

# chicago manual for music academics

The Chicago Manual for Music Academics: Navigating Citation and Style

**chicago manual for music academics** is an indispensable resource for scholars, researchers, and students in the field of musicology, theory, composition, and performance. This comprehensive style guide provides the foundational principles for presenting academic work with clarity, consistency, and authority, ensuring that your research on diverse musical topics, from historical performance practices to contemporary electronic music, adheres to rigorous academic standards. Understanding and applying its guidelines is crucial for crafting compelling essays, dissertations, journal articles, and presentations that are both informative and impeccably presented. This article will delve into the core components of the Chicago Manual of Style as it pertains to musical scholarship, covering essential elements from citation practices for various musical sources to the nuances of stylistic conventions.

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## Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style for Music

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is one of the most widely adopted style guides in the United States, serving a broad range of academic disciplines. For music academics, its detailed instructions on citation, grammar, punctuation, and formatting are paramount. The manual's flexibility allows for different citation systems, but the footnotes and bibliography system is particularly favored in the humanities, including musicology and music theory, due to its ability to incorporate explanatory notes alongside source attribution. This section will outline the general philosophy behind CMOS and its specific relevance to the unique demands of musical scholarship.

The core principle of any style guide, including CMOS, is to facilitate clear communication. In music academia, this means presenting complex analytical arguments, historical narratives, and theoretical concepts in a way that is easily understood by peers. The Chicago Manual provides the framework for achieving this, ensuring that abbreviations, terminology, and the presentation of musical evidence are standardized. It addresses the challenges inherent in citing diverse forms of musical material, which often do not fit neatly into categories used for other academic fields.

# Footnote and Endnote Citation Styles in Music Scholarship

The Chicago Manual of Style predominantly advocates for the use of footnotes or endnotes for citation, particularly within musicological and historical research. This system allows authors to provide detailed source information directly on the page or at the end of the document, without interrupting the flow of the main text. For music academics, this is invaluable for referencing specific passages in scores, moments in recordings, or intricate theoretical arguments without extensive parenthetical interruptions.

When citing a musical score in a footnote, crucial information includes the composer, the title of the work (and movement or section if applicable), the edition used, the publication details, and the specific page and/or measure number. For instance, a footnote might appear as: "Johann Sebastian Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D major, BWV 1050, ed. Friedrich Blume (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1954), 12, m. 25-30." This level of detail ensures that readers can locate the exact musical passage being discussed.

Recorded music citations in footnotes require similar precision. Information such as the performer(s), recording title, album title (if applicable), record label, catalog number, and the specific track or time stamp are essential. For example: "Maria Callas, 'Casta Diva' from Bellini's *Norma*, with the Orchestra and Chorus of La Scala, Milan, conducted by Tullio Serafin, recorded 1954, on Callas at La Scala, EMI Classics, 7243 5 67402 2 3, track 5, 1:30-2:15." This ensures that the specific performance and recording are identifiable for verification and further study.

## Citing Musical Scores and Editions

The meticulous citation of musical scores is a cornerstone of rigorous music scholarship. The Chicago Manual of Style, while not having a dedicated chapter solely for music scores, provides principles that can be adapted. When referencing a printed score, it is vital to specify the composer, the complete title of the work, any movement or section designations, the editor or arranger, the place of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and importantly, the page number and/or measure numbers being referenced.

For a critical edition, the editor's role is particularly significant and should be clearly indicated. For example, referencing a specific passage in a Bach cantata might look like this: "Johann Sebastian Bach, Cantata BWV 140, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, edited by Alfred Dürr (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1990), score, 45, m. 33-40." If a particular arrangement or transcription is being used, this must also be explicitly stated. The goal is always to provide enough information so that another scholar can find the precise musical material under discussion.

## Referencing Recorded Music and Performances

The citation of recorded music presents unique challenges due to the ephemeral nature of live

performances and the multiplicity of available recordings. CMOS offers guidelines for citing sound recordings that are directly applicable. Key components include the artist(s) or ensemble, the title of the specific track or movement, the title of the album or collection, the recording company or label, the catalog number, and the release year. For precise referencing within a text, a time stamp is often crucial.

