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# **Spotify Metadata Style Guide**

v2

September 2015



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## Overview

This document details metadata standards and conventions for all content delivered to Spotify. Adhering to these guidelines is necessary to ensure that content is easily discovered and presented accurately to help eliminate user confusion and complaints.

Following this style guide will help ensure that content goes live on the Spotify service and will reduce the effort and time needed for corrections. Spotify will request metadata updates through XML delivery, or edit the received metadata, for any content that does not conform to these standards. Content owners will be notified of any errors, compliance failure or deceptive metadata. Repeat instances will result in delivery delays and, possibly, termination of delivery rights. Please refer to our Spotify Content Infringement Guidelines for further details.

Information contained in this document is not tied to a specific XML syntax. For general XML requirements, see the Spotify Delivery Specification and the DDEX ERN Standard.

Note: main section of this style guide applies to non-classical music, while exceptions and specific rules for western classical music can be found in corresponding appendix.

## Change log:

V.2    Further clarified album version titles (p.9), parental warning (p. 17) and album level composers (p. 19),

Clarified how to enter non-predefined values in DDEX (p. 20).

Removed mapping between DDEX to Spotify XML artist roles, meaning that now if a choir should be credited as main or featured artist, they need to be listed as both choir and main or featured artist.



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## 1. Artist Names

- 1.1. The standard, full artist name and proper spelling are required.
- 1.2. Artist's name must be listed in the fashion dictated by the artist, or in the most widely known form.
- 1.3. Spelling of an artist's name must be consistently applied to all content related to that artist.
- 1.4. Do not include alias or translation in the same artist field. Translations must be submitted separately.
- 1.5. No additional information other than the artist's name should be listed. This includes any dates, instruments played, former affiliations, and so on.
- 1.6. Artists using personal names must not be inverted and should always be listed in the native name order. For instance, English names use the western order, which is *given-name family-name*, while Chinese and Japanese names use the eastern order, which is *family-name given-name*. Translated names should follow the custom of the translated language.
- 1.7. Generic names such as Singer, Actor, Christmas Hits, Various Composers, etc., are not acceptable, except for Various Artists. See Section 3 for more information.

Examples:

Correct	Incorrect	Reason
The Radio Dept.	The Radio Dept	Incorrect spelling
Lightnin' Hopkins	Lightning Hopkins	The former spelling is more widely used
Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark	Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (OMD)	Includes alias
Andrés Segovia	Andrés Segovia (Guitarist)	Includes instrument / role
Brian Eno	Eno, Brian	Family-name first in English
玉置浩二	浩二玉置	Given-name first in Japanese
Kōji Tamaki	Tamaki Kōji	Family-name first in translated English name



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玉置浩二	五輪真弓 (Kōji Tamaki)	Includes translation
Mike Inez	Mike Inez (of Alice In Chains)	Includes band name
Jean Sibelius	Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)	Includes dates
The Jimi Hendrix Experience	Jimi Hendrix, Mitch Mitchell, Noel Redding	Lists band members instead of band name

## 2. Main Artists

- 2.1. The main performing artists must be credited as main artist on all content.
- 2.2. At least one main artist must be submitted for all content.
- 2.3. Do not list more than 3 main artists at album level.

## 3. Various Artists

- 3.1. If there are four or more main artists individually identified on the album, the main artist on album level should be “Various Artists”. The exceptions are:
  - a) Mixing/remixing albums compiled by fewer than four artists.
  - b) Non-classical albums in which fewer than four main artists appear on all tracks.In both cases those artist(s) should be listed as album level main artist(s)
- 3.2. Various Artists must not be listed as a track-level artist. All main artists must be listed at track level.
- 3.3. If there are less than four main artists on album level, those artists must be listed individually and not listed as “Various Artists” on the album level.
- 3.4. Do not use any variation or abbreviated version of the term “Various Artists” (such as “V/A”, “V.A.”, “Various”, “Various Artist”, and “Varios”).

