Finale 2014 in the Music Collection

Getting Started

Finale is the world-wide industry standard in music notation software.

Part of what sets Finale apart is its unique ability to create anything on the printed page. Finale offers complete freedom and flexibility. As a result, musicians around the world rely on Finale to create, edit, audition, print, and publish the widest variety of musical scores.

Finale also offers breathtakingly realistic music playback, and more ways to share music with others.

Where it is located:

Finale 2014 is installed on nine (9) computers (6 PCs and 3 Macs) on the lower level of Bracken Library near the Music Collection counter.

Starting Finale:

When you start Finale, the screen below is displayed. Click on Templates where you can start a document by choosing a standard score which Finale will create or Setup Wizard which allows you to define your own score.

For more information on the Setup Wizard, see the reverse side of this handout.

Writing your score:

Creating a score in Finale is easy and most scores can be created using just five tools. The remaining tools add even more flexibility to creating a score.

- Simple Entry Tool: Places notes onto the staff using the mouse.
- Articulation Tool: Adds accents, staccato and legato marks and more to notes.
- Lyric Tool: Add lyrics to your score.
- Smart Shape Tool: Adds slurs, ties, crescendo/decrescendo hairpins and other musical shapes.
- Expression Tool: Places dynamic, tempo and other expression marks into the score.

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Using the Setup Wizard in Finale

Step 1: Choose the ensemble you’d like to write for or one that’s pretty close—you can add or subtract instruments in the next step. Then choose what style you want your score to be in and on what sized paper. Click next when you’re done.

Step 2: Add or subtract instruments from your ensemble. Just click on an instrument family in the first column and then double click on the instrument you want to add in the second column. You can subtract instruments in the third column or rearrange what order they will be displayed in the score. You can even choose a standard score order for band, orchestra and more from the drop down below the third column.

Step 3: Type in your publication information such as the title, subtitle, composer, arranger, lyricist and the copyright date.

Step 4: Choose your beginning time signature, key, tempo and whether or not you’ll have a pickup measure at the beginning of the piece. Click on Finish and Finale will create your custom score for you to fill with music.