

REPRESENTATION

instrument class — instrument class designation

DESCRIPTION

Instruments (or voices) may be represented according to the type or class of instrument or voice. There exist a wide variety of ways of classifying instrumental resources — each of which has advantages and disadvantages. The *instrument class* tandem interpretation echoes the most common distinctions made by practising musicians: voices, stringed instruments, woodwind instruments, brass instruments, keyboard instruments, and percussion instruments. The ‘keyboard’ class may be deemed redundant, since keyboard instruments may be variously classified as percussion instruments (e.g. piano), wind instruments (e.g. organ), or stringed instruments (e.g. harpsichord). Despite this overlap, the separate keyboard class has been retained since it is a natural way for musicians to refer to a group of instruments. The **instrument class** tandem interpretation can be used to identify explicitly the class of instrument employed.

SIGNIFIERS

The following table identifies six pre-defined instrument classes.

*ICstr	string instrument
*ICww	woodwind instrument
*ICbras	brass instrument
*ICklav	keyboard instrument
*ICidio	percussion instrument (idiophone)
*ICvox	voice

Summary of instrument class Signifiers

SEE ALSO

instrument (3)