Examples:

Album Title	Album Artist	Reason
Last Man Standing	main artist: Jerry Lee Lewis	He appears on all tracks as main artist, even though many other main artists also performed on different tracks.
Now, Listen Again!	main artist: DJ Food	Album compiled and mixed by two



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	main artist: DK	artists, even though every track is originally from a different artist.
Bartók: The Piano Concertos	main artist: Pierre Boulez	Three orchestras and three soloists performed on three concertos, but Boulez appeared on all tracks.
Mystic River Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	main artist: Clint Eastwood	Scored by Clint Eastwood, though many artists performed on the album.
The Talented Mr. Ripley Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	main artist: Various Artists	Scored by Gabriel Yared, but the majority of the tracks were not the score itself, and performed by more than four main artists.
Motown: The Complete No. 1's	main artist: Various Artists	A set of more than three main artists occur on all tracks.
111 Years of Deutsche Grammophon	main artist: Various Artists	A set of more than three main artists occur on all tracks; no performing artist appears on all tracks.

## 4. Artist Roles

- 4.1. Artists must be entered with proper roles. Except for soundtracks and musicals, non-performing artists such as composers must not be listed as Main Artist or Featured Artist, unless they are also performers of the content. In that case, they should be credited with both performing and non-performing role(s).

Examples:

Album	Non-performing roles	Performing Roles	Reason
Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 & 7	Composer: Ludwig van Beethoven	main artist: Carlos Kleiber main artist: Wiener Philharmoniker	Classical album; Beethoven is not performing on the album.
Solo Piano	Composer: Philip Glass	main artist: Philip Glass	Classical album; Glass is performing on the album.
Hi, How Are You	Producer: Daniel Johnston Composer: Daniel	main artist: Daniel Johnston	Non-classical album; Johnston is performing on the album.



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	Johnston Lyricist: Daniel Johnston		
The Phantom of the Opera (1986 Original London Cast)	Composer: Andrew Lloyd Webber	main artist: Andrew Lloyd Webber	Musical; composer Lloyd Webber should be credited as main artist.

- 4.2. For non-classical content, only main artists and featured artists will be visible on the service. However, additional artist roles such as composer and lyricist will be stored for other uses.

## 5. Featured Artists

- 5.1. If a track contains one or more featured artists, each artist must be listed separately.
- 5.2. Artists featured on every track on an album must also be listed as a featured artist at album level.
- 5.3. Do not make reference to featured artist's name in track titles or track versions.
- 5.4. If the featured artists are the same on all the tracks, the "feat.", or "with." text can be entered in the album version field, but not in track version, or album/track titles.
- 5.5. Terms that indicate additional artist collaboration on an album - such as "feat." and "with" - when included as the album version must be lowercase and in English. No diversion of spelling is acceptable (i.e.: "featuring," "Featuring," "Feat," "w/," "With," etc.)
- 5.6. For jazz content, important sidemen can be listed as featured artists at track level. This only applies to members that are not part of the group credited as main artist. For example, Wayne Shorter can be listed as featured artist on Miles Davis – Bitches Brew, but should not be listed that way in recordings in which he served as a member of Miles Davis Quintet. In DDEX, always list the instrument as user defined artist role for all artists, in addition to the main and featured artist roles.

Examples:

Correct Track Title	Incorrect Track Title	Correct Track Artist	Incorrect Track Artist
No Church in the Wild	No Church in the Wild feat. Frank Ocean	main artist: JAY Z main artist: Kanye West Featured artist: Frank Ocean	main artist: JAY Z & Kanye West feat. Frank Ocean
Love of My Life	Love of My Life	main artist: Carlos Santana	main artist: Carlos



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	feat. Dave Matthews & Carter Beauford	Featured artist: Dave Matthews Featured artist: Carter Beauford	Santana feat. Dave Matthews & Carter Beauford
The Next Episode	The Next Episode feat. Snoop Dogg, Kurupt & Nate Dogg	main artist: Dr. Dre Featured artist: Snoop Dogg Featured artist: Kurupt Featured artist: Nate Dogg	main artist: Dr. Dre feat. Snoop Dogg, Kurupt & Nate Dogg

## 6. Compound Artists

- 6.1. If more than one main or featured artist performed on the content, each artist must be listed individually. The exception is albums by Various Artists.
- 6.2. Each artist field must contain only one artist name. If two or more artists (individuals or groups) are listed in one artist field, it is called a compound artist. In such cases, individual artists will not be identified, and content will not appear on the correct artist pages.
- 6.3. When individual artists are not considered separate entities, but rather exist as the name of a group or the group's name consists of two or more individuals' names, then they must appear together and will not be seen as compound artists. For example:

Ike & Tina Turner  
Peter Bjorn and John  
Anderson Bruford Wakeman Howe

- 6.4. For short-term collaborations between artists, such as Bill Evans & Jim Hall, Billy Bragg & Wilco, and Robert Plant & Alison Krauss, they must be credited separately at album and track level, and must not be credited as an entity.
- 6.5. For artists that are sometime, or always, credited together with their longtime backing bands, the full name of the collaboration, e.g. Neil Young & Crazy Horse, and Prince & The Revolution, must be entered as the only main artist at album level. Do not enter them separately.

Examples:

Track Title	Correct Artist	Incorrect Artist
We Are Young	main artist: fun. Featured artist: Janelle Monáe	main artist: Fun. feat. Janelle Monáe
The Girl Is Mine	main artist: Michael Jackson main artist: Paul McCartney	main artist: Michael Jackson & Paul McCartney



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## 7. Album Titles and Versions

- 7.1. Album title must match the original title upon its initial release.
- 7.2. Additional information, such as physical release format, must not be included, unless it is needed to identify the content.
- 7.3. Supplementary information, such as Remastered, 40th Anniversary Edition, Bonus Tracks Edition etc., must be entered in Album Version field, and must not be included in the Album Title field.
- 7.4. If the majority of tracks of an album are recorded live, it must have Live as the first album version. If the version title include time and venue, it should be formatted as Live at Place, Year (or date when applicable). The exceptions are:
  - a) Live is already part of album title, e.g. The Who - Live At Hull
  - b) Singles with a studio recording as the A-side (title track).
  - c) Re-issued studio albums with live content as bonus tracks.
  - d) Classical content.
- 7.5. When applicable, remaster should be entered as the last album version, and always use the format *Year Remaster*, e.g. 2008 Remaster. Do not use Digital Remaster, Digitally Remastered, etc.
- 7.6. If there is only one version title, enter it without any formatting, e.g. *2011 Remaster*, instead of *(2011 Remaster)*. To enter multiple version titles, put each version title in a separate field, instead of listing multiple versions in one field.
- 7.7. We do not accept version titles that contain references to competitors of Spotify, or any or these words: CD, digital, digitally, album, EP, single.

## 8. Track Titles and Versions

- 8.1. Each track title in an album must be unique, the exception is different versions of the same track, such as Clean/Explicit.
- 8.2. The version field can be used to differentiate between different versions of tracks that contain terms like "Live", "Radio Edit" or "Extended Version".
- 8.3. The standard, original version of a track must not include any additional information in the track title or version field. For example, track title/version must not include: Album Version, Original Version or Original Mix.
- 8.4. If a non-classical track is recorded live, it must have Live (with or without specific time and venue) as the first track version.
- 8.5. Where applicable, remaster should be entered as the last track version, and always use the format *Year Remaster*, e.g. *2008 Remaster*. Do not use *Digital Remaster*, *Digitally Remastered*, etc.
- 8.6. If there is only one version title, enter it without any formatting, e.g. *2011 Remaster*, instead of *(2011 Remaster)*. To enter multiple version titles, put each version title in a separate field, instead of listing multiple versions in one field.



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## 9. Singles and EPs

- 9.1. Product contains 3 tracks or less, and has a total duration of 30 minutes or less, must be specified as product type Single, unless the artist or label intend to release it as an EP, in which case it should be specified as EP.
- 9.2. Product contains 4 to 6 tracks, and has a total duration of 30 minutes or less, must be specified as product type EP, unless the artist or label intend to release it as a single, in which case it should be specified as single.
- 9.3. Product contains the same track with different track versions must be specified as Single, unless the artist or label explicitly call it an EP, in which case it should be specified as EP.
- 9.4. If a product meets the criteria above, but are not set as product type Single or EP, Spotify may choose to display the product as Single or EP.
- 9.5. Products containing more than 6 tracks, or has a duration of more than 30 minutes, can also be specified as Single or EP, following the label or artist's wish.
- 9.6. Singles and EPs must not have Single or EP in album title or version, unless it was part of the original album title, such as Elastica - 6 Track EP.

Examples:

Artist - Album	Type	Reason
Daft Punk - Get Lucky Remix	Single	One track, less than 30 minutes.
Pet Shop Boys - Vocal	Single	One track with 8 remixes; all tracks have the same title (though with different track version).
Fleet Foxes - Sun Giant	EP	5 tracks, and less than 30 minutes. The artist prefers to present it as EP (all tracks are of equal importance) other than Single (one single supported by one or more b-sides).
Pavement - Major Leagues	EP	Even though it has 7 tracks, the artist/label prefers to present it as EP.
Aphex Twin - Come to Daddy	EP	Even though it has 8 tracks, and more than 30 minutes, the artist/label prefers to present it as EP.



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## 10. Compilations

Albums consisting of tracks from various artists, or consisting of mainly tracks from various previously released albums by one or more artists, must be specified as Compilation.

Examples:

Album Title	Album Type	Reason
ABBA Gold	Compilation	All tracks are from previously released albums.
Nirvana	Compilation	The majority of tracks are from previously released albums.
All Blues'd Up: Songs of Bob Dylan	Compilation	Albums consisting of tracks from various artists.

## 11. Karaoke and Tribute Content

Below rules apply to all karaoke and tribute content except for those authorized by rights owners.

- 11.1. Karaoke albums must be specified as subtype Karaoke (in the case of DDEX set ReleaseType to KaraokeRelease); tribute albums must be specified as subtype Tribute.
- 11.2. The name of the original artist can only be entered in composer and lyricist fields where applicable, and must not be displayed in any other artist field on track level or album level.

Examples:

Unacceptable Artist Name	Reason
AC/DC Tribute Band	Makes reference to original artist name.
Piano Tribute to Lady Gaga	Makes reference to original artist name.

- 11.3. The album title must not begin with the original artist name.

Examples:

Unacceptable Album Title	Acceptable Album Title
The Rolling Stones - A Blues Tribute	A Blues Tribute to The Rolling Stones
Radiohead's OK Computer	A Tribute to Radiohead's OK Computer



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- 11.4. Karaoke album and track titles must make clear that they are karaoke or instrumental version, and can make reference to the original artist in track titles. Always add “Originally Performed By” before the original artist name.

Examples:

Track Title	Unacceptable Track Version	Acceptable Track Version
I Don't Want to Miss a Thing	Aerosmith	Karaoke Version
Stairway to Heaven	Originally Performed By Led Zeppelin	Karaoke Version Originally Performed By Led Zeppelin

- 11.5. Track titles for cover songs must not make reference to the original artist. Do not use phrases such as “Made Famous By”, “Originally Performed By,” “In the Style of,” “Tribute to,” or “Cover of” in the track title or version field.

Examples:

Unacceptable Cover Track Title (Version Title)	Acceptable Cover Track Title (Version Title)
I'm Yours (Originally Performed By Jason Mraz)	I'm Yours
I'm Yours (Live In the Style of Jason Mraz)	I'm Yours (Live)
I'm Yours (Remix Tribute to Jason Mraz)	I'm Yours (Remix)
I'm Yours (Acoustic Cover of Jason Mraz)	I'm Yours (Acoustic Cover)

- 11.6. Tribute or cover albums must not use deceptive or misleading artist names or titles that may confuse users.

