

Musical notation codes

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Musical notation codes

General information

The most comprehensive literature is the book [Beyond MIDI](#)

There is an overview [The Computational Score](#) by Francesco Giomi.

Perry Roland: [Extensible Markup Language for Music Information Retrieval](#) This paper evaluates the role of standards in information exchange and suggests the adoption of [Java](#) standards for music representation and meta-data to serve as the basis for music information retrieval.

A good source for file formats is www.wotsit.org/. Among them there is a collection of music formats. [Dot What!?](#) also covers many file extensions.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [General information](#)

MIDI

Your MIDI interface is too slow? MIDI.org has released a [MIDI Over IEEE-1394 Specification](#) in PDF. IEEE-1394 is also known as FireWire (Apple) and i-Link (Sony). It makes sense to replace the MIDI cable by IEEE-1394 and not by USB since FireWire is already used for media streams. FireWire is about 10000 times faster than a MIDI cable.

Almost every scorewriter supports the MIDI file format: [The official alt.music.midi FAQ: general info and frequently asked questions](#) , [MIDI Farm](#) , You should not attempt to use it to exchange data between score printing programs (and archives) if you have additional ways.

Nevertheless, MIDI is the first data format a score printing program has to support. a good book on this topic is [Musik-Programmierung](#) .

[Beyond MIDI](#) describes four extensions to MIDI but I found no applications of them on the internet

- * NoTaMIDI in [Beyond MIDI chapter 3](#)
- * Expressive in [Beyond MIDI chapter 4](#)
- * MIDIPlus in [Beyond MIDI chapter 5](#)
- * Augmented MIDI in [Beyond MIDI chapter 6](#)

There is an IETF effort to standardize MIDI over [RTP](#) , for both interactive and streaming, see: [An RTP Payload Format for MIDI](#) by John Lazzaro and John Wawrzynek.

FAQ: [How do I convert a MIDI file to some sort of text representation](#) , maintained by Rainer Typke.

Programs exporting [MIDI](#) :

Capella	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows
tonica fugata	Windows
capella Media Producer	Windows
capella-scan	Windows
Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
PDFtoMusic Pro music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X
PDFtoMusic music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X

<i>SmartScore Professional Edition - Precision music scanning & world-class scoring.</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>SmartScore Songbook Edition - Limit: 3 staves</i>	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
<i>SmartScore Piano Edition - Limits: 2 staves / no text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.</i>	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
<i>SmartScore Guitar Edition - Limits: 1 staff / No text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.</i>	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
<i>SmartScore MIDI Edition - Limits: 4 staves / No text or lyrics / No printing / MIDI output only / no TAB or percussion.</i>	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
<i>PhotoScore Ultimate</i>	Windows, MacOS X
<i>PhotoScore MIDI Lite</i>	Windows, MacOS X
<i>AudioScore - music to score and music notation</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Education</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Professional</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Standard</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus Classic - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>Sibelius G7 Kontakt Edition - The ultimate tool for creative guitarists</i>	Windows, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
<i>WIDI Recognition System (Professional audio to MIDI converter)</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>WIDI Recognition System (Standard audio to</i>	Windows, Mac OS X

<i>MIDI converter)</i>	
<i>WIDI Audio To MIDI VST Plugin (Windows Version)</i>	Windows
<i>WIDI Audio To MIDI VST Plugin (MAC OS X Version)</i>	Mac OS X
<i>WIDI Audio To MIDI Audio Unit (MAC OS X Version)</i>	Mac OS X
<i>Celemony Melodyne cre8 audio editor</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Celemony Melodyne studio audio editor</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>visiv SharpEye Music Reader</i>	Windows, RISC OS
<i>Lime Music Notation Software</i>	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
<i>Rosegarden - audio and MIDI sequencer, score editor</i>	Linux
<i>MusicKit - music programming library</i>	Objective C, Python, NeXT, Mac OS X, Windows, Linux/UNIX, OpenStep
<i>NoteWorthy Composer</i>	Windows
<i>Muscript - language for typesetting music</i>	Perl
<i>KGuitar</i>	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
<i>DixShtix - Java Music Library</i>	Java
<i>Django tablature editor and composer</i>	Windows
<i>Personal Composer - music notation, MIDI, sequencing</i>	Windows

Xenoage MusicXML Player	Java JRE 1.5.0, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
Mozart - music notation software	Windows
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux
ABC Plus (abcm2ps) - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows, x86 RPM based Linux, source code
mTooth	Mac OS X
MagicScore Maestro - Music Notation Software for Musicians	Windows
MagicScore Classic - Music Notation Software for Musicians	Windows
MusiCAD score-editor	Windows
Apple Logic Pro - Digital Audio Workstation and MIDI sequencer	Mac OS X
Overture 4 - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows
ScoreWriter - music notation software (slimmed down from Overture)	Mac OS X, Windows
Steinberg Sequel - Music Creation and Performance	Mac OS X, Windows

Steinberg Cubase 4 - Advanced Music Production System	Mac OS X, Windows
Steinberg Cubase Studio 4 - Music Production System	Mac OS X, Windows
Steinberg Cubase Essential 4 - Personal Music Production System	Mac OS X, Windows
Digidesign Pro Tools M-Powered	Mac OS X, Windows
GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
GVOX Music Time Deluxe - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Suite - Ableton Live + Instruments	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Live - audio and MIDI sequencer	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Live LE - audio and MIDI sequencer	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Live Light - audio and MIDI sequencer	Windows, Mac OS X
COMUS music printing system	Windows
DTAB - Drum TAB editor	Windows
Obtiv Octava - music notation software	Windows
IntelliScore	Windows
Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows
Ludwig - composing software	Windows

NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
WiiToMidi - convert signals from a Nintendo Wii controller to MIDI signals	Mac OS X
hum2mid - Humdrum kern to MIDI converter	Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
Wave Machine Labs Drumagog Drum Replacer Plug-In	Windows, Mac OS X
Impro-Visor - music notation software	Java 1.5, NetBeans IDE 5.x, Poly Java Library, jMusic Java Library
massey DTM plugin - Drum-to-MIDI converter	Mac OS X, Windows
capella wave kit	Windows
t-rox Studio	Windows
MIDI-Connections SCAN - optical music recognition	Windows
middle C software toolkit - optical music recognition	Windows, Java, C/C++, Visual Basic

Programs importing [MIDI](#) :

Capella	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows
tonica fugata	Windows
capella Media Producer	Windows
Capella playAlong	Windows

<i>Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.</i>	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Melody Assistant</i>	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Score Perfect Education</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Professional</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Standard</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus Classic - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>Sibelius G7 Kontakt Edition - The ultimate tool for creative guitarists</i>	Windows, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
<i>Notation Composer - music notation software</i>	Windows
<i>Notation Musician - music notation software</i>	Windows
<i>NCH Switch audio file format converter for Windows & Mac</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Celemony Melodyne cre8 audio editor</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Celemony Melodyne studio audio editor</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Progression - Music Software for Guitar</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Notion - Music Notation Software</i>	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Beatnik mobileBAE audio engine</i>	Symbian, Nucleus RTOS , Windows Mobile, J2ME
<i>Lime Music Notation Software</i>	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X

Rosegarden - audio and MIDI sequencer, score editor	Linux
MusicKit - music programming library	Objective C, Python, NeXT, Mac OS X, Windows, Linux/UNIX, OpenStep
NoteWorthy Composer	Windows
NoteWorthy Player	Windows
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
KGuitar	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
DixShtix - Java Music Library	Java
Personal Composer - music notation, MIDI, sequencing	Windows
Mozart - music notation software	Windows
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux
KlavarScript - klavar notation software	Windows
musicRAIN - music sheet viewer software	Macromedia Flash 8
mTooth	Mac OS X
MagicScore Maestro - Music Notation Software	Windows

<i>for Musicians</i>	
<i>MagicScore Classic - Music Notation Software for Musicians</i>	Windows
<i>MusiCAD score-editor</i>	Windows
<i>Apple Logic Pro - Digital Audio Workstation and MIDI sequencer</i>	Mac OS X
<i>Apple GarageBand - Sequencer</i>	Mac OS X
<i>QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software</i>	Windows
<i>Overture 4 - music notation software</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>ScoreWriter - music notation software (slimmed down from Overture)</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Steinberg Sequel - Music Creation and Performance</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Steinberg Cubase 4 - Advanced Music Production System</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Steinberg Cubase Studio 4 - Music Production System</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Steinberg Cubase Essential 4 - Personal Music Production System</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Digidesign Pro Tools M-Powered</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>GVOX Encore - music notation software</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>GVOX Music Time Deluxe - music notation software</i>	Windows, Mac OS X

Ableton Suite - Ableton Live + Instruments	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Live - audio and MIDI sequencer	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Live LE - audio and MIDI sequencer	Windows, Mac OS X
Ableton Live Light - audio and MIDI sequencer	Windows, Mac OS X
COMUS music printing system	Windows
Obtiv Octava - music notation software	Windows
Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows
NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
mid2hum - MIDI to Humdrum kern converter	Linux, Mac OS X
t-rox Studio	Windows
Toccata Braille Music Transcription Program	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MIDI](#)

QuickScore Elite file format (.qsd)

Programs exporting [QuickScore Elite file format \(.qsd\)](#) :

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
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Programs importing [QuickScore Elite file format \(.qsd\)](#) :

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
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Notation Software	
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [QuickScore Elite file format \(.qsd\)](#)

WAV audio file format (.wav)

Programs exporting [WAV audio file format \(.wav\)](#) :

Notion - Music Notation Software	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
Notion Protégé - Music Creation Software	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows

Programs importing [WAV audio file format \(.wav\)](#) :

Beatnik mobileBAE audio engine	Symbian, Nucleus RTOS , Windows Mobile, J2ME
Apple GarageBand - Sequencer	Mac OS X
IntelliScore	Windows
Wave Machine Labs Drumagog Drum Replacer Plug-In	Windows, Mac OS X
capella wave kit	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [WAV audio file format \(.wav\)](#)

