

MUSESORE

Score Creation and Collaboration For Free

DOWNLOADING AND INSTALLING MUSESORE

If you haven't already downloaded MuseScore, you can do so here: www.musescore.org

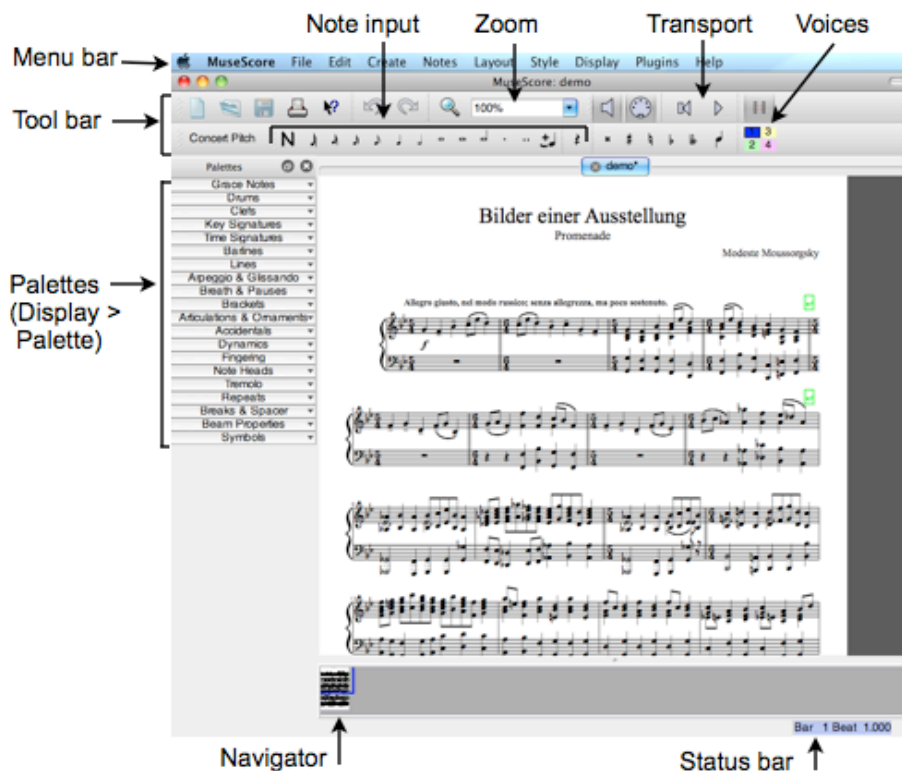
There are guidelines for installing MuseScore here: <http://musescore.org/en/handbook/installation>

SCORE SETUP

Start a new score by going to **File > New**. Follow the steps of the Create New Score wizard to set up your score: enter the title and composer details, choose the instruments, key signature, time signature and so on.

THE MUSESORE SCREEN

Anatomy of the MuseScore screen:



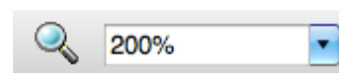
NAVIGATION

The score is a little like a piece of manuscript paper which you can move around on your “desktop”. Try viewing different parts of your score by doing the following:

- Click on a blank area of the score and drag the mouse around to move it to a new position
- Click-drag the blue square on the navigator window at the bottom of the screen

Zoom in and out

To see your score in more detail, you can zoom in by clicking on the zoom tool (it looks like a magnifying glass) and then clicking on your score. Alternatively you can choose a zoom level from the drop-down menu.



To zoom in and out quickly, you can use these shortcuts:

- Zoom in: **Ctrl Shift + (Cmd Shift +)**
- Zoom out: **Ctrl- (Cmd -)**

NOTE ENTRY: COMPUTER KEYBOARD

You can enter notes using your computer keyboard by following these steps:

- Click in the bar or on the rest where you want to begin entering notes



- Press **N** to enter Note Entry mode. A blue cursor will appear



- Select the rhythmic value of the note by pressing one of the numbers 1 – 7



- Lastly, choose the pitch of the note by pressing one of the letters A - G on your computer keyboard. The note will appear in your score
- If you want to enter a rest instead of a note, press **0** (zero)
- Press **Esc (Escape)** twice when you've finished

