

Music Player Live!

Ultimate MUSIC Summit

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Strategies for Learning Finale

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1. Overview: how to effectively learn Finale

- a. Start a Simple Project of your own (don't start a project you need tomorrow!)
 - i. View the QuickStart videos
 - ii. Use the Finale Help menu
- b. Sequential Approach (also for teaching Finale to students)
 - i. Complete one or more of the Finale tutorials
 - ii. Use the "complete an example" technique (used in the book: *Finale: An Easy Guide to Music Notation*)
- c. Basic understanding of the Finale tool structure.

2. Learning Strategies

- a. Complete a piece of music from scratch. Show how to solve a musical problem with the appropriate tool/feature.
- b. Start with a simple musical example such as Aura Lee
- c. Use the Setup Wizard
- d. Focus on just the necessary tools
- e. Use the keypad from the beginning. Learn to touch-type
- f. Use the Selection Tool - hit ESC and select to drag, edit, or double-click to find the appropriate tool.

3. The "New" Simple Entry Tool

- a. Variety of note entry options:
 - i. Letter keys, arrow keys, MIDI
- b. Contextual Menus: right-click (Win); CTRL-Click Mac (recommend Mac users purchase a 2-button mouse)

4. Use Short-cuts (Finale MetaTools)

- a. Inputting Articulations; Dynamics
- b. Mass Edit MetaTools (transpose)

5. Learn Staff Styles

- a. Jazz and Alternate notation:
 - i. chord slashes
 - ii. repeat bars
 - iii. instrument transpositions
 - iv. non-standard staves

6. Check-out Scanning

- a. Watch the QuickStart video
- b. SmartScore options
- c. How it works
 - i. Create a template
 - ii. Scan – copy and paste into template

7. Use Templates

- a. Existing templates that install with the program
- b. www.finalebook.com - Vince Leonard's templates
- c. Create your own templates (using the Setup Wizard) and save them to the templates folder for later use.
- d. Templates PDF chapter on the www.finalebook.com website

8. Stay on top of New Features (2006 and beyond)

- a. Review What's New > Finale Help Menu
- b. SoftSynth options in 2006 (via the Setup Wizard)
- c. SmartMusic font
 - i. Save in Audio format
- d. Garritan Personal Orchestra
- e. Native Instruments Players

9. Support Options

- a. MakeMusic! email macsupport@makemusic.com or winsupport@makemusic.com
- b. Call Finale tech support 952-937-9703
- c. Knowledge Base and Online Forum on www.finalemusic.com
- d. Join the Finale Listserv (mailing list) To join, send the one line: SUBSCRIBE finale to listserv@shsu.edu
- e. Purchase software from companies who offer education discounts & support: J.W. Pepper, SoundTree, others.
- f. Join TI:ME www.ti-me.org for lesson plans, magazines, support, Newsletters, Magazines and more.
- g. Books:
 - i. *Finale: An Easy Guide to Music Notation* (2005) by Rudolph/Leonard (Berklee Press)
 - ii. *The Finale Primer* (2005) by B. Purse (Backbeat Books)
 - iii. *Finale 2005 Power* by Mark Johnson (Thompson)
 - iv. *Finale for Composers* (2004) by Keith A Bajura (Phoebus Apollo Music)