MP3 audio file format (.mp3)

Programs exporting [MP3 audio file format \(.mp3\)](#) :

MusicKit - music programming library	Objective C, Python, NeXT, Mac OS X, Windows, Linux/UNIX, OpenStep
Apple GarageBand - Sequencer	Mac OS X
QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows

Programs importing [MP3 audio file format \(.mp3\)](#) :

Beatnik mobileBAE audio engine	Symbian, Nucleus RTOS , Windows Mobile, J2ME
MusicKit - music programming library	Objective C, Python, NeXT, Mac OS X, Windows, Linux/UNIX, OpenStep
Apple GarageBand - Sequencer	Mac OS X
IntelliScore	Windows
capella wave kit	Windows
Speech Analyzer	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MP3 audio file format \(.mp3\)](#)

WMA audio file format (.wma)

Programs importing [WMA audio file format \(.wma\)](#) :

IntelliScore	Windows
capella wave kit	Windows

Speech Analyzer	Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [WMA audio file format \(.wma\)](#)

MusicWrite file format (.mwk)

Programs exporting [MusicWrite file format \(.mwk\)](#) :

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
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Programs importing [MusicWrite file format \(.mwk\)](#) :

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusicWrite file format \(.mwk\)](#)

Overture file format (.ove)

Programs exporting [Overture file format \(.ove\)](#) :

Overture 4 - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows
ScoreWriter - music notation software (slimmed down from Overture)	Mac OS X, Windows

Programs importing [Overture file format \(.ove\)](#) :

MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
Overture 4 - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows
ScoreWriter - music notation software (slimmed down from Overture)	Mac OS X, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Overture file format \(.ove\)](#)

ScoreWriter file format (.scw)

Programs exporting [ScoreWriter file format \(.scw\)](#) :

Overture 4 - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows
ScoreWriter - music notation software (slimmed down from Overture)	Mac OS X, Windows

Programs importing [ScoreWriter file format \(.scw\)](#) :

Overture 4 - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows
ScoreWriter - music notation software (slimmed down from Overture)	Mac OS X, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [ScoreWriter file format \(.scw\)](#)

Copyist file format (.CP6 and .CP4)

Programs exporting [Copyist file format \(.CP6 and .CP4\)](#) :

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
Sionsoft Copyist - music notation software	Windows

Programs importing [Copyist file format \(.CP6 and .CP4\)](#) :

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
Sionsoft Copyist - music notation software	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Copyist file format \(.CP6 and .CP4\)](#)

Rich MIDI Tablature format - RMTF

RMTF adds Tablature Events to MIDI that are intended to be displayed by a tablature editor.

Programs exporting [Rich MIDI Tablature format - RMTF](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
Guitar Studio - tablature editor	Windows
TaBazar - a notation program for fretted instruments (like guitar, bass, banjo or mandolin) and percussion	Windows
TablEdit - Tablatures editor and standard notation editor	Win16, Win32

Programs importing [Rich MIDI Tablature format - RMTF](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
Guitar Studio - tablature editor	Windows
TaBazar - a notation program for fretted instruments (like guitar, bass, banjo or mandolin) and percussion	Windows
TablEdit - Tablatures editor and standard notation editor	Win16, Win32

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Rich MIDI Tablature format - RMTF](#)

msf (Myriad Software)

Used by OMeR to write files for Harmony Assistant and Melody Assistant. I don't

know a documentation of the format.

Programs exporting [msf \(Myriad Software\)](#) :

Optical Music easy Reader (OMeR)	Windows, Macintosh (Mac OS 8.6 to Mac OS X)
PDFtoMusic Pro music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X
PDFtoMusic music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X

Programs importing [msf \(Myriad Software\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
Myriad Music Plug-In - for web browsers	Mac OS X, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [msf \(Myriad Software\)](#)

Creative Music File Format

[Creative Music File Format](#) is a cut-down version of the [MIDI format](#) .

Programs exporting [Creative Music File Format](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows

Programs importing [Creative Music File Format](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Creative Music File Format](#)

Sibelius Plugin Interface

While the [sibelius](#) format itself is undocumented, it is possible to write plugins that export to other formats.

Programs importing [Sibelius Plugin Interface](#) :

sibelius2guido - sibelius to guido converter	Sibelius Plugin
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Sibelius Plugin Interface](#)

Finale Plugin Interface

While the [Finale](#) format itself is undocumented, it is possible to write plugins that export to other formats. Finale can read and write the [ETF](#) format.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Finale Plugin Interface](#)

Internal format of Finale (.mus)

Sheet music in Finale format

 [Harmer Recorder Music](#)

Programs exporting [Internal format of Finale \(.mus\)](#) :

SmartScore Professional Edition - Precision music scanning & world-class scoring.	Windows, Mac OS X
SmartScore Songbook Edition - Limit: 3 staves	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Piano Edition - Limits: 2 staves / no text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Guitar Edition - Limits: 1 staff / No text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4

Finale music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Finale Allegro music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
Finale PrintMusic music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Finale Songwriter music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
Finale NotePad music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher

Programs importing [Internal format of Finale \(.mus\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Finale music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Finale Allegro music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
Finale PrintMusic music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Finale Songwriter music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
Finale NotePad music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Finale Reader music notation reader	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Internal format of Finale \(.mus\)](#)

Internal format of NoteWriter

Internal format of NoteWriter
I don't know a documentation of this format.

Programs exporting [Internal format of NoteWriter](#) :

NoteWriter - music notation package (obsolete)	Mac OS X
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Programs importing [Internal format of NoteWriter](#) :

NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
NoteWriter - music notation package (obsolete)	Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Internal format of NoteWriter](#)

Internal format of NtEd

Internal format of NtEd

Programs exporting [Internal format of NtEd](#) :

NtEd - a musical score editor for Linux	Linux
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Programs importing [Internal format of NtEd](#) :

NtEd - a musical score editor for Linux	Linux
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Internal format of NtEd](#)

Internal format of NoteAbility Pro

Internal format of NoteAbility Pro

I don't know a documentation of this format.

Programs exporting [Internal format of NoteAbility Pro](#) :

NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
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Programs importing [Internal format of NoteAbility Pro](#) :

NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Internal format of NoteAbility Pro](#)

XMF - eXtensible Music Format

XMF is a successor of *RMF* that has been developed by the *MIDI Manufacturer's Association (MMA)* , chaired by *Chris Grigg* .

XMF is not an *Java* application. It is a container format (like a jar file) that can contain any number of *midi* and *DLS* files. Read also the *XMF FAQ* .

Sun is an enthusiastic member of the XMF working group, so it's *likely* that XMF will find its way into *JavaSound* implementations.

The *Interactive XMF Workgroup (IX WG)* wants to use XMF in an interactive way. See also *Towards Interactive XMF* by Chris Grigg.

Programs exporting *XMF - eXtensible Music Format* :

Beatnik Mobile Sound Builder	Windows
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Programs importing *XMF - eXtensible Music Format* :

Beatnik mobileBAE audio engine	Symbian, Nucleus RTOS , Windows Mobile, J2ME
Beatnik Mobile Sound Builder	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [XMF - eXtensible Music Format](#)

NIFF

NIFF is the first standard code for musical notation. NIFF is based on *RIFF* .

A minor revision, NIFF 6b, is available as of June, 2002. This revision is provided by Jeff Thompson, author of *Nifty* .

The History of NIFF

The NIFF (Notation Interchange File Format) was completed in the fall of 1995. This is a standard digital format for the representation of standard musical notation. The format is very flexible, allowing for simple implementations with minimal graphical information, or much more elaborate descriptions including all aspects of page layout, associated midi data, custom symbols, etc.

Sponsored by Passport Designs, Mark of the Unicorn, Musicware, Opcode Systems,

and Cakewalk Music Software, the format was designed as a cooperative effort. The members of the team which developed NIFF are listed below. Please note that some of the affiliations listed have changed since NIFF was written.

- * Dave Abrahams, Mark of the Unicorn
- * Gary Barber, Musicware
- * Raymond Bily, Midisoft Corporation
- * Mike Brockman, Musicware
- * Mark Burton, Blue Ribbon Software
- * Don Byrd, Advanced Music Notation Systems, Musicware
- * Cakewalk Music Software
- * Nicholas Carter, University of Surrey
- * John Cerullo, Hal Leonard Corporation
- * Daniel Dorff, Theodore Presser
- * John Forbes, Boosey & Hawkes
- * Tom Hall, A-R Editions
- * William Holab, G. Schirmer
- * Wladek Homenda, Musitek
- * Tom Johns, Hal Leonard Corporation
- * Paul Keister, Passport Designs
- * Steve Keller
- * Dave Kusek
- * Lowell Levinger, Passport Designs
- * Bill McCann, Dancing Dots Braille Music Technology
- * Severo Ornstein, Woodside, California
- * Mike Ost, Passport Designs
- * Norman Reid, San Francisco, California
- * Robert Schuneman, E. C. Schirmer
- * Dave Scoggin, Opcode Systems
- * Leland Smith, San Andreas Press
- * Eleanor Selfridge-Field, Center for Computer Assisted Research in the Humanities
- * Mark Walsen, Notation Software, Inc.
- * Don Williams, Opcode Systems

Technical Coordinator: Cindy Grande, Grande Software

Administrative Coordinator: Chris Newell, Musitek

Special Advisor: Alan Belkin, University of Montreal

The NIFF SDK Archive

NIFF is not maintained any more. The NIFF SDK Archive is presented as a mature work for educational usage.

