

Music Citations: Chicago Style 17th Edition (Author-Date)

- Music referencing is complex. The following section provides general guidance and examples of how to cite a various works of music. The section adheres to recommendations from the [Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition](#), which remains the predominant source for referencing in this discipline.
- For further reading on highly musicological material, the [Chicago Manual of Style \(8.193\)](#) suggests consulting D. Kern Holoman, [Writing about Music](#). The [New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians](#) also functions as an online/printed encyclopedia, for general referencing conventions in the field.
- Please be aware that Chicago punctuation differs between notes and bibliographies. For instance, a note may or may not begin with a title whereas primary contributor belongs at the beginning of any bibliographical entry ([Chicago 14.263](#)).
- Music sources may potentially feature a variety of different contributors/creators (e.g. an opera). List the main author based on whose contribution is most vital to the argument that you are making. For example, you may list either the conductor or performer(s) first, depending on which contributor is most relevant to your argument ([Chicago 14.263](#)). Be consistent!
- Create a separate discography for materials such as audio recordings, video recordings, and/or multimedia packages. The discography may either precede the usual bibliography or act as an appendix ([Chicago 14.262](#)). For more detailed advice, see Suzanne E. Thorin and Carole Franklin Vidali, *The Acquisition and Cataloguing of Music and Sound Recordings*.
- Music recordings require a specific format to be cited, as well as the addition of a recording/copyright date and/or publishing date. Physical media, such as vinyl, may also include different speeds (rpms) as well as acquisition numbers ([Chicago 14.263](#)).
- Certain physical audio recordings might omit dates altogether. In this scenario, please include the manufacturer's name and label number with n.d. ([Chicago 14.263](#)). If the date for an online source remains undetermined, use the date last accessed along with the duration and source type (e.g., "video").
- Video and film recordings citations require place of publication and company instead of a label name and number ([14.265](#)).
- Online recorded content, with no creator, needs a URL and timestamp rather than simply a website ([Chicago 14.267](#)).
- For recordings of a performance, add information about the original source. ([Chicago 14.261](#)). For live performances, use in-text details or notes rather than a bibliographical entry ([Chicago 14.266](#)). Specify the name, location, and date of a performance along with any further identifying information ([Chicago 14.261](#)).
- Citation information, for music scores, may be found on the cover page, preface, or on the first page of music. Reference the type of score for vocal scores. Noteworthy music scores maybe republished in the form of reprints.
- Music scores should be cited in the same way as books, often with an editor. Similarly, collection-based scores may adhere to the same citation format as book chapters. Names of editors or translators appear after the title but preceded by *Edited by* or *Translated by* ([Chicago 14.104](#)). If accessed online, include the URL at the end of the citation ([Chicago 14.255](#)).
- Add "Liner notes." to the end of any liner note citation without a specified author.

Source	References (F = footnote, BE = bibliographic entry)
Music Dictionary (<i>The New Grove Dictionary</i>)	<p>F: Contributor, "Entry Title," in <i>Grove Music Online</i>, ed., accessed Month Day, Year, http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor, "Entry Title," in <i>Grove Music Online</i>, ed., accessed Month Day, Year, http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.</p>
Physical Audio Full Recording: (Cassette, CD, Vinyl)	<p>F: Contributor, <i>Recording Title</i>, Performer(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Label Label #, Release Year, Format.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. <i>Title of Recording</i>. Performer/Ensemble. Conductor. Label Label #, date, format.</p>
Physical Audio Recording Individual Track	<p>F: Contributor, "Track Title," by Composer, on <i>Recording Title</i>, Additional Performer(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Name #, Release Year, Format.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. "Track Title," by Composer. On <i>Recording Title</i>. Additional Performer(s). Recorded Month Day, Year. Record Label Label #, Release Year. Format.</p>
Physical Video & Film Recordings (VHS, DVD)	<p>F: Contributor, <i>Title</i>, Other Contributors' (City of Publication: Publisher/Production Company, Year of Publication), Format, Number of min.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. <i>Title</i>. Other Contributors'. City of Publication: Publisher/Production Company, Year of Publication. Format of Film, Duration.</p>
Online Audio Full Recording (Streaming Audio, Library Databases, MP3s)	<p>F: Contributor, <i>Recording Title</i>, Performer/Group/Conductor(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Name #, Release Year, streaming audio, accessed Date, Database.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. <i>Recording Title</i>. Performer/Group/Conductor(s). Recorded Month Day, Year. Record Label Name #, Release Year, streaming audio. Accessed Date. Database.</p>
Online Audio Single Track	<p>F: Contributor, "Track Title," by Composer, on <i>Recording Title</i>, Additional Performer/Group/Conductor Name(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Name #, Release Year, streaming audio, accessed Date, Database.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. "Track Title," by Composer. On <i>Recording Title</i>. Additional Performer/Group/Conductor Name(s). Recorded Month Day, Year. Record Label Name #, Release Year, streaming audio. Accessed Date. Database.</p>

