

Preparation of Music Editions

CMAA Virtual Colloquium

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WHY?

- A guiding principle in deciding whether to make a new edition:
 - ~ Don't let the perfect [edition] be the enemy of the good [edition].
 - ~ Don't let the mediocre [edition] be the enemy of the good [performance].
- Avoid transpositions
 - ~ singers with absolute pitch are thrown by dramatic transpositions
 - ~ any edition more than a step throws most any singer
 - ~ transposition should only ever be downward
 - this is true even if one simply needs to imagine a new key signature*
- Avoid closed-score for all but the most homophonic music
- Avoid Mensurstriche layout for American choirs
- Produce practice tracks (esp. useful when rehearsal time limited)
- Correct poor or incomplete texting
- Remove clutter (slurs, dynamics, etc.) which are later editorial editions.

HOW?

The Top Three

Finale

<https://www.finalemusic.com/products/finale/>

first released 1988

current version: Version 27

price: \$600 new; \$350 academic/theological; \$149 upgrade



Sibelius

<https://www.avid.com/sibelius>

first released 1993

Avid: acquired Sibelius in 2006; closed London office in 2012

current version: Sibelius | Ultimate

price: \$20 / month (Sibelius | Ultimate)

very good user forum: <https://www.sibeliusforum.com/index.php>

great plugins: <http://www.nycmusicservices.com/musicresources/#sibelius-plugin-ins>

original list built by Bob Zawalich: <http://www.bobzawalich.com/>

recent podcast interview: <https://www.scoringnotes.com/podcast/plugged-in-with-bob-zawalich/>



Dorico

<https://new.steinberg.net/dorico/>

current version: 3.5

price: \$559 full / \$339 education / \$279 competitive crossgrade / \$159 upgrade from earlier version of Dorico

designed by most of Sibelius' original team, who were hired by Steinberg after the 2012 Avid restructuring

first blog post announcing new program: <https://blog.dorico.com/2013/02/welcome/>

steeper learning curve than the other programs, and well worth the effort!



Need an edition quickly?

- CPDL + MusicXML
plugins available to export from earlier versions of Sibelius: <https://www.musicxml.com/>

Some **general considerations** in page layout:

- Staff size
- To adjust staff size:
 - F: Page Layout tool – Page Layout menu – Resize Page – enter new ratio; select “hold margins”
 - S:
 - D: ⌘+shift+L – page setup tab
- Text size
- Margins

Melismas: to slur or not to slur?

- Preferable not to in medieval and renaissance music
- To remove slurs:
 - F: SmartShape tool – Edit/Select all (⌘+A) – delete
 - S: Edit/Select all (⌘+A) – Filter/Slurs – delete
 - D: Edit/Select all (⌘+A) – Filter/Slurs – delete

Lyrics

- brackets *in special circumstances*
- italics *generally preferable*
- To apply italics to lyrics:
 - F: Lyrics tool – select text in window (for correct staff) – ⌘+shift+I (or Text menu/Style/Italic)
 - S: Text tab – style: italic
 - D: ⌘+8 (show bottom panel) – select syllables – italic

Incipits

- decide whether to use chant or modern notation – depends on context
- if rhythmic incipit, best to notate with modern notation, unless very simple
- if alternatim, can save space to notate on a staff, esp. if there are bar lines
 - N.B. this assumes a prior familiarity with the chant in order to achieve a good musical result*
- if chant notation, consider importing graphic from Sibelius or Gregorio

Time signature: to reduce or not?

Ligatures

- To insert ligatures above notes:
 - F: SmartShape tool: bracket – double click to insert
 - S: Notations tab – Bracket above
 - D: Insert tuplet (shortcut is “;” [semicolon])
 - Enter ratio (based on duration of first note) as the equivalent of 1:1
 - ⌘+8 (show bottom panel) – spans barline; force horizontal; hide number
 - N.B. this last step may be done later by select all, filter, tuplets*

Ficta

- To insert ficta above notes:

F: Articulation Tool – select note – Create – Main – choose appropriate accidental – Select – OK – Select – drag upward

S: Note Input tab – Plug-ins – Accidentals category – Add Ficta Above Note

D: Playing Techniques tab – Create new (+) – Type: Glyph – Delete text – Double-click accidental – OK – OK – select new glyph – if desired, adjust Custom scale in $\text{æ}+8$ (show bottom panel) – hide accidental on staff

Some source references for scores discussed here:

- Tallis: *O sacrum convivium*

Cantiones quae ab argumento sacrae vocantur (London: Thomas Vautrollerius, 1575)

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Cantiones_quae_ab_argumento_sacrae_vocantur_\(Tallis,_Thomas\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Cantiones_quae_ab_argumento_sacrae_vocantur_(Tallis,_Thomas))

- Machaut: *Messe de Nostre Dame*

Private Collection of James E. and Elizabeth J. Ferrell, Kansas City, United States (US-Kcferrell)

<https://www.diamm.ac.uk/sources/3774/#/inventory>

<https://www.diamm.ac.uk/sources/3774/#/images?p=283v>

Some fine & prolific CPDL editors:

David Fraser: https://www.cpdL.org/wiki/index.php/User:David_Fraser

365 editions on CPDL: https://www.cpdL.org/wiki/index.php/Category:David_Fraser_editions

Robert Urmann: https://www.cpdL.org/wiki/index.php/User:Robert_Urmann

104 editions: https://www.cpdL.org/wiki/index.php/Category:Robert_Urmann_editions

The CMAA's very own Jeffrey Quick!

126 editions: https://www.cpdL.org/wiki/index.php/Category:Jeffrey_Quick_editions

Further helpful resources

<https://www.scoringnotes.com/category/news/>

Dorico forum: <https://forums.steinberg.net/c/dorico/8>

Sibelius forum: <https://www.sibeliusforum.com/index.php>

DIAMM [Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music]: <https://www.diamm.ac.uk/>

Archive.org: useful for finding out-of-print or hard-to-locate editions