The NIFF SDK is complete. It is a free, public domain, platform independent Software Developer's Kit for software developers implementing NIFF. It is a collection of software libraries and tools to support reading, writing, and navigating NIFF files. Documentation, sample code, and a simple NIFF file is included. The NIFF SDK makes it possible for a software developer to add NIFF reading and writing capabilities to an existing program without writing the housekeeping functions that would otherwise be required. The software is supplied in source code format in the C

programming language. NIFF Downloads The following documents are available for download here:

- * [EX1BACH.ZIP](#)
- * [EX2POP.ZIP](#)
- * [EX3AORCH.ZIP](#)
- * [EX3BORCH.ZIP](#)
- * [EX4THEOR.ZIP](#)
- * [EX5APIAN.ZIP](#)
- * [EX5BPIAN.ZIP](#)
- * [EX6AORNS.ZIP](#)
- * [EX6BOR.ZIP](#)
- * [EX6COR.ZIP](#)
- * [FILEWALK.ZIP](#)
- * [NIFF6b.html](#)
- * [NIFF6b-changes.txt](#)
- * [NIFF6b-todo.txt](#)
- * [niff.h](#)
- * [MS_NIFF.zip](#)
- * [niffsdk.txt](#)
- * [niffsdk-1.02.tar](#)
- * [niffsdk1.02.sit.hqx](#)
- * [NIFFspec.egs.jpg](#)
- * [NIFFDUM.README.TXT](#)
- * [NIFFDUM2.C](#)
- * [NIFFDUM.CALLBACK.C](#)

N.B.: Information about these files:

- * The files beginning with "EX" are TIFF (a standard graphics format) formatted music example files to be used by NIFF developers.
- * "FILEWALK.ZIP" is a Microsoft utility for browsing RIFF files. It parses the STRUCTURE of a RIFF file. Because NIFF uses tags instead of nested lists, it is of limited utility.
- * "NIFF 6x.x" is the current version of the specification itself, in html format. The document "NIFFspec.egs.jpg" contains the musical examples in the NIFF spec, since some versions of Word have difficulty displaying these images.
- * "NIFF6x.xchanges.txt" details all the latest changes made to the spec since v.6a.
- * "niff.h" is a C header file.
- * "MS_NIFF.ZIP" contains some examples of NIFF files written by Midiscan.
- * The files containing "niffsdk" refer to the NIFF software development kit.
- * The files containing "NIFFDUM" provide an updated version of the NIFFDUMPER UTILITY. See "NIFFDUM.README.TXT".

For those who implement a NIFF importer: There is a flaw in some example files of the NIFF SDK. There are 7 undefined shapes in rests with the length 3/16 in AFTER.NIF, 3 in WAYITIS.NIF and 1 in MANDOL.NIF. Thanks to Cris Sion of [Sionsoft](#) for confirming this.

See also the [NIFF SDK User's Guide](#)

Programs exporting NIFF :

SmartScore Professional Edition - Precision music scanning & world-class scoring.	Windows, Mac OS X
SmartScore Songbook Edition - Limit: 3 staves	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Piano Edition - Limits: 2 staves / no text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Guitar Edition - Limits: 1 staff / No text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
PhotoScore Ultimate	Windows, MacOS X
AudioScore - music to score and music notation	Windows
visiv SharpEye Music Reader	Windows, RISC OS
Lime Music Notation Software	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
Neume - Software For Music Education	Python, Linux, Mac OS X
DixShtix - Java Music Library	Java
Vivaldi Scan - Music OCR Software	Windows

Programs importing NIFF :

Sibelius - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
Lime Music Notation Software	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
Neume - Software For Music Education	Python, Linux, Mac OS X
DixShtix - Java Music Library	Java

Personal Composer - music notation, MIDI, sequencing	Windows
Mozart - music notation software	Windows
QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
TablEdit - Tablatures editor and standard notation editor	Win16, Win32
Igor engraver for music notation	Mac OS 8.5 or later (not Mac OS X), Windows, Wine, LISP
TaBazar - a notation program for fretted instruments (like guitar, bass, banjo or mandolin) and percussion	Windows
Toccata Braille Music Transcription Program	Windows
Nifty - NIFF viewer Applet	Java Applet
Concert-o-Braille	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [NIFF](#)

Internal format of Capella (.cap)

www.hausmusik.ch has several thousand music sheets in capella file format and some of them in MusicXML file format. Have a look at it, it's worth it.

www.tobis-notenarchiv.de is an archive of classical works in capella file format.

Programs exporting [Internal format of Capella \(.cap\)](#) :

Capella	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows

capella Media Producer	Windows
capella-scan	Windows

Programs importing [Internal format of Capella \(.cap\)](#) :

Capella	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows
capella Media Producer	Windows
Capella playAlong	Windows
PriMus - Music notation program	Windows
PriMus Classic - Music notation program	Windows
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Internal format of Capella \(.cap\)](#)

SASL: Simple Audio Score Language

SASL is part of [MPEG-4 Structured Audio](#) . It has to do nothing at all with the subject of this page (music notation, visual rendering...). I just spent some time looking at it because its name implies some relationship with music notation.

But if you're thinking of events instead of slurs, chords, augmentation dots, bars... when you hear the word "score", SASL might be exactly what you want. Here are some [developer resources](#) for you.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [SASL: Simple Audio Score Language](#)

Music Publisher and Noteworthy 2 File Format (.nwc)

Music Publisher is the Windows version und Noteworthy ist die DOS version

* [Noteworthy 2 File Format](#)

- * The file format of Music Publisher is available by. See [Website of Music Publisher](#) .
- * The currently supported [NoteWorthy](#) product line is NoteWorthy Composer for Windows, a free player, a free Browser plug-in and a free Winamp plug-in.

Programs exporting [Music Publisher and Noteworthy 2 File Format \(.nwc\)](#) :

NoteWorthy Composer	Windows
mxml2nwcc - converts MusicXML to Noteworthy	Windows
Music Publisher - music notation software	Windows
Music Publisher Scanning Edition	Windows

Programs importing [Music Publisher and Noteworthy 2 File Format \(.nwc\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
NoteWorthy Winamp Plugin	Winamp
NoteWorthy Brwoser Plugin	Windows
NoteWorthy Composer	Windows
NoteWorthy Player	Windows
nwc2xml - converts Noteworthy Composer's file into MusicXML	Windows
Music Publisher - music notation software	Windows
Music Publisher Scanning Edition	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Music Publisher and Noteworthy 2 File Format \(.nwc\)](#)

The SCORE format

The SCORE format (.MUS) is the native format of the program SCORE (DOS), published by San Andreas Press. I don't know any online description, but there is a detailed description by Leland Smith in Chapter 19 of Beyond MIDI. The binary SCORE format bases on a single array of Float numbers. This format has a natural ascii representation: each of the numbers separated by a white space.

The actual version of SCORE is [Release 4](#) , (December 1999). There is no official SCORE page by the publisher San Andreas Press, but there is a comprehensive [SCORE page](#) at [Acadia University](#) .

The programs or demo versions of them can be [downloaded here](#) .

Programs exporting [The SCORE format](#) :

SipSib - reads Sibelius EPS and writes Score format	Windows
SipXML - MusicXML to Score converter	Windows
Humdrum to Score Bol Converter	Web
EDITSCOR - a conditional editor of Score files	Windows
LJ - horizontal spacing system for use with Score	Windows
BEAM - a DOS box beam utility for SCORE	Windows
SCORE Music Publishing System	DOS and DOS Box in Windows

Programs eventually exporting [The SCORE format](#) :

PINYIN - Score utility	
EDITSCOR - a conditional editor of Score files	Windows

Programs importing [The SCORE format](#) :

Finale music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Sibelius - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X

SipScore2XML - Score to MusicXML converter	Windows
SCOREMID - Score to MIDI converter	
EDITSCOR - a conditional editor of Score files	Windows
LJ - horizontal spacing system for use with Score	Windows
BEAM - a DOS box beam utility for SCORE	Windows
SCORE Music Publishing System	DOS and DOS Box in Windows
Score Preview - a viewer for SCORE	

Programs eventually importing [The SCORE format](#) :

PINYIN - Score utility	
EDITSCOR - a conditional editor of Score files	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [The SCORE format](#)

RMF - Rich Music Format

RMF defined by [Beatnik](#) . It is a wrapper for audio formats like .wav, .au, .aiff, .mp3 and MIDI. The purpose of the format is to encrypt the data and to store MIDI and sounds together. RMF is not much used at the moment, but it can gain importance from the fact that the reference implementation of the [Java Media Framework](#) and [JavaSound](#) can play RMF files.

RMF is not documented. The [RMF datasheet from Beatnik](#) just describe what you can do with RMF. There is only one [editor](#) that can create RMF files. For those who just want to play one format, it makes no sense to use RMF. It makes you dependant from one company and gives you no advantage. One should encrypt only with documented methods. Undocumented encrypting methods are considered unsecure. See the (undocumented) encryption of DVD [explained in simple words](#) .

[XMF](#) solves this problem.

RMF and XMF make sense where you have to deliver the sounds for your MIDI events.

Programs exporting [RMF - Rich Music Format](#) :

Beatnik Editor	Mac OS 8.6 through 9.2, Windows
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Programs importing [RMF - Rich Music Format](#) :

Beatnik mobileBAE audio engine	Symbian, Nucleus RTOS , Windows Mobile, J2ME
Beatnik Editor	Mac OS 8.6 through 9.2, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [RMF - Rich Music Format](#)

The studio session song (SSS) file format

SSS is a simple binary music notation format. search for SSS at www.wotsit.org

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [The studio session song \(SSS\) file format](#)

Rhapsody Notation Program File Format (.rhp)

Discontinued. See [Rhapsody](#)

Programs importing [Rhapsody Notation Program File Format \(.rhp\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Rhapsody Notation Program File Format \(.rhp\)](#)

Encores internal File Format (.enc)

See [Encore](#)

Programs exporting [Encores internal File Format \(.enc\)](#) :

GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
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Programs importing [Encores internal File Format \(.enc\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Encores internal File Format \(.enc\)](#)

Music Time internal File Format (.mus). Music Time Pro internal File Format (.mts).

