describing the excerpt, assign one or more genre/form terms describing the complete work if the excerpt retains the characteristics of that particular genre/form.

- A album of selections from a motion picture soundtrack:
655 #7 \$a Motion picture music. \$2 lcgft
655 #7 \$a Excerpts. \$2 lcgft

MARC coding

For bibliographic records, code terms only in the 655 field. For authority records, terms may be input in the 380 field. Additional instructions on coding these fields may be found in the [MARC Formats](#) (Authority Format and Bibliographic Format). Specific guidance pertaining to the use of 380 fields in authority records is available in the Library of Congress [Descriptive Cataloging Manual, Z1](#).

655 field (Index term-genre/form) (R)

First indicator (Display constant controller)

- Basic

Second indicator (Thesaurus)

7 – Source specified in \$2

\$a (Genre/form term)

\$2 (Source of term)

\$2 lcgft

\$3 (Materials specified)⁴

EXAMPLE

245 10 Symphony no. 6 : \$b Pathétique ; Hamlet : overture-fantasia / \$c Tchaikovsky.

655 #7 \$3 1st work \$a Symphonies. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$3 2nd work \$a Overtures. \$2 lcgft

Subdivisions (\$v, \$x, \$y, \$z)

Do *not* use any subdivisions with LCGFT terms.

⁴ Use of this subfield is optional.

Use with LCMPT

LCGFT terms should be used in conjunction with LCMPT terms (following [Provisional Best Practices for Using LCMPT](#)).

Use with LCSH

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 characteristics⁵--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 & 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

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

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

382 01 \$a bass clarinet \$n 1 \$a violin \$n 1 \$a percussion \$n 1 \$a computer \$n 1 \$s 4 \$2 lcmpt
650 #1 \$a Quartets (Clarinet⁶, percussion, computer, violin) \$v Scores
655 #7 \$a Chamber music. \$2 lcgft
655 #7 \$a Scores. \$2 lcgft

⁵ Terms for creator, contributor and audience characteristics will reside in the forthcoming *Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms* (LCDGT). See [here](#) for more information. Methods for assigning terms for geographic and temporal facets are in development.

⁶ Currently, SHM H 1917.5 does not permit the use of "bass clarinet" in this pattern heading, though the term is available in LCMPT.