NOTE ENTRY: MIDI KEYBOARD

If you have a MIDI keyboard, it's a little quicker to enter notes. The method is almost the same:

- Click in the bar or on the rest where you want to begin entering notes
- Press **N** to enter Note Entry mode. A blue cursor will appear
- Select the rhythmic value of the note by pressing one of the numbers 1 – 7
- Lastly, choose the pitch of the note by pressing one keys on your MIDI keyboard. The note will appear in your score

FIXING MISTAKES

If you make a mistake when you're entering notes, you can:

- Undo what you did by pressing **Ctrl+Z (Cmd+Z)** and re-enter the note/s
- While the note is still selected (blue) you can move it up or down by using the arrow keys
- You can press **Escape** twice to leave note entry mode, then go back and click on the incorrect note to fix it

COPY AND PASTE AND REPEAT

To copy and paste music in your score:

- Select the bar you want to copy by clicking in it
- Select a group of bars by clicking in the first bar and shift-clicking on the last bar
- Press **Ctrl+C (Cmd+C)**
- Click in the destination bar
- Press **Ctrl+V (Cmd+V)**



To repeat a pattern in your score:

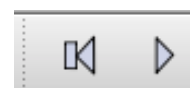
- Select the bar/s
- Press **R** (for "repeat")

This repeat method can be a little temperamental at times. If it doesn't work, use the above copy and paste method

PLAYBACK

You can hear your score by using the playback ("transport") controls at the top of the screen.

- Click on the **Play** button now to hear the score. A blue playback line will move through your score as it plays
- Stop playback at any time by clicking on the **Play** button a second time
- Return the playback line back to the start using the **Rewind to Start** button

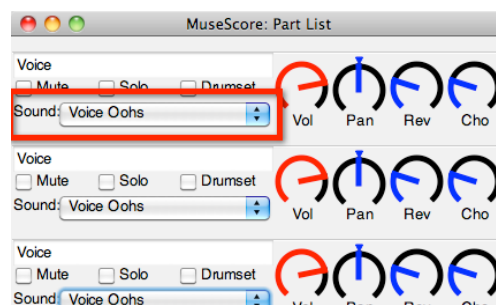


Other playback tips:

- Press the **spacebar** to start or pause playback
- To playback from a specific place in the score, select a single note and then press spacebar

Change playback sound of an instrument

- Open the Mixer – press **M**
- Change sound of an instrument by clicking on the **Sound** drop-down menu



CHORDS

The easiest and quickest way to create chords is by using a MIDI keyboard:

- Select the bar or rest
- Press **N** for note entry
- Select the rhythmic value of the chord
- Play the chord on your keyboard



If you don't have a MIDI keyboard, there are two alternative methods which involve building the chord one note at a time.

Method 1: By Letter Name

- Select the bar or rest
- Press **N** for note entry
- Select the rhythmic value of the chord
- Enter one of the notes in the chord
- To enter the next note, press **Shift**, plus **the letter name** of the note you need
- If the note appears in the wrong octave, hold down **Ctrl** (**Command** on Mac) and press the **up or down arrow**

Method 2: By Interval

- Select the bar or rest
- Press **N** for note entry
- Select the rhythmic value of the chord
- Enter one of the notes in the chord
- To add an interval **above** the note you just entered, press **Alt** plus the interval number
- To add an interval **below** the note you just entered, press **Shift** plus the interval number

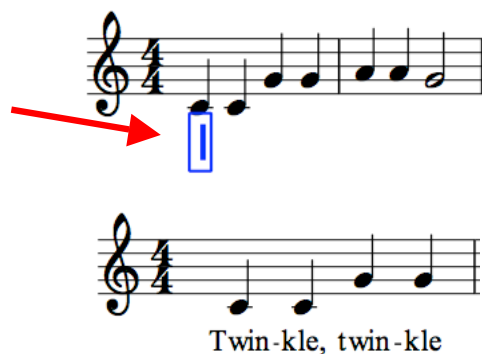
Examples

- If you entered a C into your score, press **Alt+3** to enter an E a third above the C
- If you entered a C into your score, press **Shift+4** to enter an G a fourth below the C.

