

chicago manual style musicology

The Chicago Manual of Style Musicology: A Comprehensive Guide to Citation and Formatting

chicago manual style musicology is a critical aspect of scholarly communication within the field, ensuring clarity, consistency, and academic integrity. For musicologists, adhering to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a standardized framework for presenting research, from footnotes and bibliographies to the formatting of musical examples and the discussion of theoretical concepts. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of applying CMOS within musicological discourse, offering detailed explanations and practical advice. We will explore essential citation practices, the proper way to incorporate musical notation, and specific considerations for different types of musicological research, all aimed at elevating the quality and impact of your scholarly work. Understanding these principles is not merely about following rules; it's about participating effectively in the ongoing scholarly conversation.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style in Musicology

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) serves as a foundational guide for academic writing across many disciplines, and its application in musicology is particularly nuanced. Musicology, with its unique objects of study—musical scores, recordings, performances, and theoretical frameworks—requires specific adaptations of general citation and formatting guidelines. The CMOS's emphasis on clarity, thoroughness, and consistency makes it an ideal choice for scholars who need to present complex analytical arguments and historical narratives. Adopting the Chicago style ensures that your work is accessible to a broad scholarly audience and that your contributions are situated within established academic discourse.

The principles of the Chicago Manual of Style are designed to facilitate the clear communication of ideas and evidence. For musicologists, this translates into precise ways of identifying musical works, citing sources for analytical data, and presenting musical notation within the text. The manual offers flexibility in its two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system, often preferred in the humanities including musicology, and the author-date system. While both are valid, the notes-bibliography system is generally favored for its ability to provide detailed source information within footnotes or endnotes while maintaining a cleaner text, which is especially beneficial when discussing intricate musical details.

Core Citation Practices for Musicologists

At the heart of any scholarly endeavor is the accurate and consistent citation of sources. In musicology, this involves not only referencing textual materials but also musical scores, recordings, and archival documents. The Chicago Manual of Style provides a robust framework for handling these diverse sources, ensuring that readers can easily locate and verify the information presented. Mastering these citation practices is

fundamental to establishing credibility and engaging in responsible scholarship.

Footnotes and Endnotes

The notes-bibliography system of CMOS utilizes footnotes or endnotes to provide specific citation details for every piece of information or idea borrowed from another source. For musicologists, this means citing not only books and articles but also specific movements, measures, or even individual pitches from a musical work if they are the focus of analysis. Each note should include enough information to identify the source uniquely. Common elements include the author's name, title of the work, publication details, and importantly for music, the opus or catalog number, movement, and page or measure numbers.

When citing a musical score in a note, it's crucial to be as specific as possible. For instance, if you are referencing a particular passage in Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, a footnote might look something like: Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 5 in C minor, op. 67, movt. IV, arr. for piano by Franz Liszt (Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1810), 112, measures 45-52. This level of detail allows a reader to find the exact passage being discussed. Similarly, citing recordings requires specifying the performer(s), conductor, ensemble, album title, record label, and catalog number, along with the track or CD number and timing if necessary.

The Bibliography

The bibliography, appearing at the end of a work, provides a comprehensive list of all the sources cited in the notes. It serves as a valuable resource for readers who wish to explore the research further. In musicology, the bibliography will include a mix of scholarly books and articles on music, editions of musical scores, recordings, and potentially primary source materials like letters or manuscripts. The organization of the bibliography follows a consistent format, typically alphabetized by author's last name.

For musical scores, bibliography entries should include the composer, title, edition details (editor, publisher, year), and any relevant opus or catalog numbers. For recordings, include the performer(s), conductor, ensemble, album title, label, catalog number, and year of release. The consistency in formatting between your notes and bibliography is paramount; CMOS provides clear guidelines on how to format entries for various types of materials, ensuring uniformity throughout your scholarly output.

Citing Musical Scores and Recordings

The specific nature of musicological research demands precise methods for citing musical scores and recordings, as these are often primary sources. The Chicago Manual of Style offers detailed guidance on how to present these

materials in both notes and the bibliography, ensuring that your references are accurate and informative.

Scores

When citing a printed musical score, the entry should clearly identify the composer, the title of the work (including key and opus or catalog number), the specific edition being used (including editor or arranger), and the publisher with the year of publication. For example: Bach, J.S. Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F Major, BWV 1047. Edited by Heinrich Bessler. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1961. It is also essential to specify the page number or, more commonly in musicology, the measure number(s) where a particular passage is located, especially when discussing analytical points.

Recordings

Citing recorded music requires a different approach, focusing on the performance and production aspects. A complete entry for a recording typically includes the composer, work title, performing ensemble and/or soloists, conductor (if applicable), album title, record label, catalog number, and the year of release. If you are referencing a specific section of a longer work, include the track number and/or timing. For example: Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550. Performed by the Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Herbert von Karajan. Deutsche Grammophon, 415 301-2, 1984, CD 1, track 3, 2:15-3:05.

Performance Materials

In instances where a scholar might be citing orchestral parts, vocal scores, or conducting scores that are not published editions but rather manuscript copies or special performance materials, CMOS provides guidance for citing unpublished or archival materials. This would include information about the repository where the material is housed, collection name, box and folder numbers, and any relevant identifying information for the specific document. Precision is key to ensure that other scholars can access the same materials for verification or further study.

Formatting Musical Examples

The inclusion of musical examples is often indispensable in musicological writing, serving to illustrate analytical points, historical contexts, or theoretical concepts. The Chicago Manual of Style offers clear guidelines on how to present these examples effectively and integrate them seamlessly into the text, ensuring they are both visually appealing and informative.