See [Music Time Deluxe](#)

Programs exporting [Music Time internal File Format \(.mus\)](#). [Music Time Pro internal File Format \(.mts\)](#). :

GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
GVOX Music Time Deluxe - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X

Programs importing [Music Time internal File Format \(.mus\)](#). [Music Time Pro internal File Format \(.mts\)](#). :

GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
GVOX Music Time Deluxe - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Music Time internal File Format \(.mus\)](#). [Music Time Pro internal File Format \(.mts\)](#).

Guitar Pro File Format (.gtp, .gp3, .gp4, .gp5, .gpx)

There is no official documentation for the Guitar Pro format.

 [kguitar](#) has an *extensive description* of the Guitar Pro 4 file format.

A good starting point to understand the format is the reading routines of KGuitar. See `convertgtp.cpp` in kguitar.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/kguitar/trunk/kguitar/kguitar/ (GPL)

.gpx is a compressed file format introduced with Guitar Pro 6.

Programs exporting [Guitar Pro File Format \(.gtp, .gp3, .gp4, .gp5, .gpx\)](#) :

Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux

Programs importing [Guitar Pro File Format \(.gtp, .gp3, .gp4, .gp5, .gpx\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
KGuitar	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux
DGuitar - a Guitar Pro (*.GP4,*.GP3,GTP) viewer, player	Linux, Solaris, BSD, Windows, Mac OS X, Java

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Guitar Pro File Format \(.gtp, .gp3, .gp4, .gp5, .gpx\)](#)

KGuitar File Format (.kg)

A good starting point to understand the format is the reading routines of KGuitar. See `convertkg.cpp` in kguitar.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/kguitar/trunk/kguitar/kguitar/

(GPL)

Programs exporting [KGuitar File Format \(.kg\)](#) :

KGuitar	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
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Programs importing [KGuitar File Format \(.kg\)](#) :

KGuitar	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [KGuitar File Format \(.kg\)](#)

Sibelius File Format

Programs exporting [Sibelius File Format](#) :

Sibelius - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
Sibelius G7 Kontakt Edition - The ultimate tool for creative guitarists	Windows, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
Sibelius Student - music notation software for students	Windows, Mac OS X

Programs importing [Sibelius File Format](#) :

Sibelius - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
Sibelius Scorch - browser plugin	Windows, Mac OS X
Sibelius G7 Kontakt Edition - The ultimate tool for creative guitarists	Windows, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
Sibelius Student - music notation software for students	Windows, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Sibelius File Format](#)

TablEdit File Format (.tef)

Programs exporting [TablEdit File Format \(.tef\)](#) :

TablEdit - Tablatures editor and standard notation editor	Win16, Win32
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Programs importing [TablEdit File Format \(.tef\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
TablEdit - Tablatures editor and standard notation editor	Win16, Win32

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [TablEdit File Format \(.tef\)](#)

The internal format of Score Perfect

[PriMus](#) only reads SPP files up to version 4 of SPP.

Programs exporting [The internal format of Score Perfect](#) :

Score Perfect Professional	Windows
Score Perfect Standard	Windows
Score Perfect Education	Windows

Programs importing [The internal format of Score Perfect](#) :

Score Perfect Professional	Windows
Score Perfect Standard	Windows
Score Perfect Education	Windows
PriMus - Music notation program	Windows

PriMus Classic - Music notation program	Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [The internal format of Score Perfect](#)

The internal format of PriMus

Programs exporting [The internal format of PriMus](#) :

PriMus - Music notation program	Windows
PriMus Classic - Music notation program	Windows

Programs importing [The internal format of PriMus](#) :

PriMus - Music notation program	Windows
PriMus Classic - Music notation program	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [The internal format of PriMus](#)

The internal format of Notion

Programs exporting [The internal format of Notion](#) :

Notion - Music Notation Software	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
Progression - Music Software for Guitar	Windows, Mac OS X

Programs importing [The internal format of Notion](#) :

Notion Protégé - Music Creation Software	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
Notion - Music Notation Software	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
Progression - Music Software for Guitar	Windows, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [The internal format of Notion](#)

Musitek SmartScore Extended Notation Format (.ENF)

Programs exporting [Musitek SmartScore Extended Notation Format \(.ENF\)](#) :

SmartScore Professional Edition - Precision music scanning & world-class scoring.	Windows, Mac OS X
SmartScore Songbook Edition - Limit: 3 staves	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Piano Edition - Limits: 2 staves / no text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Guitar Edition - Limits: 1 staff / No text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore MIDI Edition - Limits: 4 staves / No text or lyrics / No printing / MIDI output only / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4

Programs importing [Musitek SmartScore Extended Notation Format \(.ENF\)](#) :

SmartScore Professional Edition - Precision music scanning & world-class scoring.	Windows, Mac OS X
SmartScore Songbook Edition - Limit: 3 staves	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Piano Edition - Limits: 2 staves / no text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Guitar Edition - Limits: 1 staff / No text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore MIDI Edition - Limits: 4 staves / No text or lyrics / No printing / MIDI output only / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Musitek SmartScore Extended Notation Format](#)

(.ENF)

Neuratron Photoscore Format (.opt)

Programs exporting [Neuratron Photoscore Format \(.opt\)](#) :

PhotoScore Ultimate	Windows, MacOS X
AudioScore - music to score and music notation	Windows

Programs importing [Neuratron Photoscore Format \(.opt\)](#) :

PhotoScore Ultimate	Windows, MacOS X
AudioScore - music to score and music notation	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Neuratron Photoscore Format \(.opt\)](#)

Tilia: the file format of Lime

There has been an online description of Tilia at <http://datura.cerl.uiuc.edu/limefiles/limefiles.html> which vanished. It is still available in the [web archive](#) . It is also covered in chapter 20 of [Beyond MIDI](#) and in the Computer Music Journal.

Programs exporting [Tilia: the file format of Lime](#) :

Lime Music Notation Software	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
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Programs importing [Tilia: the file format of Lime](#) :

Lime Music Notation Software	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Tilia: the file format of Lime](#)

PowerTab

PowerTab is a Guitar tablature format.

Programs exporting [PowerTab](#) :

PowerTab	Windows
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Programs importing [PowerTab](#) :

PowerTab Tools	Posix, C
Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux
PowerTab	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [PowerTab](#)

PDF used as music notation format

PDF is not a music notation format in the sense that you can arrange or play the file. But PDF is good for high quality platform independant printing using [Acrobat Reader](#) . This is the reason, why sites that sell online sheet music often use PDF as download format.

Sites that sell sheet music as PDF and additional sources:

- * [Sheet Music Collections](#)
- * [virtualsheetmusic.com](#)
- * [The most complete guide to sheet music publishers and databases on the Web.](#)
- * [www.cdsheetmusic.com/](#) will provide sheet music on CDs in pdf format.

Programs exporting [PDF used as music notation format](#) :

MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++

Programs importing [PDF used as music notation format](#) :

PDFtoMusic Pro music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X
PDFtoMusic music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X
MusicReader	Windows, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [PDF used as music notation format](#)

DARMS

There is no standard and many dialects. The best source I've found is the book Alexander Brinkman: Pascal Programming for Music Research. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1990) and [Beyond MIDI](#) .

[The Note-Processor Dialect](#) by J. Stephen Dydo is available online.

Programs exporting [DARMS](#) :

COMUS music printing system	Windows
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Programs eventually exporting [DARMS](#) :

Note Processor - DOS Music notation program	DOS
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Programs importing [DARMS](#) :

COMUS music printing system	Windows
HymnQuest - hymn collection	Windows
Note Processor - DOS Music notation program	DOS

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [DARMS](#)

GUIDO Music Notation Language

a new format is [GUIDO](#) . You can [try online](#) how GUIDO code looks as graphic.

The main design principles are the use of ascii and extensibility. The notation of the

single elements resembles to TeX.

Three levels of GUIDO are planned:

- * [Basic GUIDO](#) is defined and stable. It contains basic notation elements which is far beyond MIDI.
- * [Advanced GUIDO \(inofficial draft\)](#) is unfinished. It defines further symbol classes that are used in common music notation.
- * Extended GUIDO is planned for unusual topics like microtonal music.

The three levels build on each other. Basic GUIDO is part of Advanced GUIDO which is part of Extended GUIDO itself.

Libraries in C and [Java](#) are planed to spread the GUIDO format.

Programs exporting [GUIDO Music Notation Language](#) :

finale2guido - finale 2 guido converter	Finale 2000 for Windows Plugin
sibelius2guido - sibelius to guido converter	Sibelius Plugin
pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
hum2gmn - Humdrum kern to Guido Music Notation converter	Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
The MusicXML Library (libmusicxml, C++)	C++ library, Mac OS X, Linux, Windows
Glide includes a syntax highlight editor for GUIDO files and a GUI for creating scores by drag and drop	Windows
GUIDO XML Kit - C++ library	C++, Unix, Windows
GUIDOLib - graphical rendering of musical scores (C++ library)	C++

Gamera - structured document analysis	Linux/X11, Windows, Mac OS X
Salieri System - an interactive software environment for structure oriented composition, manipulation and analysis of music	
Programs importing GUIDO Music Notation Language :	
pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
ScoreRender - sheet music rendering plugin for Wordpress	PHP, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
The MusicXML Library (libmusicxml, C++)	C++ library, Mac OS X, Linux, Windows
Glide includes a syntax highlight editor for GUIDO files and a GUI for creating scores by drag and drop	Windows
GUIDO parser-kit	C++
GUIDO XML Kit - C++ library	C++, Unix, Windows
GUIDOLib - graphical rendering of musical scores (C++ library)	C++
Salieri System - an interactive software environment for structure oriented composition, manipulation and analysis of music	
standalone GUIDO NoteViewer	Windows
standalone GUIDO NoteViewer (Mac OS X)	Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [GUIDO Music Notation Language](#)

abc

[Chris Walshaw](#) invented the input language abc and the translation program for this packages.

