

chicago style citation examples song

chicago style citation examples song are crucial for academic integrity and acknowledging the creative work of musicians and songwriters. Navigating the nuances of citing song lyrics, recordings, and related materials in Chicago style can seem daunting, but with clear examples and guidelines, it becomes manageable. This comprehensive article will demystify the process, providing detailed Chicago style citation examples for songs in various formats. We will cover citing songs from albums, digital platforms, and even live performances, ensuring you have the tools to correctly attribute any musical work you reference. Furthermore, understanding the components of a Chicago citation for music is essential, from identifying the artist and song title to noting album details and publication information. This guide aims to equip students, researchers, and writers with the confidence to cite songs accurately and effectively, adhering strictly to Chicago Manual of Style guidelines.

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Understanding the Core Components of a Chicago Style Citation for Songs

A robust Chicago style citation for a song, whether in footnotes/endnotes or the bibliography, requires several key pieces of information to uniquely identify the work and allow readers to locate it. The fundamental elements include the performer or primary artist, the song title, the album title (if applicable), the record label, the release date, and potentially track numbers or other identifiers. The specific format will vary slightly depending on whether you are citing the recording itself or just the lyrics, and the medium through which you accessed the song. Mastering these components is the first step to accurately citing any musical piece.

Identifying the Primary Artist or Performer

The primary artist or performer is usually the individual or group most prominently associated with the song's creation and performance. In Chicago style, this is typically the first element listed in your citation. For example, if citing a song by The Beatles, "The Beatles" would be the first name. If it's a solo artist, like Beyoncé, then "Beyoncé" begins the citation. Ensuring you have the correct and complete name of the artist is vital for accurate referencing.

Determining the Song Title

The song title is the specific name of the musical composition. In Chicago style, song titles are generally enclosed in quotation marks. For instance, the song "Bohemian Rhapsody" would be formatted with quotation marks around the title. It is important to capture the exact spelling and

capitalization as it appears on the album cover, liner notes, or digital listing. This specificity helps avoid confusion with other songs that might share similar titles.

Album Title and Record Information

When a song is part of a larger album, the album title becomes a crucial identifier. Album titles are typically italicized in Chicago style. Alongside the album title, including the record label and the year of release provides essential context and aids in locating the specific recording. For example, citing a song from the album *Rumours* by Fleetwood Mac would require both the song title and the album title, along with label and year information.

Citing Recorded Songs in Chicago Style

Citing a recorded song is perhaps the most common scenario for users seeking Chicago style citation examples. The process involves presenting information about the performer, the song, the album it appears on, and the recording's release details. The bibliography entry will follow a slightly different structure than a footnote or endnote, but both aim to provide complete identification.

Bibliography Entry for a Song on an Album

When a song is part of an album, the bibliography entry should list the artist, followed by the song title in quotation marks. Then, it is followed by the album title in italics, the record label, and the year of release. If the song is a specific track on the album, you might also include the track number for further clarity. This format allows readers to easily find the specific song within its original album context.

Here is a typical structure:

- Artist Name. "Song Title." On *Album Title*. Record Label, Year of Release.

For example:

- Beyoncé. "Formation." On *Lemonade*. Parkwood Entertainment, 2016.
- The Beatles. "Hey Jude." On *Past Masters*. Capitol Records, 1988.

Footnote or Endnote Entry for a Song on an Album

Footnotes and endnotes are more concise than bibliography entries but still contain essential information. They typically begin with the performer's name, followed by the song title in quotation marks. The album title, record label, and release year are also included, often with the track number indicated. The purpose is to give immediate context for the citation within the text.

A common format for footnotes/endnotes is:

- Artist Name, "Song Title," Album Title, Record Label, Year of Release, track no. X.

Example:

- Fleetwood Mac, "Dreams," Rumours, Warner Bros. Records, 1977, track no. 2.
- Kendrick Lamar, "Alright," To Pimp a Butterfly, Top Dawg Entertainment/Aftermath Entertainment/Interscope Records, 2015, track no. 3.

