

chicago style parenthetical citation for music

Title: Mastering Chicago Style Parenthetical Citation for Music: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction to Chicago Style Parenthetical Citation for Music

chicago style parenthetical citation for music requires careful attention to detail, ensuring academic integrity and proper attribution for musical works. This guide offers a comprehensive overview of how to correctly cite various musical formats within the Chicago Manual of Style, focusing specifically on the parenthetical in-text citation system. Understanding these principles is crucial for students, researchers, and musicologists working with musical sources, from classical compositions to contemporary recordings. We will delve into the nuances of citing sheet music, sound recordings, and even musical performances, providing clear examples and explanations. Mastering these citation practices not only avoids plagiarism but also adds credibility and depth to your scholarly work, allowing readers to easily locate and verify your sources.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Parenthetical Citations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) primarily employs two systems of citation: notes and bibliography, and author-date. This article focuses on the notes and bibliography system, specifically the parenthetical in-text citation component when used in conjunction with a bibliography. In this system, a brief parenthetical reference is placed directly within the

text, typically at the end of a sentence or clause, that points the reader to a full entry in the bibliography. The parenthetical citation generally includes the author's last name and a page number, or, in the case of music, a more specific identifier relevant to the source.

The core principle is to provide just enough information in the in-text citation to uniquely identify the source for the reader. For musical works, this often means referencing the composer or artist, and if applicable, a specific movement, track number, or measure. Unlike some other citation styles, Chicago's parenthetical citations for music are less about a rigid author-page structure and more about clearly identifying the musical entity being referenced, guiding the reader efficiently to the corresponding full bibliographic entry.

Citing Musical Scores and Sheet Music

When referencing musical scores or sheet music, the parenthetical citation needs to accurately identify the work and, if possible, its location. The primary elements to consider are the composer, the title of the musical work, and any specific editions or performance markings that are relevant to your argument.

Citing a Specific Composition

For a direct reference to a musical composition, the parenthetical citation typically includes the composer's last name and the title of the work. If a particular edition is crucial, or if you are referring to a specific published score, this can be incorporated into the bibliographic entry. However, the in-text citation usually remains concise.

For example, if you are discussing Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, a parenthetical citation might look like this: (Beethoven, Symphony No. 5). This assumes the full bibliographic entry details the specific score you used.

Referencing Specific Movements or Sections

If your discussion focuses on a particular movement, movement number, or a specific section of a larger work, this detail should be included in the parenthetical citation. This helps pinpoint the exact part of the composition being discussed, especially for longer or multi-movement pieces.

A citation for the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony would be more precise: (Beethoven, Symphony No. 5, I). When quoting or referencing specific measures, include the measure numbers within the citation for maximum clarity.

Citing a Specific Edition or Arrangement

While the bibliographic entry will detail the specific edition or arrangement used, the parenthetical citation may not always require this level of detail unless it is critical to your analysis. For instance, if you are comparing two different editions, you might need to differentiate them. However, for general referencing, focus on the composer and work.

The primary goal is to guide the reader to the correct source in your bibliography.

Therefore, if your argument hinges on a specific interpretative marking or editorial choice present only in a particular edition, mentioning it in the text and ensuring its full details are in the bibliography is key.

Citing Sound Recordings (Albums and Tracks)

Citing sound recordings, whether full albums or individual tracks, requires a different approach than citing printed scores. Here, the emphasis shifts to the performing artist, the album title, and the specific track being referenced.

Citing an Entire Album

When discussing an entire album, your parenthetical citation should clearly identify the primary artist and the album title. This ensures that the reader can locate the correct recording in your bibliography.

For example, if you are referencing the album "Kind of Blue" by Miles Davis, your citation might appear as: (Davis, Kind of Blue). The bibliographic entry would provide details such as the record label, year of release, and format.

Citing a Specific Track

Referencing a particular track from an album necessitates identifying both the artist and the track title. If the album title is not immediately obvious or if the track is from a compilation, it becomes even more important to be precise.

To cite the track "So What" from Miles Davis's "Kind of Blue," the parenthetical citation would be: (Davis, "So What"). If the track is from a compilation, you would include the compilation title or the original album title if known, along with the track title and artist.

Including Performers and Producers

In some cases, the specific performers or even the producer might be crucial to your argument. While the primary citation often focuses on the lead artist, the bibliographic entry can list all relevant personnel. For parenthetical citations, include these details only if they are essential for identifying the source.

If discussing a collaboration or a specific performance by a sideman, you may need to adapt your citation accordingly, ensuring the bibliographic entry is comprehensive. The goal remains clarity and ease of reference.

Citing Live Musical Performances

Citing live musical performances, such as concerts or theatrical productions with music, presents unique challenges as these are often ephemeral. The parenthetical citation should aim to identify the performance as clearly as possible, acknowledging any available

documentation or recordings.

Identifying the Performance

For a live performance, the parenthetical citation should ideally include the name of the performing ensemble or artist, the venue, and the date of the performance. This provides sufficient detail for identification.

An example might be: (New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, October 26, 2023). If you attended the performance yourself, you may cite it as a personal communication in your notes, but if it was publicly documented (e.g., broadcast), the citation would reflect that documentation.

Referencing Specific Aspects of the Performance

If you are discussing a specific interpretation, improvisational element, or particular staging of a musical piece during a live performance, your citation should guide the reader to that specific moment. This is often achieved through detailed notes in the bibliographic entry rather than a complex parenthetical.

For analyses of improvised solos, for example, you might reference the musician and the specific moment in the performance, which would then be elaborated upon in the full bibliographic entry.

Citing Online Music Resources

The proliferation of online music resources, including streaming services, digital archives, and websites, requires specific guidelines for citation. Parenthetical citations for online music should be adapted to include web-specific identifiers.