Any violation of above rules could result in a strike or block in accordance to the Spotify Content Infringement Guideline.

## 12. Mixes and Remixes

- 12.1. Albums that are a collection of tracks by different original artists mixed together or compiled by a single remixing artist, must list the remixing artist at album level as main artist. Do not use Various Artists as the artist name.
- 12.2. Albums that are a collection of tracks by a single original artist remixed by different artists, must list the original artist at album level as main artist.
- 12.3. Tracks that are mixed or compiled must list the original artist at track level as main artist. The original artist must not be listed as main or featured artist at the album level.



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- 12.4. Use artist role Remixer for remixing artist at track level. If the remix is released mainly under the remixer's name, then the remixer can also be listed as main artist alongside the main artist of the original recording.

Examples:

Album Title (Version Version)	Album Main Artist	Track Title (Version Title)	Track Main Artist	Track Remixer
DJ-Kicks: Kode9	Kode9	Closer Musik	Maria	Kode9
Restless (RAC Remix)	New Order	Restless (RAC Remix)	New Order	RAC

## 13. Public Domain Recordings

- 13.1. If the majority of tracks in an album are public domain recordings, the album must be specified as subtype public domain.
- 13.2. For the definition of public domain recordings, see the Spotify Content Infringement Guideline.
- 13.3. Tracks that are remixed from public domain recordings should credit the remixer as the sole main artist; the original sampled one should not be listed as main or featured artist unless it is authorized remix.

## 14. Soundtracks and Scores

- 14.1. Soundtracks and scores for movies, TV and musicals must be specified as subtype soundtrack.
- 14.2. Soundtracks and scores for movies, TV and musicals must include parenthetical reference to the version of the soundtrack or score in question as album version.
- 14.3. Soundtrack, film score and musical albums must list the composer(s) as main artist(s) at album level. To further distinguish the content, main performing artist(s) can also be listed at album and track level.
- 14.4. Do not use generic names such as Original Soundtrack or 1984 London Cast in main artist field. They should be entered as part of album title or version title, in addition to the name of the film or musical.
- 14.5. For albums on which all tracks are from the same soundtrack, the album title must indicate which version of the soundtrack, as outlined in the "Soundtracks and Scores" section above.
- 14.6. For albums on which all tracks are not from the same soundtrack, indicate in the track version from which soundtrack it is from: Track Title (From "Soundtrack Name").



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Examples:

Album Title	Album Version	Composer	Album Main Artist	Optional Album Main Artist
West Side Story	1957 Original Broadway Cast Recording	Leonard Bernstein	Leonard Bernstein	Carol Lawrence Larry Kert
West Side Story	1984 Operatic Version	Leonard Bernstein	Leonard Bernstein	Kiri Te Kanawa José Carreras
Alien	Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	Jerry Goldsmith	Jerry Goldsmith	N/A
Dead Man Walking	Music From and Inspired by the Motion Picture	N/A (It is a compilation of songs, not a score)	Various Artists	N/A

## 15. Albums in a Series

- 15.1. Albums that are released as part of a series should be listed as: Series Title (Volume Number): Volume Title.
- 15.2. Albums that are part of a series and do not have unique volume titles should be listed as: Series Title (Volume Number): Artist Name.
- 15.3. Album title formatting in a series must be consistent.