Citing Song Lyrics in Chicago Style

Citing song lyrics involves referencing the textual content of a song, often for analysis or quotation. The focus shifts to the songwriter(s) and the source where the lyrics were published or accessed. This can be trickier as lyrics might be found in various places, from official lyric books to websites.

Citing Lyrics from a Published Collection

If you are referencing lyrics that have been published in a book or a dedicated lyric anthology, you will cite it much like you would cite any other book or chapter. The primary focus will be on the author of the lyrics (the songwriter), the title of the song (in quotation marks), the title of the collection (in italics), and the publication details of the collection.

Bibliography entry example:

- Songwriter(s) Name(s). "Song Title." In *Collection Title*, by Songwriter(s) Name(s), page numbers. Publisher, Year of Publication.

For example:

- Dylan, Bob. "Blowin' in the Wind." In *The Lyrics: 1961-2012*, by Bob Dylan, 101-102. Simon & Schuster, 2014.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Bob Dylan, "Blowin' in the Wind," in *The Lyrics: 1961-2012*, by Bob Dylan, 101.

Citing Lyrics Found Online

When citing song lyrics found on a website, the citation should include as much identifying information as possible. This typically involves the website name, the specific page title or song title, the author/artist, and the URL, along with an access date. If a publication date is available for the

lyrics themselves, include that as well.

Bibliography entry example:

- Artist Name. "Song Title." Website Name. Publication Date (if available). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Example:

- Adele. "Someone Like You." Genius. Published May 24, 2011. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://genius.com/Adele-someone-like-you-lyrics>.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Adele, "Someone Like You," Genius, May 24, 2011, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://genius.com/adele-someone-like-you-lyrics>.

Citing Live Performances and Unpublished Songs

Citing songs that are not part of a formal release, such as live performances or unreleased demos, requires a slightly different approach. The goal is to provide the most accurate and descriptive information available to pinpoint the specific instance of the song.

Citing a Live Performance Recording

If you are citing a recording of a live performance, treat it similarly to a studio album but specify that it is a live recording. Include the artist, song title, live album title (if it has one), and recording details. If it's a recording of a specific concert and not an official album, provide as much detail about the performance as possible.

Bibliography entry example:

- Artist Name. "Song Title" (live). On Live Album Title. Record Label, Year of Release.

Example:

- Queen. "Bohemian Rhapsody" (live). On Live Aid. Hollywood Records, 1994.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Queen, "Bohemian Rhapsody" (live), Live Aid, Hollywood Records, 1994.

Citing Unpublished or Demo Recordings

For unpublished songs or demo recordings, the citation should reflect their status. This often includes mentioning the format (e.g., demo tape, personal recording) and the date of creation or access if known. If the recording is held in an archive, that information should be included.

Bibliography entry example:

- Artist Name. "Song Title." Unpublished recording. Personal collection of [Name of Collector], [Date of Recording or Access].

Example:

- Joni Mitchell. "Big Yellow Taxi." Unpublished demo recording. Private collection of David Crosby, circa 1970.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Joni Mitchell, "Big Yellow Taxi," unpublished demo recording, private collection of David Crosby, circa 1970.

Digital Music and Streaming Services: Chicago Style Citations

The proliferation of digital music and streaming services presents unique challenges for citation. Chicago style guidelines have evolved to accommodate these formats, emphasizing clarity and the ability for readers to access the material.

Citing Songs from Streaming Platforms

When citing a song from a streaming service like Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube Music, the citation should include the artist, song title, album title, streaming service name, and a URL. It is also advisable to include the date you accessed the content, as digital content can be updated or removed.

Bibliography entry example:

- Artist Name. "Song Title." On Album Title. Streaming Service Name. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Example:

- Billie Eilish. "Bad Guy." On When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?. Spotify. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://open.spotify.com/track/2DpK52qumC35s25792qK3s>.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Billie Eilish, "Bad Guy," When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?, Spotify, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://open.spotify.com/track/2DpK52qumC35s25792qK3s>.