His concept has been so successful, that there are many programs now which use abc without TeX. With 10000+ available tunes, abc is perhaps the most common format on the internet.

Unlike other formats I haven't collected any examples. Chris Walshaw has done a good job with his [abc pages](#) . I can't supercede his pages.

Collections of music in abc format

- * [Collection of abc notated tunes](#)
- * [Folk music in MIDI and abc format](#)

Programs exporting [abc](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
MusiCAD score-editor	Windows
hum2abc - Humdrum kern to abc converter	Linux
ABC Navigator - music notation software	Windows
tclabc	Linux, Windows via Freewrap
Virtual Composer	MacOS 7.x-9.x, Mac OS X
BarFly - integrated text editor/player/viewer for abc music files	Mac OS 8.5 - 9.2, Mac OS X

Five Line Skink	Java, Windows, MacOS 9, Mac OS X
Programs importing abc :	
Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Melody Assistant	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
Django tablature editor and composer	Windows
ABC Plus (abcm2ps) - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows, x86 RPM based Linux, source code
MusiCAD score-editor	Windows
ScoreRender - sheet music rendering plugin for Wordpress	PHP, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
modplug-xmms	Linux
ABC Navigator - music notation software	Windows
tclabc	Linux, Windows via Freewrap
abc2ly - abc to lilypond converter	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
BarFly - integrated text editor/player/viewer for abc music files	Mac OS 8.5 - 9.2, Mac OS X
Five Line Skink	Java, Windows, MacOS 9, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [abc](#)

MusiXTeX, MusicTeX, MuTeX...

There is a comprehensive [MusiXTeX overview page](#) as part of the [Werner Icking Music Archive](#) .

Programs exporting [MusiXTeX](#), [MusicTeX](#), [MuTeX](#)... :

Rosegarden - audio and MIDI sequencer, score editor	Linux
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
PMTeX: PMX to MusiXTeX preprocessor	
PMX: PMX to MusiXTeX preprocessor	FORTTRAN, Mac OS X, Windows
MuX2d - a WYSIWYM(ean) editor for MusiXTeX	posix

Programs importing [MusiXTeX](#), [MusicTeX](#), [MuTeX](#)... :

dvisvgm dvi (TeX) to SVG converter	Linux, Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusiXTeX](#), [MusicTeX](#), [MuTeX](#)...

****kern (.krn)**

The ****kern**-Format (.krn) is documented. I know of no use outside [Humdrum Toolkit](#) .

See also David Huron's [official Humdrum site](#) .

Programs exporting ****kern (.krn)** :

xml2hum - MusicXML to Humdrum kern converter	Web form, Linux, Mac OS X
mid2hum - MIDI to Humdrum kern converter	Linux, Mac OS X
pae2kern - Plaine & Easie code to Humdrum kern converter	Linux, Mac OS X

Programs importing ****kern (.krn)** :

hum2xml - <i>Humdrum kern to MusicXML converter</i>	Linux, Mac OS X
hum2abc - <i>Humdrum kern to abc converter</i>	Linux
hum2gmn - <i>Humdrum kern to Guido Music Notation converter</i>	Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
hum2mid - <i>Humdrum kern to MIDI converter</i>	Linux, Mac OS X, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [**kern \(.krn\)](#)

****Hildegard**

[**Hildegard](#) represents medieval music notation for use in the [Humdrum Toolkit](#).

Hildegard is also described in a [Chapter](#) of Computing in Musicology, Vol. 12.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [**Hildegard](#)

****koto**

[**koto](#) is a [Humdrum](#) extension for shamisen music by Sachiko Deguchi and Craig Sapp.

Programs importing [**koto](#) :

Koto Score Generator	Web
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [**koto](#)

****bol**

[**bol](#) is a [Humdrum](#) extension for north Indian tabla notation by Parag Chordia and Craig Sapp.

Programs exporting [**bol](#) :

Text to Humdrum Bol Converter	Web
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Programs importing ****bol** :

Humdrum to Score Bol Converter	Web
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [**bol](#)

Musedata format (.md)

The chapter [The MuseData Representation of Musical Information](#) of Beyond MIDI by Walter B. Hewlett is available online.

All files on www.musedata.org are also exported as [Humdrum kern](#) files. Use the Humdrum kern files to translate in other file formats.

Programs importing [Musedata format \(.md\)](#) :


MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Musedata format \(.md\)](#)

LilyPond

Mudela, the Music-Definition Language has been renamed to [LilyPond](#)

Sheet music in LilyPond format

 The [Mutopia Project](#) offers sheet music editions of classical music for free download.

Programs exporting [LilyPond](#) :

Rosegarden - audio and MIDI sequencer, score editor	Linux
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
PowerTab Tools	Posix, C

mingus - Music theory and notation package for Python	Python
etf2ly - ETF to Lilypond converter	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
abc2ly - abc to lilypond converter	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
xml2ly	XSLT
Denemo - a gtk+ frontend to GNU Lilypond	gtk+

Programs importing [LilyPond](#) :

ScoreRender - sheet music rendering plugin for Wordpress	PHP, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
OOoLilyPond - a macro for OpenOffice.org	Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
LilyPond - music notation program	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
Denemo - a gtk+ frontend to GNU Lilypond	gtk+

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [LilyPond](#)

Philip's Music Writer (PMW)

[PMW](#) is the format of Philip's Music Writer (PMW). The format is described in the spec that comes with the program.

Programs importing [Philip's Music Writer \(PMW\)](#) :

ScoreRender - sheet music rendering plugin for Wordpress	PHP, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
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Philip's Music Writer (PMW)	Linux, Unix
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Philip's Music Writer \(PMW\)](#)

TexTab

[TexTab](#) is a language by John Hunter for defining conventional music notation and tablature notation for banjo and other fretted stringed instruments.

The free book of tablature entitled [3-Finger Folk for the 5-String Banjo](#) is made with TexTab.

Programs exporting [TexTab](#) :

musictab	Fortran 77, Windows
tabmusic	Fortran 77, Windows

Programs importing [TexTab](#) :

showtab	Fortran 77, Windows
musictab	Fortran 77, Windows
tabmusic	Fortran 77, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [TexTab](#)

Mup music publication program

Mup is the internal format of the [Mup music publication program](#) . The site provides a [format description](#) , a [simple example](#) , a [comprehensive example](#) , a [template](#) , and a [list of programs](#) , that use Mup.

Programs importing [Mup music publication program](#) :

ScoreRender - sheet music rendering plugin for Wordpress	PHP, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
--	-------------------------------

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Mup music publication program](#)

NoteEdit

NoteEdit is the internal format of the [NoteEdit](#) . It is similar to the Mup format.

Programs exporting [NoteEdit](#) :

NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
LilyPond - music notation program	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows

Programs importing [NoteEdit](#) :

NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
--	------------

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [NoteEdit](#)

Liszt: The SharpEye OMR engine output file format

Graham Jones' [Liszt](#) format is the internal format of the [SharpEye Music Reader](#) that also can export [NIFF](#) .

Programs exporting [Liszt: The SharpEye OMR engine output file format](#) :

visiv SharpEye Music Reader	Windows, RISC OS
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Programs importing [Liszt: The SharpEye OMR engine output file format](#) :

visiv SharpEye Music Reader	Windows, RISC OS
---	------------------

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Liszt: The SharpEye OMR engine output file format](#)

Drum Tab

Format definition for DTAB: See [Drum Tab spec of DTAB](#)

Drum Tabs

- * [Maxtabs](#)
- * [tTabs](#) : Guitar, Bass and Drum tablatures

* [911Tabs](#)

Programs exporting [Drum Tab](#) :

DTAB - Drum TAB editor	Windows
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Programs importing [Drum Tab](#) :

DTAB - Drum TAB editor	Windows
Drum Tab Printer	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Drum Tab](#)

Enigma Transportable Format (ETF)

ETF is written by Phil Ferrand and is the cross platform format of [Finale](#) . You can download the official ETF documentation if you have registered at least one product from MakeMusic (Coda) . You can also find the description and a parser in the [Thesis](#) of Margaret Cahill (in PDF and Word).

Han-Wen Nienhuys' [description](#) of the ETF format is incomplete but a good starting point to understand ETF.

Programs exporting [Enigma Transportable Format \(ETF\)](#) :

Finale music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
---	--

Programs importing [Enigma Transportable Format \(ETF\)](#) :

Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
Finale music notation program	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
Sibelius - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
etf2ly - ETF to Lilypond converter	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows

Nightingale Desktop Music Publishing software	Mac OS 7 through 9, Mac OS X
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Enigma Transportable Format \(ETF\)](#)

CMN: Common Music Notation

An introduction to the CMN format is in [Beyond MIDI](#) chapter 16. You can download the manual and the program from [the CMN page](#).

The CMN format looks LISPy as you would expect from a program that is written in LISP. But I don't see a big problem to read and write CMN files with other languages (I've written LISP programs in an earlier life and now usually use [Java](#). I don't regret this step in general but there are really nice LISP properties I miss).

This is how you can read CMN files: build your object tree with the first element of a list as parent node. While [Java](#) nodes contain two axes (attributes and children), LISP has one. Example: (chord (notes b3 g4) q). From a LISP view, notes is a function and b3 and g4 are parameters. The function chord has two parameters (see them?). If you build an object tree in [Java](#), just create a chord object that contains two fields: one contains a reference to an Object with notes and one that it contains has the length of a quarter note.

So you (and your program) don't have to understand LISP. It is possible to extend the CMN format, but you can extend NIFF, too. CMN is extended with functions while NIFF is extended with chunks, but for a program it's the same: Ignore what you don't know. (Ok, one thing is harder in CMN: it ignores what evaluates to nil and you don't know how to evaluate outside LISP but I don't think this is a problem in usual cases.)

