

# Introduction to MC Musiceditor

release 6.0.0



*by*

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## 1. Making scores with MC Musiceditor: simple and professional!

MC Musiceditor was developed with only one purpose: to make life of musicians easier when making scores. Result is a very user friendly editor which makes professional scores without requiring specific knowledge (other than musical basics)!

MC Musiceditor uses a modification of the ABC-language – which was invented by Chris Walshaw. The ABC language is simple to use and can create music scores from basic melodies to a symphony score. Our modification of this language -let's name it MCM-language- makes it all easier.

## 2. Why you should use MC Musiceditor?

- It is very easy to use
- It has a very fast note-entry: you can make a score very quick (well, at least as fast as typing a text in your texteditor)
- Your sheet music (PDF) is of a high quality
- The software is donataware, so free to use and free of charge. But users are encouraged to make a small monetary donation (about 1,50 euro?).

## 3. MC Musiceditor and the MCM language

The MCM language works as follows: typing a C on your PC-keyboard will correspond with the note C as the A will correspond with the note A and the B with the note B etc.. It really is as simple as that!

### 3a. Notes and pitch

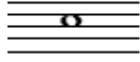
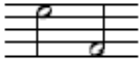
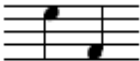



Notes however differ in pitch (i.e. register or octave), so the notation of notes must contain some more information. The methods to connect a note to a pitch are: lower case, upper case, apostroph or comma.

The diagram illustrates the mapping between musical notation and MCM language notation for the note C. It shows two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble clef staff has three notes: C (middle C), c (one octave below), and c' (one octave above). The bass clef staff has three notes: C (middle C), C, (one octave below), and C,, (two octaves below). A large bracket on the left side groups the two staves together.

Musical Notation	MCM Language Notation
Treble Clef: C (middle C)	C
Treble Clef: c (one octave below)	c
Treble Clef: c' (one octave above)	c'
Bass Clef: C (middle C)	C
Bass Clef: C, (one octave below)	C,
Bass Clef: C,, (two octaves below)	C,,

### 3b. Notes and duration

Notes differ in duration, they have a different length. Although the ABC language is simple, it could be more intuitive with respect to duration. We all know that a crotchet (= quarter note) can be represented as 1/4. So the crotchet C could be represented as C \* 1/4 (as in the Guido notation and Lilypond ). However, we don't like too much work...so a shorthand such as C4 is enough! Study the next table:

Notation	American	British	Our value	Our short cut
	Whole note	Semibreve	1	ALT + 1
	Half note	Minim	2	ALT + 2
	Quarter note	Crotchet	4	ALT + 4
	Eighth note	Quaver	8	ALT + 8
	Sixteenth note	Semiquaver	16	ALT + 6
	Thirty-second note	Demisemiquaver	32	ALT + 3

The next examples show the syntax used for duration by MC Musiceditor.

**C1                  D2                  E4                  F8                  G16    A32**

**C1.                  D2.                  E4.                  F8.                  G16.    A32.**

*Note: The standard ABC format relates duration to some variable value: it's not complicated, but it can be done so much easier.*

### 3c. Rests and duration

For the rests it is the same story: a rest with the duration of a minim (= half note) is coded as z2, a rest with the duration of a crotchet (= quarter note) as z4 etc. A dotted rest is of course coded in the same way: a rest with the duration of a dotted minim (= half note) is coded as z2. and a rest with the duration of a dotted crotchet (quarter note) as z4. etc.

Study the next examples carefully:

**z1                  z2                  z4                  z8                  z16    z32**

**z1.                  z2.                  z4.                  z8.                  z16.    z32.**

## 4. How to make a MCM file

### 4a. First steps

As said before, we don't make ABC-files but MCM-files, files with the extension .mcm and a different softwarecode which is the fastest and easiest way to make scores!