Streaming Video Subscription Platform	<p>F: Contributor, <i>Title of Video</i>, dir. Director, Production Company, Year of Publication, streaming video, timestamp of the section cited, accessed Month Day, Year, Database.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. <i>Title of Video</i>. Director. Production Company, Year of Publication, streaming video, entire duration of video. Accessed Month Day, Year. Database.</p>
YouTube	<p>F: Contributor, "Title," YouTube video, duration of the section cited, https://youtu.be/XXXXXXXXXX.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. "Title." YouTube video, Hrs:Mins:Secs. https://youtu.be/XXXXXXXXXX.</p>
Print Score	<p>F: Composer, <i>Score Title</i>, ed. or arr. Contributor (City of Publication, State or Country: Publisher, Year of Publication), Page Number, m. Measure #.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Score Title</i>. Edited or Arranged by Contributor. City of Publication, Country: Publisher, Year of Publication.</p>
Vocal Score	<p>F: Composer, <i>Score Title</i>, ed. or arr. by Contributor, vocal score (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication), Page Number, m. Measure #.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Score Title</i>. Edited or Arranged by Contributor. Vocal score. City of Publication, Country: Publisher, Year of Publication.</p>
Reprint Score	<p>F: Composer, <i>Score Title</i> (Original Score Title, Original Place of Publication: Original Publisher, Original Year of Publication; repr. New City of Publication, State or Country: New Publisher, New Year), Page #, m. Measure #.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Score Title</i>. Original Score Title. Original City of Publication, Country: Original Publisher, Original Year. Reprint, New City, Country: New Publisher, New Year.</p>
Digital Score	<p>F: Composer, <i>Score Title</i>, in Database, ed. Editor, access date, URL, Page #, m. Measure #.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Score Title</i>. In Database. Edited by Editor. Access Date. URL.</p>
Part of a Score	<p>F: Composer, "Song/Movement Title," in <i>Score Title</i>, vol. #, ed. Editor (City of Publication, Country: Publisher, Year), Page #, m. Measure #.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. "Song/Movement Title." In <i>Score Title</i>. Vol. #, edited by Editor, Song/Movement Starting Page #-Song/Lied/Movement Ending Page #. City of Publication, Country: Publisher, Year.</p>

M3s, Monuments of Music Scores	<p>F: Composer. <i>Title of Score Volume</i>. Edited by Editor. Vol. (#) of <i>Title of Series</i>, edited by Editor. City: Publisher, Year.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Title of Score Volume</i>. Edited by Editor. Vol. (#) of <i>Title of Series</i>, edited by Editor. City: Publisher, Year.</p>
M2s, Monuments of Music Scores	<p>F: Composer. <i>Title of Score Volume</i>. Edited by Editor. Title of Series (followed by) #. City: Publisher, Year.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Title of Score Volume</i>. Edited by Editor. Title of Series (followed by) #. City: Publisher, Year.</p>
Digital Liner Notes	<p>F: Contributor, "Liner Notes or Section Title," liner notes for Composer, <i>Recording Title</i>, Performer(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Label #, Release Year, streaming audio, accessed Date, Database, Page #.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. "Liner Notes or Section Title." Liner Notes for Composer. <i>Recording Title</i>. Performer(s). Recorded Month Day, Year. Record Label Name #, Release Year, streaming audio. Accessed Date. Database.</p>
Printed Liner Notes	<p>F: Contributor, "Liner Notes or Section Title," liner notes for Composer, <i>Recording Title</i>, Performer(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Name #, Release Year, Format, Page #.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. "Liner Notes or Section Title." Liner Notes for Composer. <i>Recording Title</i>. Performer(s). Recorded Month Day, Year. Label Label #, Release Year. Format.</p>