

chicago style citation examples for music

chicago style citation examples for music provide a crucial framework for academics, students, and researchers who are engaging with musical works in their scholarly pursuits. Mastering these citations ensures that credit is given to the original creators and allows readers to easily locate the sources consulted. This comprehensive guide delves into the nuances of citing various forms of music, from recordings and live performances to scores and digital media, all within the established Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. We will explore the fundamental components of Chicago-style citations for music, the specific formats for different media types, and provide clear, actionable examples to demystify the process. Understanding these citation practices is paramount for maintaining academic integrity and contributing meaningfully to the discourse surrounding music.

Table of Contents

- Understanding the Fundamentals of Chicago Style for Music
- Citing Recorded Music: Albums and Tracks
- Citing Live Musical Performances
- Citing Musical Scores and Compositions
- Citing Digital Music Resources and Streaming Services
- Common Challenges and Solutions in Chicago Music Citations
- The Importance of Consistency in Chicago Style Music Citations

Understanding the Fundamentals of Chicago Style for Music

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary systems for citation: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For academic papers on music, the notes-bibliography system is generally preferred, especially in fields like musicology and art history, as it allows for more detailed explanations in footnotes or endnotes and a more fluid reading experience. Regardless of the system chosen, the core principle is to provide enough information for your reader to find the exact source you consulted.

Key elements typically included in Chicago style citations for music are: the name of the composer or artist, the title of the work, the title of the album or collection (if applicable), the recording company and catalog number, the date of publication or release, and page numbers or specific track information. The precise order and punctuation will vary depending on the type of musical material being cited. Adherence to these conventions not only upholds academic honesty but also demonstrates a researcher's meticulous attention to detail and respect for intellectual property.

Citing Recorded Music: Albums and Tracks

Citing recorded music is a frequent necessity when discussing musical works. The Chicago style distinguishes between citing an entire album and citing a specific track from an album. Both require

careful attention to detail to ensure proper attribution and ease of retrieval for the reader.

Citing an Entire Album

When referencing an entire album, the citation should include the primary artist or ensemble, the album title, the record label, and the year of release. For the notes-bibliography system, the format typically appears as follows in a bibliography entry. In a footnote or endnote, the information is presented in a slightly different order and may include additional details like the format (e.g., LP, CD).

- **Bibliography Entry:** Artist Name(s). *Album Title*. Record Label, Year.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Artist Name(s), *Album Title*, Record Label, Year.

For example:

- **Bibliography Entry:** Miles Davis. *Kind of Blue*. Columbia Records, 1959.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Miles Davis, *Kind of Blue*, Columbia Records, 1959.

Citing a Specific Track

If you are referring to a particular track from an album, your citation needs to specify both the track title and the album it belongs to. This provides a more precise reference point for your reader. The structure usually involves the track title, followed by "on" or "in," and then the album details.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Artist Name(s). "Track Title." *Album Title*. Record Label, Year.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Artist Name(s), "Track Title," *Album Title*, Record Label, Year.

For instance:

- **Bibliography Entry:** The Beatles. "Hey Jude." *Past Masters*. Apple Records, 1988.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** The Beatles, "Hey Jude," *Past Masters*, Apple Records, 1988.

It is also important to consider citing compilations or anthologies. In such cases, you would cite the specific track, followed by the title of the compilation, and then the details of the compilation itself, including its producer or editor if known.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Artist Name(s). "Track Title." *Compilation Title*. Edited/Produced by Name. Record Label, Year.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Artist Name(s), "Track Title," *Compilation Title*, edited by Name, Record Label, Year.

Citing Live Musical Performances

Citing a live musical performance, such as a concert or opera, requires different information than citing a recording. The focus shifts to the performers, the venue, the date of the performance, and the specific work presented. This is particularly relevant for citing historical performances or contemporary events that have not been officially recorded and released.

Concerts and Recitals

For a concert or recital, the primary information includes the performers, the title of the program or featured work, the venue, and the date of the performance. If you attended the performance yourself, you might note this as a personal communication or a personal observation, though typically for scholarly work, references are to officially documented performances or reliable accounts.

- **Footnote/Endnote:** Performer(s), *Title of Work Performed*, Venue, City, Date of Performance.

