MARC Agenda Item: 7.b. MAC Proposal Ideas or Other MARC Change Requests
 i. 382 Subfield $n redefinition question

ISSUE: DCM Z1 instructs us to include subfield $n recording the number of ensembles after a medium term representing a standard combination of instruments or groups, e.g., orchestra, jazz ensemble, etc.

> **From DCM Z1**
> 382. 1c) If the medium includes an uncertain number of performers, do not include $n. If the medium term is that of a standard combination of instruments or group, e.g., orchestra, jazz ensemble, etc., include in subsequent subfield "n" the number of ensembles. For example, $a orchestra $n 1.

However, in the *Provisional Best Practices Using LCMPT* (not yet available), the instructions directly contradict Z1:

> Do not record a numeral in subfield $n after a medium from the ensemble hierarchy.
>
> > Medium of performance: solo viola with orchestra:
> > 382 01 $b viola $n 1 $a orchestra $2 lcmpt

Currently, 382 subfield $n is defined as "Number of performers of the same medium" which seems to exclude using the coding for number of ensembles.

OPTIONS:

> Option 1: Leave our recommendation as is, even if it directly contradicts the Z1 instructions.
>
> Option 2: Redefine subfield $n as "number of performers or ensembles of the same medium"
>
> Option 3:

DISCUSSION:

- Subfield $n could be used for ensembles because it may be applicable.

    > **Examples: more than one ensemble** (contributed by Kimmy Szeto)
    > Thomas Tallis - Spem in alium - 4 mixed choruses
    > Spohr - Symphony Op.121 - 2 orchestras
    > Rainer Kunad - Concerto for organ, 2 string orchestras and timpani

- Redefining subfield $n introduces ambiguity—what the number in $n means would depend on whether the term it follows is an ensemble or not

- The consistent practice of coding subfield $n after $a, $b, $d, $p may have implications on machine manipulation

- Other: