MusicWeb International Review doc specification

# Introduction

This document specifies the format of a review document. In most cases, we are describing current practice, sometimes forcing a bit more standardisation. Things we’ll need to change (not many) are in red.

It’s a bit formal (but needed to clarify what is needed, and how to fix things where the automated tool isn’t doing what you want).

# Types of review

There are three types of disc which are treated slightly differently:

1. A **composer/work** disc, where the main focus is a composer (or sometimes more than one). In the lists, the link to the review is on the composer
2. A **composer/title** disc, where the listing is based on a composer plus the title of the album. (Example: [Chamber Music for Our Times](http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2020/Dec/Morris-chamber-NV6310.htm))
3. A **title** disc, where the link goes on the title of the album. (Example: [20th Century Polish Chamber Music](http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2020/Dec/Polish-chamber-DDA25206.htm))
4. A **performer** disc, where the main focus and link goes on a named performer. (Example: [Gottlieb Wallisch (piano)](http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2020/Dec/Foxtrots-v2-GP814.htm)

In our listings, we put all the composer discs first, ordered by surname, then all the performer and title discs, ordered by performer/title.

# **What you will need to do in practice**

When a new review comes in:

1. Save the review document with the name corresponding to the final URL.
2. Save a copy of the corresponding cover image with the same name but ending in .jpg.
3. Below the top block (which I’ve called an ID block), insert a new paragraph containing:
   1. Date: 05/01/2021 [the date on which the review will be published]
   2. Recommmened: Y [if it is a recommended recording]
   3. LinkPresto/Amazon etc with the URLs to the affiliate sites.
4. If this is an album where you want to index by performer, put a \* at the start of the line where there is a performer
5. If you want to abbreviate/correct what comes out in the listing, insert // (to remove catalogue numbers from works), or the LWork/LRec/LPerf tags to specify what you want to come out.
6. Run the script
7. You now have HTML files for the review, and daily/weekly/monthly listings including this review. Check to see things are how you want them, and tweak input files if needed.
8. That’s it.

At end of month:

1. Create a file (details to be specified) containing the file names of the five records of the month
2. Rerun the script, and you will now have them appear where they should.

# Components

## Composer line

A **composer line** is entirely in bold, and contains:

[optional forenames] [surname] [dates]

where **surname**starts at the first word entirely in capitals, and **dates** is something inside parentheses.

Exception: if the first and second words are entirely in capitals, the first word is assumed to be initials (so we can handle people like CPE Bach, although it that case you seem to spell the names out anyway)

## Timing

A **timing** is anything in square brackets that contains only numbers, colon, + and space. (eg [48:56 + 34:43])

## Work line

A **work line** starts in normal type, and contains a timing. If it contains something in parentheses directly before that, it will be treated as the composition (or publication) year of the work.

Normally there won’t be anything after the timing, but (at least in some reviews) we have had asterisks here so we can note which performers play in which works.

It is allowed to split a work line over multiple lines (provided the timing is on the last line)

A work title can be abbreviated by inserting // and the abbreviated form is the one that will appear in the listings. Eg for [this review](http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2020/Dec/Mozart_sinfonia_ADL202.htm) we would use “Sinfonia Concertante // for violin and viola in E flat major, K364” to get the full form in the review and just “Sinfonia Concertante” in the reviews. There is a more generic LWork: mechanism below, but this provides a shortcut for a common case.

## Composer block

A **work block** contains a composer line, followed by one or more work lines.

## Title line

A **title line** is entirely in bold and not a composer line. It can only appear as the first line of an ID block (see below)

## Catalogue line

A **catalogue line** has some text entirely in bold (the recording company and catalogue number) followed by a timing (not in bold). It can only appear as the last line of an ID block (see below)

## Recording line

A **recording** **line** is any line (inside an ID block) starting with “rec.”. It specifies recording date and location. (rec. NONE is special, in cases where we don’t have a usual recording line, but still need something to separate performer details from further details of the recording).

## ID block

An **ID block** provides the details of the CD. (There may be a fuller set of contents at the bottom of the review.)

An ID block contains the following:

* Initially one of:
  + a title line. *CD is a title or performer disc*
  + a composer block. *CD is a composer disc*
* Optionally, one or more composer blocks.
* One or more lines giving performer details
* A recording line
* Optionally, one or more lines giving further details of the recordings
* A catalogue line

If there is no title, the CD is a composer CD. If you want it to be a performer disc, put a \* at the start of the line indicating the desired performer. There is no way to tell otherwise.

One special case: if the first line is a composer line and the second line is entirely in italics, then this second line is the title of a composer-title CD. Example: [Chamber Music for our Times](http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2020/Dec/Morris-chamber-NV6310.htm). It can be followed by one or more works written by the composer, as on this CD.

## Extra field

These are of the form ‘FieldName: text’ and give extra information. Text is optional. Examples:

* Note: [just a comment which will otherwise be ignored]
* Date: 06/12/2020 [this review will be posted on 6 December 2020]
* LinkPresto: url [a link to one of our affiliates]
* Recommended: Y/N [this review is to be flagged as recommended. N if not present
* LWork: Symphonies 3-5 [in listings, use this text for the work, rather than listing everything. Lives inside the ID block] “none” means no text at all.
* LPerf, LRec: … [similar, to override what has been produced for performer or recording]

## Metadata block

A paragraph which contains solely extra fields. It will need to contain at least Date:

## Overall docx format

* An ID block
* A metadata block
* The review (one or more paragraphs of text)
* The reviewer (a paragraph with a single line in bold)
* The summary (a paragraph)
* Optionally: postreview text (one or more paragraphs)
* Optionally: Contents (a line “Contents” in bold, followed by one or more paragraphs, which may include composer and work lines).