Programs exporting [CMN: Common Music Notation](#) :

CMN: Common Music Notation	CLISP
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Programs importing [CMN: Common Music Notation](#) :

CMN: Common Music Notation	CLISP
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [CMN: Common Music Notation](#)

OMNL: Open Music Notation Language

OMNL is a simple ascii music notation format that looks a little like [Java](#) (but isn't). See [About OMNL for PaperChord 1.1](#)

Programs exporting [OMNL: Open Music Notation Language](#) :

PaperChord - Guitar chords and progressions	Mac OS 7 or higher
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Programs importing [OMNL: Open Music Notation Language](#) :

PaperChord - Guitar chords and progressions	Mac OS 7 or higher
---	--------------------

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [OMNL: Open Music Notation Language](#)

Scot: A Score Translator for Music 11

[Scot \(1979\)](#) by [Michael David Good](#) is a language for entering music into a computer. Much of its syntax is derived from ALMA (btw: has anybody a link for ALMA?) which itself is derived from the Plaine and Easie Code.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Scot: A Score Translator for Music 11](#)

PMX

PMX is an input language that is designed for the MusiXTeX preprocessor [PMX](#) . There is one more preprocessor that uses PMX as input language: [PMTeX](#) . [Rosegarden](#) does have a option to export files in MusicTex, OpusTex and PMX.

Programs exporting [PMX](#) :

Rosegarden - audio and MIDI sequencer, score editor	Linux
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
M-Tx - a preprocessor for PMX	FreePascal

Programs importing [PMX](#) :

M-Tx - a preprocessor for PMX	FreePascal
PMTeX: PMX to MusiXTeX preprocessor	

PMX: PMX to MusiXTeX preprocessor	FORTRAN, Mac OS X, Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [PMX](#)

CMME corpus mensurabilis musice electronicum

The [corpus mensurabilis musice electronicum](#) by Ted Dumitrescu is a system for the electronic representation of music in mensural notation (as used in much European polyphony in the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries).

Programs importing [CMME corpus mensurabilis musice electronicum](#) :

CMME corpus mensurabilis musice electronicum	Java 2 / JDK1.2
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [CMME corpus mensurabilis musice electronicum](#)

Nightingale Notelist

The Nightingale Notelist format is described in [Chapter 21](#) of [Beyond MIDI](#) : The Handbook of Musical Codes, edited by Eleanor Selfridge-Field (MIT Press, 1997), except for a long concluding example of a notelist [and some small edits in August, 2000] by Tim Crawford, John Gibson, and Donald Byrd. It describes the notelist format as of Nightingale 3.0A.

Programs exporting [Nightingale Notelist](#) :

NightXML - Translates MusicXML (timewise or partwise) files into Nightingale Notelist files and back	Java
Nightingale Desktop Music Publishing software	Mac OS 7 through 9, Mac OS X

Programs importing [Nightingale Notelist](#) :

NightXML - Translates MusicXML (timewise or partwise) files into Nightingale Notelist files and back	Java
nl2xml - notelist to MusicXML Converter	Sourcecode, Mac OS 9, Linux, Windows/Cygwin
Nightingale Desktop Music Publishing software	Mac OS 7 through 9, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Nightingale Notelist](#)

MusicKit ScoreFile

The MusicKit ScoreFile is a file format used by MusicKit. It was developed by NeXT Computer, Inc. from 1986 to 1991, and by [CCRMA at Stanford University](#) since 1992. The newest development by Leigh M. Smith is MusicKit 5.3 on www.musickit.org for multiple platforms: MacOS X, NeXT, OpenStep, Windows, Linux/unix. The only binary distribution is for MacOS X, others have to be built from the sources.

Programs exporting [MusicKit ScoreFile](#) :

NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
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Programs importing [MusicKit ScoreFile](#) :

MusicKit - music programming library	Objective C, Python, NeXT, Mac OS X, Windows, Linux/UNIX, OpenStep
NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusicKit ScoreFile](#)

CHARM (Common Hierarchical Abstract Representation of Music)

CHARM is covered by some early papers of Geraint Wiggins et al (I don't find it online any more). It is an abstract representation for musical analysis. Many elements specific to printed representation of music are omitted.

Unlike most music notation formats, CHARM defines an ID for each event. Structure is defined by one or more references to those IDs. This idea allows to represent almost everything without changing basic definitions. The price you have to pay for this flexibility is that you have to generate your own structures out of this data to get efficient algorithms. (This is not a bad thing. I do that in some cases in MusiXML)

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [CHARM \(Common Hierarchical Abstract Representation of Music\)](#)

Muscript

[Muscript](#), by Peter Billam, is a language for typesetting music and a Perl script which translates it either into Postscript for printing and viewing, or into MIDI for synthesisers or import into other software.

Programs exporting [Muscript](#) :

Muscript - language for typesetting music	Perl
---	------

Programs importing [Muscript](#) :

muscriptps2svg Muscript to SVG converter	Perl
Muscript - language for typesetting music	Perl

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Muscript](#)

Gaayaka

[Gaayaka](#) (.gka) is the file format of [Rasika Gaayaka](#), a music notation program for [carnatic music](#) by M. Subramanian

Programs exporting [Gaayaka](#) :

RasikaGaayaka	Windows
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Programs importing [Gaayaka](#) :

RasikaGaayaka	Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Gaayaka](#)

Plaine and Easie

The Plaine and Easie Code is described in chapter 25 of [Beyond MIDI](#) and on [Plaine & Easie Code](#) by IAML International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres.

Programs importing [Plaine and Easie](#) :

pae2kern - Plaine & Easie code to Humdrum kern converter	Linux, Mac OS X
pae2xml	Perl

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Plaine and Easie](#)

Clan Lord music notation

[Clan Lord music notation](#) is a very simple music notation format for the [Clan Lord](#) online game.

Programs exporting [Clan Lord music notation](#) :

mTooth	Mac OS X
------------------------	----------

Programs importing [Clan Lord music notation](#) :

mTooth	Mac OS X
ClanLord - multiplayer game	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Clan Lord music notation](#)

Parsons-Code

[Parsons-Code](#) is named after Denys Parsons who used this code in his book *Directory of Tunes and Musical Themes* , ISBN 3-89094-370-5, to classify and find tunes. Used by [musipedia.org](#) .

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Parsons-Code](#)

Leadsheet Notation

[Leadsheet Notation](#) is a simple LISP-like ascii format that represents for representing leadsheets.

Programs exporting [Leadsheet Notation](#) :

Impro-Visor - music notation software	Java 1.5, NetBeans IDE 5.x, Poly Java Library, jMusic Java Library
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Programs importing [Leadsheet Notation](#) :

Impro-Visor - music notation software	Java 1.5, NetBeans IDE 5.x, Poly Java Library, jMusic Java Library
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Leadsheet Notation](#)

MidiXML

See [MidiXML](#)

Programs exporting [MidiXML](#) :

pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
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Programs importing [MidiXML](#) :

pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MidiXML](#)

Apple GarageBand Format (.band)

A GarageBand file is a package. The main file in it is an XML file (plist).

Programs exporting [Apple GarageBand Format \(.band\)](#) :

Apple GarageBand - Sequencer	Mac OS X
--	----------

Programs importing [Apple GarageBand Format \(.band\)](#) :

Apple GarageBand - Sequencer	Mac OS X
--	----------

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Apple GarageBand Format \(.band\)](#)

SMDL

SMDL (ISO/IEC 10743) is also a standard. It builds on [SGML](#) (ISO 8879) and [HyTime](#) (ISO/IEC 10744). The problem: this standard isn't finished. The project members waited for the second edition of [HyTime](#) which was finished in 1997.

See [using SGML architectures in XML](#). This is necessary but not sufficient to process SMDL with an [Java](#) parser.

Some overviews:

- * [SGML: SMDL Overview](#) by Robin Cover
- * [SMDL - Ten Years Later](#) by Alan D. Talbot

Programs exporting [SMDL](#) :

DixShtix - Java Music Library	Java
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Programs importing [SMDL](#) :

DixShtix - Java Music Library	Java
---	------

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [SMDL](#)

MPEG4-SMR

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11/MPEG2005/N7379

[Symbolic Music Representation in MPEG, an overview](#)

[The text of the MPEG SMR standard in FCD status](#) (Final Committee Draft)

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MPEG4-SMR](#)

MNML - The Musical Notation Markup Language

MNML almost can't represent anything but notes and rests. Even staccato points and slurs are missing.

The MNML homepage does not exist any more.

- * The MNML Homepage (<http://irdu.nus.sg/music/>)
- * The MNML 2.0 specification (<http://irdu.nus.sg/music/mnmlv200.html>)

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MNML - The Musical Notation Markup Language](#)

MusicML

MusicML almost can't represent anything but notes and rests. Even staccato points and slurs are missing.

MusicML is dead. The authors are working on an [XML database](#)

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusicML](#)

MHTML

[MHTML](#) is a comprehensive music notation extension of HTML. The page contains many examples. Notice that [MHTML](#) uses attributes in endtags to represent nested slurs for example. This is a very intuitive concept that makes the examples very readable. But it isn't allowed in [Java](#) and HTML so it isn't readable with standard parsers.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MHTML](#)

MML: Music Markup Language

[Music Markup Language](#) is an XML application.

Example
taken from [chorale](#) :

```
<bar barid="treb-1">3[E A] [3E B] [3E:8 C]F:8 [3G C] <notation> <bindbegin id="b1"
beat="3" note="E" /> <bindend end="b1" beat="3.5" /> </notation> </bar>
```

Discussion of the example

As you can see, main parts of the format are not defined in XML itself, but in a microformat that is embedded in XML. (the XML syntax error is part of the original example)

Also note, that in this example, the notation element is a child of the bar element. Compare this with the [DTD](#) where the notation element is allowed only as child of the song element. This is only one of several errors that prevent an implementation of this format.