Citing Music Videos on YouTube

Music videos shared on platforms like YouTube require a specific citation format. Include the uploader (often the artist or record label), the title of the video (which may be the song title), the platform name, and the URL. The upload date is also beneficial information.

Bibliography entry example:

- Uploader Name. "Video Title." YouTube video. Upload Date. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Example:

- Maroon 5. "Girls Like You ft. Cardi B." YouTube video. June 7, 2018. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJOTIE1KSqw>.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Maroon 5, "Girls Like You ft. Cardi B," YouTube video, June 7, 2018, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJOTIE1KSqw>.

Citing Podcasts Featuring Songs

If a song is discussed or featured within a podcast episode, the citation should reflect this. You will cite the podcast episode itself, and then mention the song within the context of your writing. The key is to provide enough detail for the listener to find the specific episode and potentially the segment where the song is discussed.

Bibliography entry example:

- Podcast Host(s). "Episode Title." Episode Number (if applicable). Title of Podcast. Publisher, Date of Release. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Example:

- Lopes, Charlamagne Tha God, and DJ Envy. "The Breakfast Club Interviews: The Power of Music." Episode 210. The Breakfast Club. iHeartRadio, October 10, 2023. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/53-the-breakfast-club-27489107/episode/the-breakfast-club-int>

erviews-the-power-of-123456789/.

Footnote/endnote entry example:

- Charlamagne Tha God and DJ Envy, "The Breakfast Club Interviews: The Power of Music," episode 210, The Breakfast Club, iHeartRadio, October 10, 2023, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/53-the-breakfast-club-27489107/episode/the-breakfast-club-interviews-the-power-of-123456789/>.

FAQ

Q: What is the difference between citing a song and citing lyrics in Chicago style?

A: Citing a song generally refers to citing the recorded performance of that song, including details about the artist, album, and record label. Citing lyrics focuses on the textual content of the song, attributing it to the songwriter(s) and referencing the source where the lyrics were published or found, such as a book of lyrics or a website.

Q: How do I cite a song that has been sampled from another song in Chicago style?

A: When citing a song that samples another, you typically cite the primary song you are referencing, including its artist and album. In your text or notes, you would then acknowledge the sampled song and its original artist. For a bibliography, you might list the primary song, and in a note, provide details of the sampling.

Q: What if I am citing a cover version of a song in Chicago style?

A: For a cover version, you will cite the performing artist of the cover, the song title, and the album it appears on. In your notes or text, you should also acknowledge the original artist and songwriter if relevant to your discussion. The primary citation will focus on the cover version's recording.

Q: How do I cite a song played on the radio in Chicago style?

A: Citing a song heard on the radio is generally not done unless you can pinpoint the specific broadcast and identify the song and artist. If it's a general reference, it's usually sufficient to mention the song and artist in your text. For academic work, it's better to find a recorded or published version to cite.

Q: Is there a specific Chicago style citation for songs without a listed album?

A: Yes, if a song is released as a single and not part of an album, you would cite the artist, the song title, and the release year of the single. If it's a standalone track on a digital platform, include the platform name and URL as you would for any other digital media.

Q: Should I include the duration of the song in my Chicago style citation?

A: Typically, the duration of a song is not included in a standard Chicago style citation unless it is particularly relevant to your analysis or argument, such as comparing different versions or noting specific musical structures.

Q: What if I find different release years for the same song on different sources?

A: In such cases, it's best to cite the release year of the specific version or recording you are using. If you are citing an album, use the album's release year. If you are unsure or using a compilation, try to find the earliest known release date for that specific recording.

Q: How do I cite a song performed by an ensemble where the lead singer is well-known?

A: You should cite the ensemble or group as the primary artist. If the lead singer's performance is critical to your point, you can mention them in your text or notes, but the formal citation attributes the work to the group.

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