When discussing a live performance that was not commercially recorded, the citation becomes more descriptive. It would typically include the date and venue of the performance, the performing ensemble and conductor, and the specific work performed. For example: "Performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, Symphony Center, Chicago, October 15, 2023." While not as readily verifiable as a commercial recording, this provides essential context and identification.

## **Bibliography and Reference List Construction**

Following the footnote or endnote section of an academic work in music, a comprehensive bibliography or reference list is required. This section serves as an aggregated list of all sources cited in the text, providing a complete overview of the research foundation. The Chicago Manual of Style's approach to bibliographies emphasizes clarity and completeness, allowing readers to easily identify and locate the works that informed the author's argument.

The organization of a bibliography can vary, but typically it is arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. For music, special considerations arise when alphabetizing works by composers. Generally, the composer's last name serves as the primary sorting key. If multiple works by the same composer are listed, they are then ordered chronologically by publication date or by title if dates are similar. For collections or anthologies, the editor is often the primary sorting element. The format within each entry in the bibliography mirrors that of the footnotes/endnotes but is presented in a continuous prose format, usually with hanging indents for readability.

## **Citing Musicological and Theoretical Texts**

The citation of scholarly books, articles, and essays forms the backbone of most music academic research. The Chicago Manual of Style provides clear guidelines for citing these traditional print sources. For a book, essential elements include the author's full name, the title of the book (italicized), the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. For journal articles, the author, article title (in quotation marks), journal title (italicized), volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication are necessary, along with page ranges.

When referencing specific theoretical concepts or historical analyses from these texts, the page numbers are critical. For example, a footnote might refer to a seminal work on Schenkerian analysis: "Heinrich Schenker, *Free Composition*, trans. and ed. Ernst Oster (New York: Longman, 1979), 145." Similarly, an article discussing the reception history of a particular opera might be cited as: "Richard Taruskin, 'The Spinners of fables: Style and Syntax in Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*,' *Musical Quarterly* 66, no. 2 (April 1980): 195." Consistent application of these citation rules lends credibility and accessibility to the research.

# Stylistic Conventions in Music Writing

Beyond citation, the Chicago Manual of Style offers guidance on a wide array of stylistic conventions that are particularly relevant to academic writing in music. This includes rules on grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and the use of foreign languages, which are frequently encountered in musicological texts and titles of musical works. Adhering to these conventions ensures a professional and polished presentation of complex musical ideas.

One key area is the treatment of musical titles. Generally, titles of complete musical works (e.g., symphonies, operas, sonatas) are italicized, while titles of individual movements or sections are placed in quotation marks. For instance, one might discuss "Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125," but refer to its famous fourth movement as the "'Ode to Joy' chorus." This distinction is crucial for clarity and adherence to academic norms.

The use of foreign terms and phrases is also common. CMOS provides guidance on when to italicize foreign words and how to handle diacritical marks. For music, this is particularly relevant for terms from Italian, German, French, and Latin, which are integral to musical terminology and historical discourse. The manual's advice on hyphenation, compounding, and the use of apostrophes also contributes to the overall clarity and readability of the text.

## Formatting Musical Examples and Notation

The inclusion of musical examples is often indispensable for illustrating analytical points, historical developments, or theoretical principles. The Chicago Manual of Style, while not dictating specific music notation software, provides principles for how these examples should be integrated into the text and referenced. Typically, musical examples are presented as figures and are numbered consecutively.

Each musical example should be clearly labeled with a caption that includes its figure number and a brief description, such as "Figure 1: Opening theme of Mozart's Piano Sonata K. 545." The text should then refer to this figure for discussion. Crucially, the source of the musical example must be cited, either within the caption itself or in a footnote associated with the figure. This ensures proper attribution and allows readers to consult the original material.

The presentation of the musical notation itself should be clear and legible. This involves consistent use of clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and rhythmic notation. When discussing specific pitches or rhythms, it is often beneficial to include a brief notational example to avoid ambiguity. For instance, if analyzing a complex rhythmic passage, a short excerpt demonstrating the rhythm in question would be far more effective than a purely verbal description.