The MML website has been updated in the year 2002 for the last time.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MML: Music Markup Language](#)

Theta: Tonal Harmony Exploration and Tutorial Assistant

It seems that Theta doesn't exist any more.

There is an [Article saying](#) that Theta (<http://scarlet.linmedia.co.jp/Theta2>) is using [Java](#) to save music notation documents but I found no information on the format itself.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Theta: Tonal Harmony Exploration and Tutorial Assistant](#)

ScoreML

Martin Piskernigs format ScoreML is an [Java](#) application. It isn't available online any more, but there is a plan to relaunch it as part of an [open source project](#) . He announced to use some ideas from [MusiXML](#) .

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [ScoreML](#)

JScoreML

JScoreML (nide.snow.utoronto.ca/music/index.html) has been a music notation markup language and a [Java](#) score editor. Seems it doesn't exist any more.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [JScoreML](#)

eXtensible Score Language (XScore)

[eXtensible Score Language](#) 0.01 Draft: 1998-12-15 Author: R. J. Grigaitis.

There seems to be no implementation for this format.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [eXtensible Score Language \(XScore\)](#)

MusiXML: My own format

MusiXML is base on [Java](#) .

I made an own page for [MusiXML](#) .

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusiXML: My own format](#)

MusicXML (.mxl, .xml)

MusicXML 2.0 is available as an [XML Schema Definition \(XSD\) version](#) .

[MusicXML](#) by [Michael David Good](#) , president and founder of Recordare (see also [Scot](#)), is designed with the knowledge of [MusXML](#) and [NIFFML](#) .

The file extension is .xml, the packed version ends with .mxl

See also [MusicXML: An Internet-Friendly Format for Sheet Music](#) .

www.notensatz-s-fischer.de offers CDs in [capella](#) and [MusicXML](#) file format.

Programs exporting [MusicXML \(.mxl, .xml\)](#) :

capella Media Producer	Windows
Capella	Windows
capella-scan	Windows
Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
PDFtoMusic Pro music scanner	Windows, Mac OS X
SmartScore Professional Edition - Precision music scanning & world-class scoring.	Windows, Mac OS X
SmartScore Songbook Edition - Limit: 3 staves	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Piano Edition - Limits: 2 staves / no text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
SmartScore Guitar Edition - Limits: 1 staff / No text or lyrics / no TAB or percussion.	Windows, Mac OS X 10.4
PhotoScore Ultimate	Windows, MacOS X
AudioScore - music to score and music notation	Windows

<i>Score Perfect Education</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Professional</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Standard</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus Classic - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>Dolet for Finale - MusicXML Plugin</i>	Windows/Finale, Mac OS X/Java/Finale
<i>Finale music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Finale Allegro music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
<i>Finale PrintMusic music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Finale Songwriter music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
<i>Finale NotePad music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Dolet for Sibelius - MusicXML plugin</i>	Windows/ManuScript, Macintosh/ManuScript
<i>Notation Composer - music notation software</i>	Windows
<i>Progression - Music Software for Guitar</i>	Windows, Mac OS X
<i>Notion - Music Notation Software</i>	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
<i>visiv SharpEye Music Reader</i>	Windows, RISC OS
<i>Lime Music Notation Software</i>	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
<i>Rosegarden - audio and MIDI sequencer, score editor</i>	Linux

Muscript - language for typesetting music	Perl
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
KGuitar	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
Django tablature editor and composer	Windows
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
PowerTab Tools	Posix, C
pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux
MagicScore Maestro - Music Notation Software for Musicians	Windows
MagicScore Classic - Music Notation Software for Musicians	Windows
QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
Obtiv Octava - music notation software	Windows
Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows

JMSL - Java Music Specification Language	Java
MaxScore – music notation in Max/MSP	Java
hum2xml - Humdrum kern to MusicXML converter	Linux, Mac OS X
Impro-Visor - music notation software	Java 1.5, NetBeans IDE 5.x, Poly Java Library, jMusic Java Library
capella wave kit	Windows
Freedots - MusicXML to Braille music notation converter	Python
TuxGuitar - A Multitrack tablature editor and player	Mac OS X, Linux, Windows
Speech Analyzer	Windows
ProxyMusic - MusicXML Java Library	Java 5 + JAXB 2, Java 6
Audiveris Music Scanner	Java 5 + JAXB 2 + JAI, Java 6
Midinotate Composer	Windows
NightXML - Translates MusicXML (timewise or partwise) files into Nightingale Notelist files and back	Java
nwc2xml - converts Noteworthy Composer's file into MusicXML	Windows
SimpleChord	Mac OS X
CapToMusic - capella to MusicXML converter	Python
GOODFEEL Braille Music Translator	Windows

SCOREMAKER - <i>music scanning and notation program</i>	Windows
TablEdit - <i>Tablatures editor and standard notation editor</i>	Win16, Win32
BUZZle - <i>modular music composing and sequencing tool</i>	Windows
Virtual Composer	MacOS 7.x-9.x, Mac OS X
The MusicXML Library (libmusicxml, C++)	C++ library, Mac OS X, Linux, Windows
Vivaldi Scan - <i>Music OCR Software</i>	Windows
SipScore2XML - <i>Score to MusicXML converter</i>	Windows
nl2xml - <i>notelist to MusicXML Converter</i>	Sourcecode, Mac OS 9, Linux, Windows/Cygwin
pae2xml	Perl
middle C software toolkit - <i>optical music recognition</i>	Windows, Java, C/C++, Visual Basic
TaBazar - <i>a notation program for fretted instruments (like guitar, bass, banjo or mandolin) and percussion</i>	Windows

Programs importing MusicXML (.mxl, .xml) :

capella Media Producer	Windows
Capella playAlong	Windows
Capella	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows

<i>Harmony Assistant - music composition and notation editing.</i>	Mac OS 8.6, Mac OS 9.x, Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Melody Assistant</i>	Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Myriad Music Plug-In - for web browsers</i>	Mac OS X, Windows
<i>Score Perfect Education</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Professional</i>	Windows
<i>Score Perfect Standard</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>PriMus Classic - Music notation program</i>	Windows
<i>Dolet for Finale - MusicXML Plugin</i>	Windows/Finale, Mac OS X/Java/Finale
<i>Finale music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Finale Allegro music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
<i>Finale PrintMusic music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Finale Songwriter music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.3.9 or higher
<i>Finale NotePad music notation program</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Finale Reader music notation reader</i>	Windows, Macintosh OS X 10.4 or higher
<i>Dolet for Sibelius - MusicXML plugin</i>	Windows/ManuScript, Macintosh/ManuScript
<i>Sibelius - music notation software</i>	Windows, Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9, Mac OS X
<i>Sibelius Student - music notation software for</i>	Windows, Mac OS X

students	
Progression - Music Software for Guitar	Windows, Mac OS X
Notion - Music Notation Software	Mac OS X, Windows, Windows, Mac OS X
Lime Music Notation Software	Windows, Mac OS 7 through 9.x, Mac OS X
NoteEdit - free music score editor for Linux	C++, Linux
KGuitar	Posix, QT, KDE, TSE, Linux 2.2, Linux 2.4, FreeBSD 4.4 / STABLE, Solaris (gcc)
Personal Composer - music notation, MIDI, sequencing	Windows
Xenoage MusicXML Player	Java JRE 1.5.0, Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
pyScore	Python, Linux, Mac OS X, Windows
Guitar Pro OS X - tablature editor	Mac OS X
Guitar Pro - tablature editor	Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
Guitar Pro Linux - tablature editor	Linux
KlavarScript - klavar notation software	Windows
musicRAIN - music sheet viewer software	Macromedia Flash 8
MagicScore Maestro - Music Notation Software for Musicians	Windows
MagicScore Classic - Music Notation Software for Musicians	Windows

QuickScore Elite - Music Composition and Notation Software	Windows
Overture 4 - music notation software	Mac OS X, Windows
GVOX Encore - music notation software	Windows, Mac OS X
Obtiv Octava - music notation software	Windows
Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows
NoteAbility Pro - a professional music notation package for the Macintosh OS-X operating system	Mac OS X
NtEd - a musical score editor for Linux	Linux
noteflight - editing scores in the web browser	Web browser
xml2hum - MusicXML to Humdrum kern converter	Web form, Linux, Mac OS X
LilyPond - music notation program	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
scorio - editing scores in the web browser	Web browser
Speech Analyzer	Windows
ProxyMusic - MusicXML Java Library	Java 5 + JAXB 2, Java 6
GLOzart - piano visualization	Windows, OpenGL Utility Toolkit (GLUT)
NightXML - Translates MusicXML (timewise or partwise) files into Nightingale Notelist files and back	Java

mxml2nwcc - converts MusicXML to Noteworthy	Windows
THoTH - assist in the learning of improvisation and comping	Windows
GOODFEEL Braille Music Translator	Windows
MusicEase - music notation software	Windows
MuseBook Score - an electronic score solution which automatically turns page for you!	Windows
TablEdit - Tablatures editor and standard notation editor	Win16, Win32
The MusicXML Library (libmusicxml, C++)	C++ library, Mac OS X, Linux, Windows
SipXML - MusicXML to Score converter	Windows
Turandot - score writing program	Windows
BarFly - integrated text editor/player/viewer for abc music files	Mac OS 8.5 - 9.2, Mac OS X
xml2ly	XSLT
Igor engraver for music notation	Mac OS 8.5 or later (not Mac OS X), Windows, Wine, LISP
TaBazar - a notation program for fretted instruments (like guitar, bass, banjo or mandolin) and percussion	Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusicXML \(.mxl, .xml\)](#)

MusiqueXML

[MusiqueXML](#) by Francois Chastanet, Antoine Paolini and FX Vila is a simplified

derivat of [MusiXML](#) . It is part of a project to transform a music notation [Java](#) format to [SVG](#) .