LYRICS

To enter lyrics

- Select the first note
- Press **Ctrl+L** (**Cmd+L**). A cursor will appear under the note
- Type in the lyrics
- Press **Spacebar** to move to the next note
- Press hyphen between the syllables of longer words



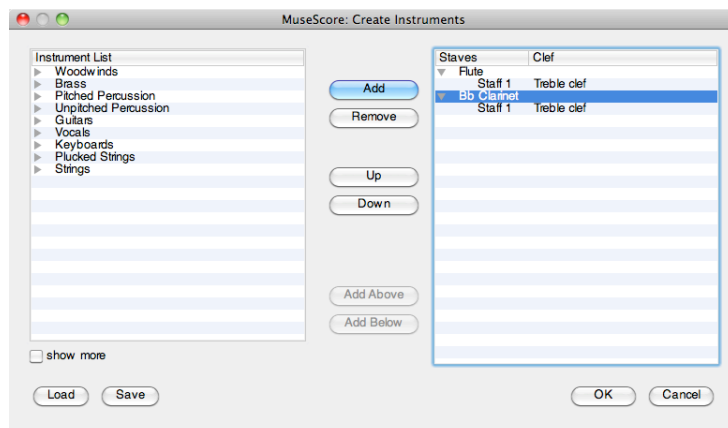
ADDING EXTRA INSTRUMENTS

To add additional instruments:

- Press **I** to open the **Create Instruments** window
- Find the instrument you need in the list on the left
- Click the **Add** button and click **OK**

To alter the order of instruments in your score

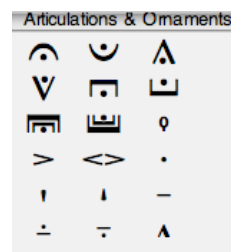
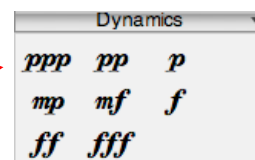
- Select the instrument name on the right
- Use the **Up** and **Down** buttons to change the order



DYNAMICS & ARTICULATIONS

To add a dynamic to your score:

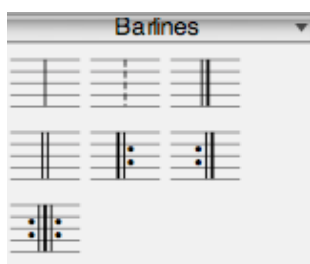
- Select the note
- Click on the **Dynamics Palette**
- Double-click on dynamic you need in the palette. The dynamic will be added to the note you selected. You can also drag the dynamic to your score
- You can re-position the dynamic by dragging it if necessary
- There are more dynamics in the full Dynamics palette which can be opened by going to Create > Text > Dynamics (or use the shortcut **L**)



Articulations like staccato and tenuto can be found in the Articulations and Ornaments palette and can be added to your score in the same way.

REPEAT BARLINES AND CODAS

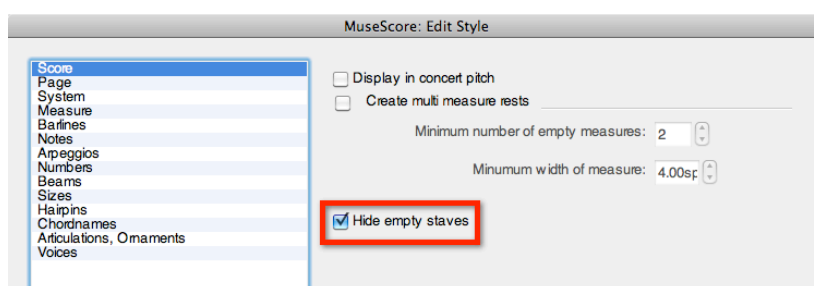
Repeat barlines can be found in the **Barlines** palette and can be added to your score in the same way as dynamics and articulations. Symbols and text relating to Codas can be found In the **Repeats** palette



