

# An Overview of Sibelius 5

Tom Rudolph, Presenter

[www.tomrudolph.com](http://www.tomrudolph.com)

## LEARNING RESOURCES:

1. Robin Hodson's quickstart:  
<http://www.sibelius.com/helpcenter/hintsandtips/index.html>
2. Watch the Sibelius Tutorial Videos available in Sibelius via the Help menu.
3. Use the built-in Reference from the Help menu.
4. Book: *Sibelius a Comprehensive Guide* by Rudolph and Leonard
5. Summer courses at Villanova and other TI:ME locations.
6. 12-week Sibelius online course: [www.berkleemusic.com](http://www.berkleemusic.com) (Tom Rudolph, author)

## A. BASIC NOTE ENTRY:

### **Basic Note entry A (Click notes into your score with a mouse)**

1. Press escape key (ESC)
2. Choose note value on keypad (box in bottom right of screen) with mouse
3. Click anywhere on any measure with mouse – keep clicking to add lots of notes
4. Use arrow keys to change pitches of any blue notes just added
5. Type Control+Z (*Command+Z*) if you make a mistake or press the arrow icon top left of the screen.
6. Press ESC when done

### **Basic Note entry B (Type notes into your score using computer keys)**

1. Press escape key (ESC)
2. Select the empty measure with mouse
3. Type the letter **N**,
4. Choose the note value on keypad (box in bottom right of screen)
5. Type **a, b, c, d, e, f** or **g** on computer keyboard (or **0** on the number pad for rests)
6. Use Control (*Command*) + arrow up or down to change octave of note
7. Press ESC when done

### **Basic Note entry C (Step time entry with a MIDI keyboard)**

1. Press escape key (ESC)
2. Select empty measure with mouse
3. Type **the letter N**
4. Choose note value (on Keypad on screen) with mouse – or use numeric keypad on right of computer keyboard to select note value
5. Play pitches on MIDI keyboard – type zero on number pad for rests
6. Press ESC when done.

### **Basic Note entry D (Live recording with a MIDI keyboard)**

1. Check/change your recording options first: go to Notes > Flexi-time options.
2. Press escape key (ESC)
3. Select empty measure with mouse
4. Type the letter **N**.
5. Click the round red Record button or Control-Shift F (*Command-Shift F*)
6. Play live, but listen carefully to the metronome
7. Press ESC to stop recording
8. Type Control-Z (*Command-Z*) to undo recording

### **Extra hints**

1. Use the R key to **repeat** selected notes/measures/passages
2. Use the numbers along the top of the computer's keyboard to **add pitches** to selected notes/measures/passages. Shift + a number adds pitches BELOW existing notes
3. To **paste** anything, select an object, note, measure or passage, move your mouse to a destination place, then Press Alt (*option*) + click with mouse to paste (windows users can click both sides of mouse button SIMULTANEOUSLY to paste anything)

### **B. SIBELIUS WORKSHEETS:**

1. In Sibelius, select File > Worksheet Creator. The first time to ask for Worksheets, it will take a while to load. After that it will only take a few seconds.
2. Select from several categories – there are 1700 worksheets to choose from.
3. When the selected document is in preview mode, press Previous to return and do another search.
4. If you press Done, Sibelius will create two files: a student file and an answer key. Both can be accessed from the Window menu and printed or edited as needed.
5. Check out the repertoire options. A lot of excellent material can simply be printed or used for compositions.

### **C. SIBELIUS ARRANGE FEATURE:**

1. To arrange music, first select the source material (for example a Bach Choral)
2. Copy the selection: Control (*command*)-C or choose Edit > Select > Select All.
3. Select the staves where you want to arrange the source material. This can be in the same score or in a different one.
4. Use the command: Control (*command*)-Shift V or select Notes > Arrange.
5. Choose the most appropriate Arrange feature such as Standard Arrangement.

### **D. SIBELIUS "IDEAS" (Sib. 5 only):**

1. Create or open a blank score (or you could create a template with some parts completed).
2. Click the light bulb icon in the menu bar
3. Enter a genre into the search area (Jazz, African, Classical, etc).
4. Roll the mouse over the ideas to get a basic description.
5. Click and hold the mouse button to audition an idea.
6. Select an Idea and copy it to the clipboard (CTRL (Command)+C)
7. Select the bar of the score where you want to paste the idea.
8. Paste the idea: CTRL (Command) + V.

### **E. OTHER SIBELIUS FEATURES:**

1. Plug-ins (such as Composing Tools and text)
2. Scoring to Video

### **F. TEACHING WITH SIBELIUS:**

1. Notation lessons in the Worksheet section of Sibelius
2. Lesson plans on websites:
  - a. [www.soundtree.com](http://www.soundtree.com)
  - b. [www.metmagazine.com](http://www.metmagazine.com),
  - c. [www.ti-me.org](http://www.ti-me.org) (members section)