An example would be:

- **Footnote/Endnote:** Yo-Yo Ma, Bach Cello Suites, Carnegie Hall, New York, October 26, 2023.

Operas and Theatrical Productions

Citing an opera or a theatrical musical production involves identifying the composer of the music, the librettist (if applicable), the title of the work, the production company or opera house, the venue,

and the date of the performance. This ensures clarity about the specific staging and rendition of the work.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Composer Name. *Opera Title*. Librettist Name (if applicable). Performance by Company/Opera House. Venue, City. Date of Performance.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Composer Name, *Opera Title*, lib. Librettist Name, performed by Company/Opera House, Venue, City, Date of Performance.

For example:

- **Bibliography Entry:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. *The Magic Flute*. Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder. Performance by the Metropolitan Opera. Metropolitan Opera House, New York. February 12, 2024.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *The Magic Flute*, lib. Emanuel Schikaneder, performed by the Metropolitan Opera, Metropolitan Opera House, New York, February 12, 2024.

Citing Musical Scores and Compositions

When referencing sheet music or a specific musical composition in its notated form, the citation needs to clearly identify the composer, the title of the work, and the specific edition or publication details. This is crucial for readers who might want to examine the score themselves.

Published Scores

For published scores, the citation should include the composer, the title of the work, the publisher, and the year of publication. If you are citing a specific movement or section, you should also include that information. For practical editions, the editor's name is also important.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Composer Name. *Title of Work*. Edited by Editor Name. Publisher, Year.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Composer Name, *Title of Work*, ed. Editor Name (Publisher, Year).

Consider this example:

- **Bibliography Entry:** Johann Sebastian Bach. *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I*. Edited by Christoph Wolff. Bärenreiter, 2007.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Johann Sebastian Bach, *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I*, ed. Christoph Wolff (Bärenreiter, 2007).

Manuscript Scores

If you are using a manuscript score, which is typically found in an archive or special collection, your citation must include details about its location. This often involves the archive's name, the collection name, and any specific identifying numbers or shelf marks.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Composer Name. *Title of Work*. Date of Composition (if known). Manuscript, Archive Name, Collection Name, Location (e.g., box number, folder number).
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Composer Name, *Title of Work*, date of composition (Manuscript, Archive Name, Collection Name, Location).

A hypothetical example:

- **Bibliography Entry:** Igor Stravinsky. *The Rite of Spring*. 1913. Manuscript score. Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel, Nachlass Stravinsky, R 42.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Igor Stravinsky, *The Rite of Spring*, 1913, Manuscript score, Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel, Nachlass Stravinsky, R 42.

Citing Digital Music Resources and Streaming Services

The proliferation of digital music has introduced new challenges and formats for citation. When citing music accessed online, whether through streaming services, digital archives, or websites, it's essential to provide a stable and retrievable reference.

Streaming Services

Citing music from streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube Music requires including the artist, track title, album title, the service name, and the URL or a persistent identifier if available. The date of access is also important, as content on these platforms can change.

- **Footnote/Endnote:** Artist Name(s), "Track Title," *Album Title*, Streaming Service, URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Here's an example:

- **Footnote/Endnote:** Billie Eilish, "Bad Guy," *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*, Spotify, <https://open.spotify.com/track/2bM0vC0n8d1x2q44kU42lA> (accessed October 27, 2023).

Online Music Libraries and Archives

For digital music resources found in online libraries or archives (e.g., Naxos Music Library, IMSLP), the citation should include the composer, work title, collection or album title, the name of the online resource, and the URL. Similar to streaming services, the access date is a good practice.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Composer Name. *Title of Work*. Collection/Album Title. Online Music Library/Archive. URL.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Composer Name, *Title of Work*, Collection/Album Title, Online Music Library/Archive, URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

For instance:

- **Bibliography Entry:** Claude Debussy. *Suite bergamasque*. Performed by Pascal Rogé. Decca Classics. Naxos Music Library. <https://www.naxosmusiclibrary.com/>.
- **Footnote/Endnote:** Claude Debussy, *Suite bergamasque*, performed by Pascal Rogé, Decca Classics, Naxos Music Library, <https://www.naxosmusiclibrary.com/> (accessed October 27, 2023).