Citing Music from Streaming Services

When citing music from platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube Music, the parenthetical citation should ideally include the artist and track title. The bibliographic entry will detail the platform and the URL if necessary and stable.

A typical citation might be: (Beyoncé, "Formation"). Ensure your bibliographic entry provides the platform, the album (if applicable), and the URL. CMOS often advises using the most stable and accessible version of the source.

Referencing Online Scores or Databases

For online repositories of musical scores or scholarly databases, the parenthetical citation should identify the work and, if available, the specific accession number or identifier within the database. This is crucial for unique identification.

For instance, if citing a score from an online archive: (Bach, BWV 1007, IMSLP). The

bibliographic entry would then provide the full URL and access date.

Citing Videos or Performances Uploaded Online

When citing video recordings of musical performances available online, the parenthetical citation should identify the performer and the title of the work or performance. The bibliographic entry will include the platform (e.g., YouTube) and the URL.

An example: (Yo-Yo Ma, Bach Cello Suite No. 1). The bibliographic entry would then specify the platform, uploader (if relevant), and the URL.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Music Citation

Citing musical works can present unique challenges due to the complexity of musical notation, performance variations, and the multitude of formats available. Understanding these common hurdles can streamline the citation process.

Handling Multiple Performers or Composers

When a musical work involves multiple composers (e.g., collaborations, arrangements) or has numerous prominent performers, the parenthetical citation needs to be clear. Typically, you would prioritize the most prominent composer or artist. The bibliographic entry is the place to list all contributors fully.

For a collaborative work, you might cite: (Gershwin and Porter, "Summertime"). Ensure the bibliographic entry clarifies the collaborative nature of the work.

Dealing with Anonymous or Traditional Works

For traditional songs or works with unknown composers, the parenthetical citation will often use the title of the work or a recognized common title as the identifier. The bibliographic entry will need to describe the nature of the source, such as "Traditional" or "Anonymous."

Example: ("Greensleeves"). If you are referencing a specific recorded version, you would also include the performer in your citation and bibliography.

Distinguishing Between Editions and Performances

It is crucial to distinguish, especially in scholarly work, whether you are referencing a specific musical score edition or a particular performance of a work. Your parenthetical citations should reflect this distinction, and the bibliographic entries must be exceptionally clear about the source type.

For example, when discussing an interpretive choice from a specific conductor's performance versus an editorial marking in a score, your citations will need to differentiate:

(Karajan, Beethoven Symphony No. 9, Berlin, 1963) for a performance, and (Beethoven, Symphony No. 9, ed. Smith) for a score edition.

Ensuring Consistency in Bibliographic Entries

The effectiveness of your parenthetical citations relies heavily on the clarity and completeness of your bibliographic entries. Consistency in formatting, capitalization, and the inclusion of essential details (composer, title, performers, recording information, edition, publisher, date, URL) is paramount.

Always refer to the latest edition of The Chicago Manual of Style for specific formatting guidelines, as these can evolve. A well-constructed bibliography is the backbone of any well-cited academic work, especially in musicology where sources can be diverse and complex.

By adhering to these detailed guidelines and understanding the underlying principles of Chicago style parenthetical citation for music, you can effectively and accurately document your sources, enhancing the scholarly rigor and credibility of your research.

FAQ

• **Q: How do I cite a specific measure in a musical score using Chicago style parenthetical citation?**

A: To cite a specific measure in a musical score using Chicago style parenthetical citation, you typically include the composer's last name, the title of the work, and the measure number(s). For example, (Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, m. 24). Ensure your bibliographic entry provides complete details about the specific edition of the score you used.

• **Q: What is the difference between citing a musical work and citing a musical performance in Chicago style?**

A: Citing a musical work generally refers to referencing the composition itself, often through its score or a standard recording, using the composer's name and title. Citing a musical performance, however, focuses on a specific rendition of that work, requiring details like the performing artist or ensemble, venue, and date, especially if the performance is live or a unique recording.

Q: Can I cite a playlist from a streaming service using Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: Chicago style generally advises against citing ephemeral or unstable sources like individual playlists unless they are the primary focus of your research. If absolutely necessary, you would cite the curator of the playlist (if known) or the platform, the playlist title, and the specific track within the playlist, with a full URL and access date in the bibliography. It's often better to cite the individual tracks.

• Q: How do I cite a musical arrangement in Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: When citing a musical arrangement, you should include the original composer and the arranger. The parenthetical citation might prioritize the arranger if their contribution is central to your discussion, or list both. For example, (arr. Smith, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5). The bibliographic entry must clearly state the original composer, the title, and the arranger.

• Q: What if I am referencing a musical theory concept explained in a textbook that includes musical examples?

A: When referencing a musical theory concept explained in a textbook with musical examples, treat it as a standard book citation. Your parenthetical citation would include the author's last name and page number, like (Smith, 45). The musical example itself would be described in your text, and its source fully detailed in the bibliography under the textbook's entry.

• Q: How should I cite a specific instrumental part from a score in Chicago style parenthetical citation?

A: To cite a specific instrumental part from a score, you generally include the composer, the work's title, the instrumental part, and if relevant, the measure numbers. For instance, (Mozart, Piano Concerto No. 21, Piano Part, mm. 56-60). The bibliographic entry must specify the edition and that you are referencing a particular instrumental part.

• Q: Is it acceptable to use an abbreviation for a

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musical work in Chicago style parenthetical citations?

A: Chicago style generally discourages abbreviations in parenthetical citations unless they are universally understood within a specific discipline and clearly defined in your work or bibliography. For clarity and reader accessibility, it is best to use full titles and names in parenthetical citations, or to establish a clear system of abbreviation early in your text if absolutely necessary for length.

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