

Form of Authorized Medium of Performance Term M 650

BACKGROUND: This instruction sheet provides general guidelines on the form of authorized medium of performance terms.

1. Natural language. Establish new medium of performance terms in direct order, using natural language.

2. Singular v. plural. Establish medium of performance terms in singular form.

Exception: Mediums of performance that are generally referred to in the plural form are established in the plural form (e.g., **castanets; clapsticks**).

3. Geographic or ethnic origin. Do not include the geographic or ethnic origin of the medium of performance in the term unless it is an essential component of the name of the medium of performance. *Examples:*

Baltic psaltery
Irish harp
Native American flute

4. Articles in the initial position. Do not establish medium of performance terms with an article (definite or indefinite) in the initial position. This instruction applies both to English articles and to all foreign-language equivalents in the nominative case.

5. Foreign terms.

a. General rule. Establish medium of performance terms in a language other than English only if either of the following two conditions applies.

(1) No English term for the medium exists and it is normally referred to in foreign terms even in English-language resources (e.g., **glockenspiel**).

(2) No citation can be found in any English-language reference source, and the concept appears to be unique to the language of the resource being cataloged.

Terms of this type are generally provided with scope notes to explain their meaning to English-language catalog users. They are subject to change if English-language equivalents are subsequently found.

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5. *Foreign terms.* (Continued)

b. Romanization. When establishing medium of performance terms in languages that are expressed in non-Roman scripts, use the Romanized form most commonly found in major English-language reference sources for music. If no conventional Romanized form is found in English-language sources, follow LC systematic romanization practice for the language in question.

c. Diacritics. For guidelines on establishing medium of performance terms with or without diacritics, see Appendix C.

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