

Music Citations: Chicago Style 18th Edition

- Music referencing is complex. The following section provides general guidance and examples while adhering to recommendations from the *Chicago Manual of Style's* recent [18th edition](#), which remains the predominant source for the referencing in this discipline. For further reading on highly musicological material, the *Chicago Manual of Style* ([8.195](#)) suggests consulting D. Kern Holoman, [Writing about Music](#). The [New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians](#) also functions as an encyclopedia, for general referencing conventions.
- Chicago punctuation differs between notes and bibliography when citing pieces of music. For instance, a note may or may not begin with a music title whereas a primary contributor belongs at the beginning of any bibliographical entry ([Chicago 14.163](#)). Commas usually separate major elements in notes whereas periods are used for Chicago bibliographical entries.
- 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 need to decide whether to list a conductor, songwriter, or performer(s) first. ([Chicago 14.163](#)). 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 14.162](#)).
- 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 14.163](#)).
- Certain physical audio recordings might omit dates altogether. In this scenario, please include the manufacturer's name and label number with "n.d." ([Chicago 14.163](#)). If the date for an online source remains undetermined, use the date last accessed along with the duration and source type. Access dates are generally required when citing unstable online content.
- Video and film recordings citations require publication company instead of a record label name and number ([14.165](#)).
- Online recorded content, with no creator, needs a working URL and timestamp rather than simply a website ([Chicago 14.167](#)).
- For recordings of a performance, add information about the original source ([Chicago 14.161](#)). For live performances, use in-text details or notes rather than a bibliographical entry ([Chicago 14.166](#)). Specify the name, location, and date of a performance along with any further identifying information.
- 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 may be 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*. If accessed online, include the URL at the end of the citation ([Chicago 14.155](#)).
- Add "Liner notes." to the end of any liner note citation without a specified author.

Source	References
Music Dictionary (<i>The New Grove Dictionary</i>)	<p>Footnote: Contributor(s), "Entry Title," in <i>Grove Music Online</i>, ed. Editor, accessed Month Day, Year, DOI.</p> <p>Bibliographic Entry: Contributor(s). "Entry Title." In <i>Grove Music Online</i>, edited by Editor. Accessed Month Day, Year. DOI.</p>
Physical Audio Recording Individual Track	<p>F: Performer/Group/Conductor, "Title," by Composer, on <i>Recording Title</i>, Additional Performer/Group/Conductor Name(s), Recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Label Number, Release Year, format.</p> <p>B.E.: Performer/Group/Conductor. "Title," by Composer. On <i>Recording Title</i>. Additional Performer/Group/Conductor Name(s). Recorded Month Day, Year. Record Label Label Number, Release Year, format.</p>
Digital Audio Single Track	<p>F: Main Performer(s) [only if citing as primary contributor], "Title," by Composer, track # on <i>Recording Title</i>, Additional Performer/Group/Conductor Name(s), recorded Month Day, Year, Record Label Label Number, Release Year, streaming audio, platform. Accessed Month Day, Year [if necessary].</p> <p>B.E.: Main Performer(s) [only if citing as primary contributor]. "Title." By Composer. Track # on <i>Recording Title</i>. Additional Performer/Group/Conductor Name(s). Recorded Day Month, Year. Record Label Label Number, Release Year, streaming audio, Platform. Accessed Month Day, Year [if necessary].</p>
Streaming Video Subscription Platform	<p>F: Main Contributor(s) [if necessary], <i>Title</i>, directed by Director [if necessary], Production Company, Year of Publication, streaming video, timestamp for section cited, accessed Month Day, Year, Platform.</p> <p>B.E.: Main Contributor(s) [if necessary]. <i>Title</i>. Directed by Director [if necessary]. Production Company, Year of Publication, streaming video, accessed Month Day, Year, platform, duration of video.</p>
YouTube	<p>F: Contributor, "Title," Channel, posted Month Day, Year, YouTube video, timestamps of the section cited, URL.</p> <p>B.E.: Contributor. "Title." Channel. Posted Month Day, Year. YouTube video, duration. URL</p>
Digital Score	<p>F: Composer, <i>Title</i>, in Database, ed. Editor, URL, Page Number, m. Measure Number.</p> <p>B.E.: Composer. <i>Title</i>. In Database. Edited by Editor. URL. Accessed Month Day, Year.</p>