Placement and Numbering

Musical examples should be placed as close as possible to their first mention in the text. Each example should be numbered sequentially throughout the work (e.g., Example 1, Example 2, etc.). This numbering system allows for easy reference within the text and in your notes or bibliography. The number and title of the example should appear above the musical excerpt.

Captioning

Each musical example should have a concise caption that identifies what the example represents. This might include the composer, work title, opus or catalog number, the specific movement, and the measure numbers or page range the excerpt covers. For instance: **Example 1.** J.S. Bach, Prelude in C Major, BWV 846, measures 1-8. The caption should be informative and directly relevant to the analytical point being made in the surrounding text.

Copyright Considerations

When including musical examples, it is crucial to be mindful of copyright law. If you are using material that is still under copyright, you must obtain permission from the copyright holder. The Chicago Manual of Style advises that scholars ensure all necessary permissions are secured and properly acknowledged, typically in the caption or in a separate permissions statement. For older works in the public domain, this is generally not an issue, but it's always best practice to cite the edition used.

Special Considerations in Musicological Writing

Beyond general citation and formatting, musicology presents unique challenges and opportunities that CMOS helps to address. These include the proper way to refer to musical works, the use of specialized terminology, and the increasing prevalence of interdisciplinary approaches.

Referring to Musical Works

CMOS provides specific guidance on how to refer to musical compositions. Generally, titles of musical works are italicized. This includes symphonies, concertos, operas, sonatas, and other extended compositions. Shorter works, such as individual songs or movements, are typically enclosed in quotation marks. For example, one might discuss Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 in D minor*, op. 125, but a specific movement might be referred to as "the 'Ode to Joy' finale." Including opus or catalog numbers is standard practice for precise identification, especially for composers with extensive output.

Using Technical Terminology

Musicology employs a rich and often specialized vocabulary. The Chicago Manual of Style encourages clarity and precision in the use of technical terms. If a term is not widely understood, it is advisable to define it upon its first use. This is particularly important when discussing theoretical concepts like Schenkerian analysis, set theory, or formal structures. Ensuring that your terminology is used consistently and accurately enhances the readability and credibility of your work.

Interdisciplinary Musicology

Modern musicology often bridges the gap between music and other fields, such as history, sociology, anthropology, literature, and media studies. When writing in an interdisciplinary manner, it is important to maintain the core principles of CMOS while also respecting the citation and formatting conventions of the allied disciplines when necessary. The key is to create a cohesive scholarly voice that integrates insights from various fields while adhering to a consistent overall style guide, preferably CMOS for the entirety of the manuscript.

Best Practices for Clarity and Precision

Regardless of the specific subject matter within musicology, the overarching goal of adhering to the Chicago Manual of Style is to achieve clarity and precision in scholarly communication. This means ensuring that your arguments are well-supported, your sources are easily traceable, and your presentation is unambiguous. Careful attention to detail in both the content and the formatting of your work is essential for conveying your research effectively. This includes proofreading meticulously for any errors in citations, musical notation, or textual content. A well-formatted and accurately cited manuscript demonstrates a scholar's commitment to academic rigor and enhances the reader's trust in the research presented. By embracing the principles of the Chicago Manual of Style, musicologists can contribute to a scholarly landscape that is both rigorous and accessible.

Q: What is the primary citation system recommended by CMOS for musicology?

A: The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) primarily recommends the notes-bibliography system for musicology. This system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations and includes a bibliography at the end of the work, which is generally preferred in humanities disciplines like musicology for its detailed source information and cleaner text.

Q: How should I cite a specific passage from a musical score in Chicago style?

A: When citing a passage from a musical score, you should include the composer, the work title (with opus/catalog number), the edition used, publication details, and most importantly, the page number or measure number(s) of the specific passage.

Q: What are the rules for italicizing musical work titles in CMOS?

A: In CMOS, titles of major musical works such as symphonies, concertos, operas, and sonatas are italicized. Shorter pieces like individual songs or movements are typically placed within quotation marks.

Q: How do I format musical examples in my musicological paper according to CMOS?

A: Musical examples should be numbered sequentially (e.g., Example 1) and placed near their first mention in the text. Each example needs a caption that identifies the musical material, including composer, work title, and specific measure or page numbers.

Q: Is it necessary to get copyright permission for musical examples?

A: Yes, if the musical example is still under copyright protection, you must obtain permission from the copyright holder. This is a crucial aspect of scholarly publishing, and CMOS advises that permissions be secured and acknowledged properly.

Q: How should I cite a recording of a musical piece in CMOS?

A: For recordings, include the composer, work title, performing ensemble/soloist, conductor, album title, record label, catalog number, and year of release. If referencing a specific section, add the track number and/or timing.

Q: Can I use the author-date system for musicology if I prefer?

A: While CMOS offers the author-date system, the notes-bibliography system is generally more suitable and widely adopted within musicology due to the need

for detailed source references, especially for musical works and performance details.

Q: What is the standard practice for referring to composers in citations?

A: Typically, you would provide the composer's full name upon first mention and may use their last name for subsequent references. For clarity, it's common to include opus or catalog numbers when identifying their works.

Q: How should I handle unpublished or manuscript musical materials in my citations?

A: For unpublished or manuscript materials, CMOS requires detailed information about the repository where the material is housed, including collection name, box, and folder numbers, alongside any other identifying information for the specific document.

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