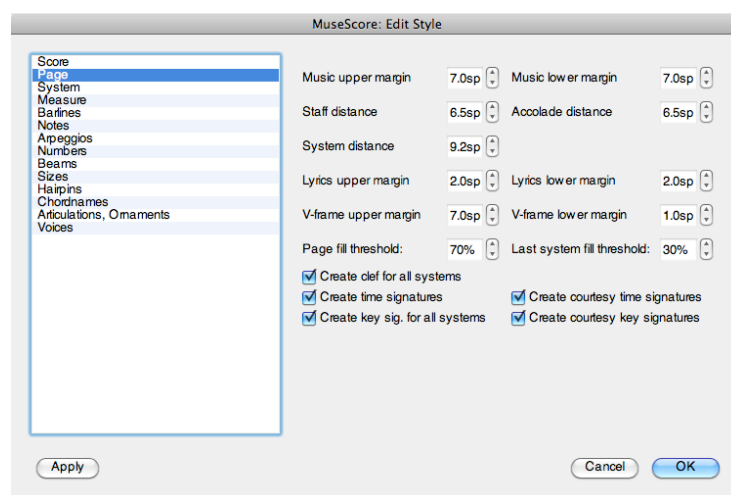
LAYOUT

Don't worry about layout until you've added everything into your score. That includes all notes, phrasing, lyrics, dynamics and articulations. Tips for formatting:

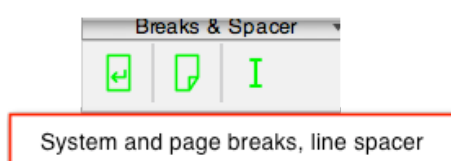
- Check the whole score first. If it looks OK, go ahead and print!
- If your score includes instruments that don't play all the time, you can save space by hiding the empty staves. Go to **Style > Edit General Style**, click on **Score** in the left column and check the Hide Empty Staves box



- To adjust the distance between staves or systems in your score, and other distances, go to **Style > Edit General Style** and click on **Page** in the left column



- Small, local adjustments (one-offs) can be made with the items in the Breaks and Spacer palette



SHARING SCORES

MuseScore has its own special score-sharing website at www.musescore.com It's a great place to store your scores in a location that anyone can have access to. Scores can be made public or private. Some of the useful features:

- You can share scores with anyone that has internet access – no need to email scores to members of your ensembles
- Scores can be viewed and played
- A variety of formats are available for download, including PDF, MIDI file and Music XML as well as the native MuseScore format
- You can also synch your score to any Youtube video (see Videoscores below)

VIDEOSCORES

MuseScore.com includes a unique way of showing a score play in synch with any video on Youtube and it can be an effective way to show students performance techniques whilst they follow a score. A couple of good examples:

- Bach Sonata No. 1 in G minor BWV 1001 Presto. Performed by Ben Chan: <http://musescore.com/node/4367>
- Suzuki Violin Method V.1 – 2 Lightly Row: <http://musescore.com/node/1995>

TUTORIAL VIDEOS

- 1 Score Setup <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mh6m2mbVHs>
 - 2 The MuseScore Screen <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5FnEEwEIDg>
 - 3 Note Entry Basics <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGZgeZApBgE>
 - 4 Note Entry With A MIDI Keyboard <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rxy3IEUFxJM>
 - 5 Lyrics, Copying and Dynamics <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e55-YnhSk-s>
 - 6 Adding Instruments, Articulations and Bars <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQn-qlkMHLQ>
 - 7 Repeats, 1st- and 2nd-Time Endings <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVmXhlpOpa4>
 - 8 Codas <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04XTa6lrzGg>
 - 9 Drum Parts <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFj7v5S4Akw>
- [10 Coming soon!]

Quicktips: Triplets <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoLWvOGcqm&>

Quicktips: Large Staves and Notes <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqRB6jGTdso>

Quicktips: Chords <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFs231kbl04>

OTHER LINKS

- Katie's MuseScoreTips site: www.musescoretips.com [email newsletter, regular articles and resources]
- MuseScore handbook: www.musescore.org/handbook
- MuseScore forum: www.musescore.org/forum
- Score Sharing website: www.musescore.com