Examples:

Series Title	Artist Name	Album Title
The Original Jacket Collection	Arthur Rubinstein	The Original Jacket Collection: Rubinstein Plays Chopin
Dick's Picks	Grateful Dead	Dick's Picks Vol. 36: 9/21/72
Martin Scorsese Presents The Blues	Son House	Martin Scorsese Presents The Blues: Son House
Universal Masters Collection	Smokey Robinson & The Miracles	Universal Masters Collection: Smokey Robinson & The Miracles



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## 16. Original Release Dates

- 16.1. The original release date can differ from the sales start date. The sales start date is the date when content becomes available for streaming in a given territory on Spotify.
- 16.2. The original release date must be the earliest date that the original product was first released regardless of the releasing label, or format type (for example, LP, CD, or digital-only release). The original release date for remasters must be the first date the original recording was available, and not the release date of the remastered recording.
- 16.3. The remastering year, when applicable, should be provided in the album version field, followed by Remaster.
- 16.4. For deluxe / premium / anniversary edition albums that contain tracks previously unreleased on the original recordings, the original release date can be the date that the new edition was first released.

Examples:

Artist - Album	Original Release Date	Album Version
David Bowie - Low	1977-01-14	1999 Remaster
The Beach Boys - Pet Sounds	1966-05-16	2012 Remaster
Fleetwood Mac - Rumours	2013-01-29	35th Anniversary Super Deluxe Edition

## 17. Complete and Partial Albums

- 17.1. All tracks that exist on an original version must be delivered and the track numbering must match. Track restrictions can be applied when necessary.
- 17.2. The sequence of tracks and numbering must be the same as the original release.

## 18. Medleys

For medleys, each listed song in the medley must be spaced and separated by a forward slash. If the word medley or a title for the medley itself is included, it should follow one of the two formats below:

- a) List either before the songs and follow it with a colon.
- b) Follow the songs and be contained in parentheses.



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Examples:

Artist Name	Track Title
The Smiths	The Queen Is Dead / Take Me Back To Dear Old Blighty (Medley)
Bob Marley & The Wailers	Medley: War / No More Trouble

## 19. Parental Advisory

- 19.1. An explicit track must be tagged as Explicit.
- 19.2. Clean versions of explicit tracks must be tagged as Clean. Tracks should only be flagged Clean if there is an explicit version of the track.
- 19.3. Explicit and Clean must be entered using the proper tag, which is a separate field in metadata format, and not part of the track title. Terms like "(Clean)," "(Clean Version)," "(Explicit)," and "(Explicit Version)" must not be used for track or album titles/versions.

## 20. Language

For content with multi-language metadata, the appropriate language codes must be provided for both the original and the translated metadata. Language code should match the language of the metadata, not the audio. For more information, see <http://www.w3.org/International/articles/language-tags/>

## 21. Genres

- 21.1. This list of genres on [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_popular\\_music\\_genres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_popular_music_genres) can be used as a reference. Keep in mind that the genre list could change at any time.
- 21.2. The first genre must be the best description for the content. A second genre is not always required, but it should be used when applicable.
- 21.3. Genres must be listed separately. Do not list more than one genre in the same field, such as "Dance/Electronic".



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## 22. Abbreviations, Accents, Capitalization and Casings

Titles should be capitalized according to the capitalization rules of the language. For titles written in English, the following rules apply.

- 22.1. Abbreviations need to be consistent in all content.
- 22.2. Accents and casings formats must be delivered accurately in the xml, or the title will create or appear on a wrong artist page (ie: always enter “Beyoncé, not Beyonce).
- 22.3. Unless specified by artists, titles must not be in all capitals, all lowercase, or random casing.
- 22.4. Unless specified by artists, “The” must be capitalized when it is the start of an Artist’s name.
- 22.5. The following words must be lowercase: a, an, and, as, but, for, from, nor, of, or, so, the, to, yet.
- 22.6. Prepositions of four letters or fewer (at, by, for, from, in, into, of, off, on, onto, out, over, to, up, and with) must be lowercase, except when the word is part of a verb phrase or is used as another part of speech (such as an adverb, adjective, noun, or verb).
- 22.7. Always capitalize the first and last word in a title. Capitalize the first and last word in parentheses.