## Special Considerations for Digital Music Resources

In the contemporary academic landscape, access to and citation of digital music resources, such as online databases, digital scores, and streaming audio, have become commonplace. The Chicago

Manual of Style addresses these evolving forms of scholarship by providing a framework for citing online materials that emphasizes accessibility and accuracy. For music academics, this includes citing resources like the International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP), the Grateful Dead archive, or scholarly digital editions.

When citing digital resources, the most critical elements are the URL and the date of access. This is because online content can change or disappear. A typical citation for an online score might include the composer, title, URL, and the date the resource was accessed. For streaming audio, similar principles apply, ensuring that the specific recording and performer can be identified, along with the platform and access date.

The accessibility of these resources is paramount. If a digital resource requires a subscription or is behind a paywall, this should ideally be indicated. However, the primary goal remains to provide enough information for a reader to locate the material, even if they do not have immediate access. The principles of precision and completeness remain central, even when dealing with less tangible forms of musical evidence.

The Chicago Manual of Style for music academics offers a robust and adaptable framework for scholarly communication. By adhering to its detailed guidelines on citation, formatting, and stylistic conventions, researchers can present their work with the highest degree of professionalism and intellectual rigor. Mastering these principles is not merely a matter of following rules; it is about ensuring that the intricacies and beauty of music scholarship are conveyed with unparalleled clarity and authority to a global academic audience. The consistent application of CMOS elevates the quality of research and contributes to the ongoing discourse within the field of music studies.

## **FAQ: Chicago Manual for Music Academics**

### **Q: What is the primary citation style recommended by the Chicago Manual of Style for musicology?**

A: The Chicago Manual of Style primarily recommends the footnotes and bibliography system for musicology. This system allows for detailed source attribution and the inclusion of explanatory notes within the text, which is particularly useful for complex musical analyses and historical discussions.

### **Q: How should I cite a specific movement of a larger musical work in Chicago style?**

A: When citing a specific movement of a larger work, you should include the composer, the title of the larger work, the movement designation (e.g., "Allegro," "Andante," or track number), the edition or publication details, and the page or measure numbers. For example: "Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67, I. Allegro con brio, ed. Jonathan Del Mar (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1997), 15, m. 1-8."

## **Q: What are the key elements to include when citing a commercially released recording in Chicago style?**

A: When citing a commercial recording, essential elements include the performer(s) or ensemble, the title of the specific track or movement, the title of the album or collection, the recording company or label, the catalog number, and the year of release. Including a specific time stamp for the excerpt being referenced is also highly recommended for precision.

## **Q: How do I differentiate between a musical score title and a movement title in Chicago style?**

A: In Chicago style, titles of complete musical works (e.g., symphonies, operas, sonatas) are generally italicized. Titles of individual movements or sections within those works are typically placed in quotation marks. For instance, one would reference "Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*" but discuss the excerpt "Liebestod."

## **Q: What information is necessary when citing a musical score that is available online through a platform like IMSLP?**

A: When citing a musical score available online, you must provide the composer, title of the work, the URL of the specific page or file, and the date you accessed the resource. It is also advisable to mention the specific edition or version if discernible. For example: "George Frideric Handel, *Messiah*, HWV 56, edited by Ebenezer Prout, accessed May 15, 2024, [https://imslp.org/wiki/Messiah,\\_HWV\\_56\\_\(Handel,\\_George\\_Frideric\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Messiah,_HWV_56_(Handel,_George_Frideric))."

## **Q: Does the Chicago Manual of Style offer specific guidance on formatting musical notation within an academic paper?**

A: While the Chicago Manual of Style does not dictate specific music notation software, it emphasizes clarity, legibility, and consistent formatting for any included musical examples. These should be presented as numbered figures with descriptive captions and properly cited, ensuring that all notational elements are clear and accurate.

## **Q: How should I cite a lecture or presentation on music theory that I attended?**

A: For a lecture or presentation, you should cite the speaker's name, the title of the lecture (in quotation marks if it had one), the name of the event or course, the institution, and the date. If a specific part of the lecture is referenced, indicate the approximate time or section. For example: "Jane Doe, 'Schenkerian Analysis of Late Beethoven Quartets,' Music Theory Colloquium, University of Chicago, October 26, 2023."

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