Programs importing [MusiqueXML](#) :

MusiqueXML	Linux
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MusiqueXML](#)

GUIDO XML

GUIDO XML is an [Java](#) representation of the [GUIDO](#) model. The documentation is part of the [GUIDO XML kit](#).

Programs exporting [GUIDO XML](#) :

GUIDO XML Kit - C++ library	C++, Unix, Windows
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Programs importing [GUIDO XML](#) :

GUIDO XML Kit - C++ library	C++, Unix, Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [GUIDO XML](#)

WEDELMUSIC

WEDELMUSIC is university project and a comprehensive [Java](#) format with emphasis on DRM and multimedia integration. The official homepage is www.wedelmusic.org . To get the description of the XML format, go to www.wedelmusic.org and click on Downloads.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [WEDELMUSIC](#)

ChordML

[ChordML](#) is a simple [Java](#) application that focuses on lyrics and chord symbols, not scores. For some text books this is all you need.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [ChordML](#)

ChordQL

[ChordQL](#) is a query language for ChordML .

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [ChordQL](#)

NeumesXML

[NeumesXML](#) is an XML application for Neumes. It is defined as XML schema and as DTD.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [NeumesXML](#)

MEI

[MEI](#) is an [Java](#) application. It is defined as DTD and as schema.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MEI](#)

JMSL Score

JMSL Score is an extension of [JMSL](#) . See the [JMSL Score demo](#) where the information is stored in the SCORE input format.

Programs exporting [JMSL Score](#) :

JMSL - Java Music Specification Language	Java
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Programs importing [JMSL Score](#) :

JMSL - Java Music Specification Language	Java
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [JMSL Score](#)

minimusic

The [minimusic format](#) is not public at the moment, so I can only [cite](#) : We are currently working on a miniMusic developers kit including complete file format information for the purpose of allowing 3rd parties to develop utilities and applications

that will work with the miniMusic song database. It is a compact file format designed for the entry, editing, and playback requirements of the miniMusic NotePad application and the Palm platform, it is, on average, a smaller file than a Standard MIDI File, and contains more notation information.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [minimusic](#)

EMNML - Extensible Music Notation Markup Language

EMNML is described in [Developing A New Way To Transfer Sheet Music Via The Internet](#) by Eric Mosterd.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [EMNML - Extensible Music Notation Markup Language](#)

XMusic

[XMusic](#) is an [Java](#) Music notation language that bases on a [simple DTD](#) .

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [XMusic](#)

SongWrite

[SongWrite](#) is the native format of the tablature notation program [SongWrite](#) .

Programs exporting [SongWrite](#) :

LilyPond - music notation program	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE, Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
SongWrite - tablature (guitar partition) editor	Python, Tk

Programs importing [SongWrite](#) :

SongWrite - tablature (guitar partition) editor	Python, Tk
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [SongWrite](#)

Music Description Language (MDL)

Music Description Language by Perry Roland doesn't exist any more.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Music Description Language \(MDL\)](#)

Band In A Box file format (.sgu, .mgu, .mg1, .mg9)

Programs importing [Band In A Box file format \(.sgu, .mgu, .mg1, .mg9\)](#) :

MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Band In A Box file format \(.sgu, .mgu, .mg1, .mg9\)](#)

Bagpipe Music Writer file format (.bww)

Programs importing [Bagpipe Music Writer file format \(.bww\)](#) :

MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Bagpipe Music Writer file format \(.bww\)](#)

MuseScore file format (.msc, .mscx, .mscz)

This is the native file format of MuseScore.

- * .msc: the old extension that conflicts with a Microsoft extension. Not in use any more.
- * .mscx: the uncompressed XML file format.
- * .mscz: the gzipped .mscx format.

Programs exporting [MuseScore file format \(.msc, .mscx, .mscz\)](#) :

MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
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Programs importing [MuseScore file format \(.msc, .mscx, .mscz\)](#) :

MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [MuseScore file format \(.msc, .mscx, .mscz\)](#)

Virtual Musician Markup Language (VMML)

is described in [a paper](#) by Damien Tardieu.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Virtual Musician Markup Language \(VMML\)](#)

Music Catalog (MusiCat)

[MusiCat](#) is no format to store music or music notation itself but to store catalog entries that describes the music. A more general metaformat is the [RDF](#) standard.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Music Catalog \(MusiCat\)](#)

CapXML (.capx)

www.hausmusik.ch has several thousand music sheets in capXML file format and some of them in MusicXML file format. Have a look at it, it's worth it.

The CapXML format description comes with [Capella](#) .

Programs exporting [CapXML \(.capx\)](#) :

Capella	Windows
tonica fugata	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows
capella Media Producer	Windows
capella-scan	Windows
capella wave kit	Windows

Programs importing [CapXML \(.capx\)](#) :

Capella	Windows
tonica fugata	Windows
Capella 1200	Windows
capella Media Producer	Windows
Capella playAlong	Windows
Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows
CapToMusic - capella to MusicXML converter	Python

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [CapXML \(.capx\)](#)

Forte file format (.fnf)

.fnf is the proprietary file format of [Forte](#)

Programs exporting [Forte file format \(.fnf\)](#) :

Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows
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Programs importing [Forte file format \(.fnf\)](#) :

Forte - a notational, sequencing and recording software package	Windows
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Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Forte file format \(.fnf\)](#)

SVG: Scalable Vector Graphics

SVG is a graphics format that bases on [Java](#) . I see two applications of SVG in musical notation:

- * It is ideal to integrate music notation with small files with high quality into the

WWW (as a replacement for gif; jpeg isn't well suited for music notation anyhow) and to print the same data with high quality.

- * It is an ideal replacement for [music fonts](#) . Using [Java](#) , one can run programs on almost all platforms - but one can't rely that there is an installed music font or even that one is installable. Using SVG, a music notation program can bring along all necessary music notation symbols.

SVG is *defined* by the [World Wide Web Consortium](#)

SVG is a *preferred* format for pictures and vector graphics in [wikipedia.org](#) und [wikibooks.org](#) As soon as music notation programs and midi programs can export single measures and tablatures as SVG files, this files could be used as *high quality files* in many wiki projects.

If you know music notation programs that export to SVG, please let me know. Several people expressed interest in this topic.

There are so many SVG resources on the Web, I can't list them all.

- * [SVG phones](#)
- * [SVG Implementation and Resource Directory](#)
- * A current [compilation of vector graphic programs](#) supporting but not limited to SVG for Windows, Macs and Linux (August 2005).
- * [W3C](#) lists news, tools, articles on SVG.
- * Exploring the W3C's Scalable Vector Graphics language: [Sacre SVX](#) at [xml.com](#)
- * For programmers: [Apache Batik](#) in [Java](#) . This also contains an SVG viewer.

There is a change in the SVG draft of 29 June 2000: Made the 'unicode' attribute on the 'glyph' element #IMPLIED to allow for definition of glyphs which do not have corresponding code points in Unicode. Such glyphs can only be accessed via the 'altGlyph' facility.

This is good especially for music notation symbols, since the UNICODE people don't want graphical symbols inside UNICODE: Unicode is for symbols that are used in a text line. This is what the symbols 1D100 - 1D1FF are intended for. These symbols are not intended for notation symbols that are placed 2-dimensional in a graphical music notation editor.

Programs exporting [SVG: Scalable Vector Graphics](#) :

muscripts2svg Muscript to SVG converter	Perl
MuseScore	Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, C++
NtEd - a musical score editor for Linux	Linux
LilyPond - music notation program	Linux, Red Hat i386, LinuxPPC, SuSE,

	Shockware, Mandrake, Debian, Mac OS X, Darwin, NetBSD, Solaris, AIX, Windows
MusiqueXML	Linux
dvisvgm dvi (TeX) to SVG converter	Linux, Windows

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [SVG: Scalable Vector Graphics](#)

SMIL

[SMIL](#) (pronounce it "smile") stands for Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language and it synchronizes graphics and sound. It makes no sense to edit music notation in SMIL but SMIL is good for distributing graphics (scores) and sound in a platform independent way. It could be used to teach music notation over the web. There are big sites about SMIL, but they are somewhat confusing. [The SMIL tutorial](#) by HELIO is straightforward and clear.

W3C lists [SMIL players and tools](#) .

For a good introduction, read [A Realist's SMIL Manifesto](#) and [A Realist's SMIL Manifesto, Part II](#) by Fabio Arciniegas A.

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [SMIL](#)

Old music formats

An [old list](#) of even older music languages and music formats by William Alves. Most of them are not music notation specific:

MUSIC I, MUSIC II, MUSIC III, MUSIC IV, MUSIC 4B, MUSIC 4F, ORPHEUS, GROOVE , MUSIC V, MUSIC 360, MUSIC 6 ?, MUSIC 4BF, OUTPERFORM, SYMPFONICS, MUSIC 7, MUSIC7, MUSIC 10, MUSIC 11, POD6, MUS10, MOM, ORGANUM 1, ST, DCMP, LPC, PROD, SSP, POD7, MUSCMP, MUS8, PILE, invokator, SYNTA L-II, UPIC, autoklang, PLAY1, PLAY2, PLACOMP PLATO, TREE/COTREE, SSSP, SYN4B, INV, CHANT, MUSIC 1000, 4CED, Music Composition Language, CMUSIC, Algorithmic Music Language, Pla, SCRIPT, Flavors Band, Arctic, FORMES, HMSL, CSOUND, CMIX, MASC, FORMULA, MUSIGOL, AMPLE, Kyma, Adagio, Moxc, Canon, Fugue, Keynote, Max, Ravel, Symbolic Composer

Feedback (questions, suggestions, broken links): [Old music formats](#)

Musical notation codes

1. [Index](#)
2. [Music software](#)

1. Index

2. Music software