## 23. Special Characters in XML

- 23.1. There are a number of characters that are considered part of the code in XML files. For example, all elements are enclosed in angled brackets (i.e.<name>), so if you would like to use the less than or greater than signs in values included in your XML file, you must use the entity name instead. For example, the artist name Echo & the Bunnymen must be entered as <name>Echo & the Bunnymen</name>
- 23.2. Complete list of special characters that need to be entered as entity code:

Character	Entity Code
&	&amp;
'	&apos;
"	&quot;
<	&lt;
>	&apos;



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## Appendix 1: Spotify Sessions and Commentary Albums

24.1 Spotify Session releases should follow below format: Album title: Spotify Session(s)  
Track title: Name of Track Track version title: Live from Spotify [Location]

24.2 Commentary tracks can be delivered as a standalone release, alongside the original release it accompanies; or delivered as additional tracks within the main release. For the latter, put commentary tracks at the end of tracklist; do not mix them up with tracks from the main album, e.g. track 1, track 1 commentary, track 2.

24.3 Commentary content must include commentary as part of album and track titles, or use other ways to clearly differentiate it from the main release.

24.4 For official commentary releases that accompany an album, the album level main artist should be the artist of that album, even if said artist did not contribute to the commentary tracks. For example, XSCAPE - Track by Track Commentary should list Michael Jackson as album level main artist. 24.5 At track level, only the program host and main interviewees should be listed as main artist. For example, on track “Episode 1, Giorgio Moroder” from the commentary album that accompanies Daft Punk’s Random Access Memory, track level main artist should be Giorgio Moroder.

## Appendix 2: Western Classical Music

### Composer

25.1 Classical content must list at least one composer at track level. For works with unknown authorship, use Traditional or Anonymous as composer.

25.2 Do not list album level composer.

25.3 Librettists, lyricists or arrangers must not be listed as composer.

25.4 Composers must not be listed as main artist, unless they also performed on the content.

### Main Artists

26.1. Classical content must list at least one main artist, in addition to the composer, at track level. If the composer is also the main performer, list him/her as both composer and main artist.

26.3 All soloists, ensembles, and conductors should be listed as main artists at track level. Do not list individual members of the ensemble, unless they serve as soloists or conductor.

26.4 At album level, only list conductor, ensemble and soloists that appear on all tracks (except for non-musical tracks like audience applause) as main artists for orchestral or chamber music albums. For opera and other vocal music, top-billing singers can be listed as main artists at album level as well.

### Genre

27.1 Classical albums must have classical as genre. Sub-genres such as Baroque or Choral can be added as well, but



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## Appendix 3: User-defined Values in DDEX

This section only applies to DDEX XML. For content owners using Spotify XML, see the latest Spotify Delivery Specification.

**28.1** For album types and subtypes not predefined in DDEX value sets, such as EP, compilation, audiobook, live, karaoke, tribute, live, public domain and soundtrack, enter them as user defined ReleaseType.

**28.2** For artist roles not predefined in DDEX value sets, such as remixer, enter as user-defined artist role.

**28.3** For artist roles already predefined in DDEX value sets, do not enter as different user-defined values. For example, use pre-defined Composer, Lyricist or ComposerLyricist for songwriters; do not use user-defined roles such as Writer or Author.



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## Glossary

**Album:** A collection of tracks.

**Artist:** The performer (for example, an individual musician, a band or an ensemble).

**Content:** A track, or album.

**Composer:** Someone composing an album or track.

**Featured Artist:** Someone that is featured on an album or a track, as opposed to the main artist(s). Usually, a featured artist only performs a small part.

**Main Artist:** Someone that is the main artist of an album or track. There may be several main artists on the same album or a track.

**Score:** Original music written specifically to accompany a film, TV show or musical.

**Song:** An audio recording.

**Soundtrack:** Content that incorporates music directly recorded or derived from the soundtrack of a particular feature film, television show or other visual media (such as computer games).

**Title:** A track or album title as it appears on Spotify.

**Track:** A song.

**Version Title:** The version of a track or album title as it appears on Spotify.