

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Linda Barnhart, Secretary-Elect, RSC
Subject: Revision of RDA 6.15 Medium of Performance

The text below reflects the decisions made by the RDA Steering Committee during its November 2016 meeting and via email after the meeting. This was a “Phoenix” revision, meaning that the entire instruction at 6.15 was replaced. A mapping follows at the end of the document between the “old” 6.15 and the “new” 6.15.

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6.15 Medium of Performance

CORE ELEMENT

Medium of performance is a core element when needed to differentiate a musical work from another work with the same title. It may also be a core element when identifying a musical work with a title that is not distinctive.

6.15.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Medium of Performance

6.15.1.1 Scope

medium of performance ▼: An instrument, voice, and/or ensemble for which a musical work was originally conceived.

For guidelines on recording a medium of performance of musical content, see 7.21.

6.15.1.2 Sources of Information

Take information on a medium of performance from any source.

6.15.1.3 Recording Medium of Performance

Record a medium of performance using a term from a standard list, if available. If such a list is not available, see the listing of medium of performance terms on the Tools tab of the RDA Toolkit: **Medium of Performance**. Record as many terms as are applicable to the resource being described, such as:

a) a term for a specific instrument, voice, or ensemble

EXAMPLE

sitar

soprano voice

tin can ensemble

- b) a term for an unspecified instrument, voice, or ensemble

EXAMPLE

instrument

- c) a term for an instrument or voice for which only the family is known

EXAMPLE

plucked instrument

female voice

- d) a term for an ensemble consisting of the same family of instruments or voices

EXAMPLE

string ensemble

women's chorus

- e) a term for the range or general type of instrument or voice

EXAMPLE

bass instrument

mechanical instrument

and/or

- f) a collective term for other media, etc.

EXAMPLE

electronics

Apply these additional instructions, as applicable:

alternative instruments and voices (see 6.15.1.4)
doubling instruments and voices (see 6.15.1.5)
number of parts, performers, etc. (see 6.15.1.6).

Record a medium of performance as a separate element, as part of an access point, or as both. For instructions on recording a medium of performance as part of an authorized access point, see 6.28.1.9.

6.15.1.4 Alternative Instruments and Voices

Record terms for alternative instruments and voices.

EXAMPLE

viola
Alternative instrument for clarinet in a sonata for clarinet (or viola) and piano

6.15.1.5 Doubling Instruments and Voices

Record terms for doubling instruments and voices.

EXAMPLE

English horn
Doubling instrument for oboe in a quintet for flute, oboe (doubling English horn), clarinet, French horn, and bassoon

Optional Omission

Omit doubling instruments and voices.

6.15.1.6 Number of Parts, Performers, Etc.

Record the number of parts, performers, hands, and ensembles by applying these instructions, as applicable:

- number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice (see 6.15.1.6.1)
- number of hands for each instrument (see 6.15.1.6.2)
- number of ensembles (see 6.15.1.6.3)
- total number of performers (see 6.15.1.6.4)
- total number of ensembles (see 6.15.1.6.5).

6.15.1.6.1 Number of Parts or Performers for Each Instrument or Voice

Record the number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice, if it is readily ascertainable.

EXAMPLE

2 parts
Medium of performance term: clarinet

5 performers

Medium of performance term: plucked instrument

Exception

Record the number of performers for a group of percussion instruments, if it is readily ascertainable.

EXAMPLE

3 performers

Medium of performance term: percussion

1 performer

Medium of performance term: sound effects

Optional Omission

Omit the number of parts or performers for an instrument or voice if there is only one part or performer for that instrument or voice.

6.15.1.6.2 Number of Hands for Each Instrument

Record the number of hands for each instrument if other than two.

EXAMPLE

1 hand

Medium of performance term: piano

4 hands

Medium of performance term: viola

For two or more keyboard or mallet (marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, etc.) instruments, specify the number of hands if other than two per instrument.

EXAMPLE

6 hands

Medium of performance term: piano. **Three performers on 2 pianos**

8 hands

Medium of performance term: piano. **Four performers on 2 pianos**

8 hands

Medium of performance term: marimba. **Four performers on 2 marimbas**

6.15.1.6.3 Number of Ensembles

Record the number of ensembles for each type of ensemble, if it is readily ascertainable.