Common Challenges and Solutions in Chicago Music Citations

Citing music can present unique challenges, particularly with older recordings, obscure works, or

complex arrangements. One common issue is determining the primary author or artist. For classical music, it's usually the composer, but for popular music, it's typically the performing artist or band. For jazz, both the composer of the tune and the performer(s) of a specific rendition might be relevant.

Another challenge arises with collaborative works or compositions with multiple contributors, such as lyricists, arrangers, and performers. In such cases, Chicago style generally prioritizes the most prominent figure or the one whose contribution is central to your discussion. If a specific arrangement is key to your analysis, citing the arranger alongside the composer becomes necessary.

When dealing with rare or unreleased recordings, finding complete bibliographic information can be difficult. In these instances, it is important to provide as much information as you can accurately ascertain, and if necessary, note the limitations of the source or its provenance. The goal remains to be as informative and precise as possible for your readers.

The Importance of Consistency in Chicago Style Music Citations

Maintaining consistency throughout your entire work is absolutely paramount when employing the Chicago style for music citations. Whether you are using the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system, every citation for a specific type of source should follow the same format. Inconsistent citation practices can be jarring for readers, potentially undermining the credibility of your research.

This consistency extends not only to the punctuation, capitalization, and order of elements within each citation but also to the way you present your bibliography or reference list. Ensure that all entries are formatted uniformly, with correct indentation and spacing as specified by the Chicago Manual of Style. A well-formatted and consistent bibliography reflects a meticulous approach to scholarship.

Furthermore, if you are citing different types of musical materials (e.g., recordings, scores, live performances), make sure that the citation style for each type is applied correctly and consistently across all instances within your paper. If you encounter a novel citation scenario, consult the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style or reliable academic resources on citation for music to ensure you are following best practices. This dedication to precision reinforces the rigor of your academic inquiry.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between citing a music

album and a single track in Chicago style?

A: When citing an entire album in Chicago style, you list the artist and the album title, followed by the record label and year of release. For a single track, you additionally include the track title in quotation marks before the album title, effectively pinpointing a specific component of the album.

Q: How should I cite a live concert performance in Chicago style for music?

A: For a live concert, the Chicago style citation typically includes the performer(s), the title of the work or program performed, the venue, the city, and the date of the performance. For example: Yo-Yo Ma, Bach Cello Suites, Carnegie Hall, New York, October 26, 2023.

Q: What information is essential when citing a musical score in Chicago style?

A: When citing a published musical score, you must include the composer's name, the title of the work, the publisher, and the year of publication. If you are using a specific edition, including the editor's name is also crucial. For manuscript scores, archival location details are necessary.

Q: How do I cite music I found on a streaming service like Spotify using Chicago style?

A: To cite music from a streaming service in Chicago style, you should include the artist, track title, album title, the name of the streaming service, the URL, and the date you accessed the content. For example: Billie Eilish, "Bad Guy," *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*, Spotify, <https://open.spotify.com/track/2bM0vC0n8d1x2q44kU42lA> (accessed October 27, 2023).

Q: Is it necessary to cite the record label and catalog number for all music citations?

A: While the record label and year of release are important for published recordings, the catalog number is less frequently required in general Chicago style music citations for academic papers unless it is specifically necessary for identification or retrieval of a rare or very specific pressing. Focus on the core elements like artist, title, label, and year.

Q: What if I'm citing a piece of classical music that has multiple performers, like an orchestra and a soloist?

A: In Chicago style, for classical music with multiple performers, you generally prioritize the composer for the work itself. If a specific conductor or soloist is central to your discussion or a unique aspect of the recording, you can include them. For example: Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67, performed by the Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Herbert von Karajan, Deutsche Grammophon, 1963.

Q: How should I handle citing an arrangement of a song by a different artist?

A: When citing an arrangement of a song by a different artist, you should cite the original composer and lyricist, and then mention the performing artist and the title of their arrangement. For instance: "Yesterday" (music and lyrics by John Lennon and Paul McCartney), performed by Boyz II Men, on the album *Motownphilly*, 1991.

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