

Encoding Music Incipits for Differentiating Works with the Same Metadata

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This project presents a method of encoding music incipits which has been developed for the *Index to Printed Music (IPM)* [<http://www.ipmusic.org/>]. This database provides indexing to individual pieces in collections of scores of western classical music published in sets and series. Index entries contain metadata describing a work. However, in some cases, more than one piece of music can be described by the same metadata. In those cases, the only way to distinguish identical musical pieces is through a music incipit. The project has developed a lower-ASCII-based system for encoding music incipits in order to provide this differentiation for the approximately 4,000 index records (out of a total of 370,000 records) which contain this coding. The programming to convert codes into symbolic notation is currently being developed, and we expect implementation for user access in 2010.