Optional Omission

Omit the number of ensembles for a type of ensemble if there is only one ensemble of that type.

6.15.1.6.4 Total Number of Parts or Performers

Record the total number of parts or performers, if it is readily ascertainable.

EXAMPLE

2 performers
Clarinet with vibraphone (doubling harpsichord)

10 performers
Tuba, 3 trumpets, 2 horns, 2 trombones, 1 timpani, and 1 percussion performer

6.15.1.6.5 Total Number of Ensembles

Record the total number of ensembles, if it is readily ascertainable.

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Mapping from old to new numbers

Current RDA Instruction Number	Current RDA Instruction Caption	Phoenix Revised RDA Instruction Number	Phoenix Revised RDA Instruction Caption
6.15	Medium of Performance	6.15	Medium of Performance
6.15.1	Basic Instructions on Recording Medium of Performance	6.15.1	Basic Instructions on Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.1	Scope	6.15.1.1	Scope
6.15.1.2	Sources of Information	6.15.1.2	Sources of Information
6.15.1.3	Recording	6.15.1.3 and	Recording

	Medium of Performance	6.15.1.6.1	Medium of Performance and Number of Parts or Performers for Each Instrument or Voice
6.15.1.4	Instrumental Music Intended for One Performer to a Part	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.5	Instruments	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance; also new Toolkit tab
6.15.1.5.1	Number of Hands	6.15.1.6.2	Number of Hands for Each Instrument
6.15.1.5.2	Pitch and Range of Instruments	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance and/or term lists
6.15.1.5.3	Alternative Instruments	6.15.1.4	Alternative Instruments and Voices
6.15.1.5.4	Doubling Instruments	6.15.1.5	Doubling Instruments and Voices
6.15.1.6	Accompanying Ensembles with One Performer to a Part	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.7	Instrumental Music for Orchestra, String Orchestra, or Band	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.8	One or More Solo Instruments and	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance

	Accompanying Ensemble		
6.15.1.9	Solo Voices	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance and/or term lists
6.15.1.10	Choruses	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.11	Indeterminate Medium of Performance	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.11.1	One Family of Instruments, Collective Term, Etc.	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.11.2	Range or General Type of Instrument or Voice	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.11.3	Some Instruments, Etc., Unspecified	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance
6.15.1.11.4	Medium Unspecified	6.15.1.3	Recording Medium of Performance

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For the Tools tab of *RDA Toolkit*:

Medium of Performance

Instruments, Voices, and Ensembles: for use with 6.15.1.3

Instruments

Use the following list of terms as a guide:

- cello *or* violoncello
- cor anglais *or* English horn
- double bass (*not* bass viol *or* contrabass)
- double bassoon *or* contrabassoon

harpichord (*not* cembalo *or* virginal)
horn (*not* French horn)
kettle drums *or* timpani
piano (*not* fortepiano *or* pianoforte)
viola da gamba (*not* bass viol *or* gamba)

When alternatives are given, choose a term and use it consistently.

If considered important for identification or access, record the designation of key in which an instrument is pitched and/or terms indicating the range of an instrument.

If there is more than one percussion instrument, and the names of the individual instruments are not specified by the composer in the original title, use *percussion*.

Continuo

Use *continuo* to identify a continuo part.

Solo Voices

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

soprano
mezzo-soprano
alto
tenor
baritone
bass

Record other terms as appropriate.

Large Instrumental Ensembles

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

orchestra
string orchestra
band

Record *orchestra* for full or reduced orchestra.

Instrumental Ensembles with One Performer to a Part

Record an appropriate term for an instrumental ensemble with one performer to a part using the appropriate term for the instrument or family of instruments followed by the word *ensemble*.

Record *instrumental ensemble* for an instrumental ensemble with one player to a part consisting of instruments from two or more families of instruments when a more specific term is not available.

Choruses

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

mixed voices
men's voices
women's voices
unison voices

Record other terms as appropriate.

Vocal Ensembles with One Voice to a Part

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

mixed solo voices
men's solo voices
women's solo voices

Record other terms as appropriate.