Start MC Musiceditor. You will see this:

The screenshot displays the MC Musiceditor 6.0.0 interface. At the top, the title bar reads "Previewer - MC Musiceditor 6.0.0 - www.mcmusiceditor.com - www.bestmusicteacher.com". Below the title bar is a navigation bar with "Page: 1 / 2" and a search field. The main area shows a musical score for "Pièce en C majeur" by "César Franck". The score is displayed on a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Below the score is a text editor window with the following content:

```

File Edit Format Export Tools Templates Settings Help
%%barnumbers 0
X:1
major
T:Pièce en C majeur
C:César Franck
M:C
L:mcm_default
K:C
V:1 def=treble
V:2 def=bass
V:3 def=bass
%%staves [ 1 ( 2 3) ]
%
%maat 1-4
V:1
G4 A4 e4 A4 | G4 A4 G4 E4 | G4 A4 e4 A4 | G4 A4 G4 E4 |
V:2
C1 - | C1 - | C1 - | C1 - |
V:3
E,4 F,4 G,4 F,4 | E,4 F,4 E,4 C,4 | E,4 F,4 G,4 F,4 | E,4 F,4 E,4 C,4 |
%
%maat 5-8
V:1
c4 d4 e4 d4 | c4 d4 G4 E4 | F4 G4 E4 G4 | F4 G4 E4 C4 |
V:2
C1 - | C1 - | G,1 - | G,2 - | E,4 |

```

At the bottom of the interface, there is a control panel with radio buttons for "Notesmode" and "Textmode", and buttons for "Save", "View PDF", "Play", and "Show preview".

Looking at this image, you can see the menu above (with menu-items: file, edit etc.), in the middle the default header of the mcm-file in the workarea (i.e. a simple texteditor with several standard options such as Copy, Cut, Replace: see Menu > Edit) and below a set of (radio)buttons which are mostly related to processing notes, barlines, accidentals, changing rhythmic values (dotted / undotted) and for saving and viewing the results. Some remarks:



There are three ways to enter notes:

1. **Method 1:** typing in text-mode (F3 or left mouse click in the work-area) which is very timeconsuming (think of typing)

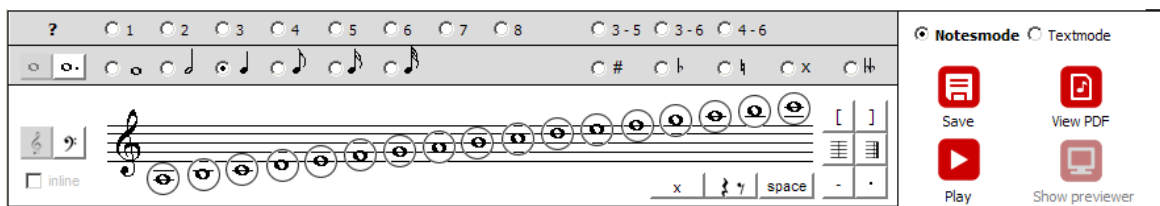
`_A,,4 D,4 =E,4. ^F,8 | G,2 ^C2 []` etc.

OR

2. **Method 2:** by clicking the buttons (notes mode necessary: F3 or right mouse click in the workarea); more or less a bad option, think of RSI-problems, but I use it sometimes)

OR

3. **Method 3:** using short cuts which is really fast; your computer has to do some work, so it takes a little time, but it is obviously the best option). The mode has to be then 'notes' (toggle key: F3 or right mouse click in the workarea or left mouseclick in the area of the circled notes or with the radiobuttons Notesmode/Textmode)



- Mode: notes or text; toggle: short cut F3
- Mode: undotted / dotted; toggle short cut F2
- Default rhythmic value; you can also change it by the short cuts ALT+1, ALT+2, ALT+4, ALT+8, ALT+6 and ALT+3

Let's enter the notes with method 3. Notice that the default rhythmic value is the quarter note.



## Minuet

*John the composer*



Nice isn't it? Print your PDF and you will get a high quality print!

First follow up:

- save this code: File > Save (or button Save) to Minuet (the filename will be Minuet.mcm)
- select this code: CTRL + A
- delete this code: menu Edit > Delete or simple short cut Del
- import the file: File > Open and select the file Minuet.mcm
- now you can change the imported code and finish your minuet...

Second follow up:

- export this music to midi: Menu > Export > Current code to midi...
- listen finally to the midi file...

## 5. Music for two or more voices

Suppose you would like compose some music for two voices. You only have to add some small codes (see Menu > Insert). Like this!

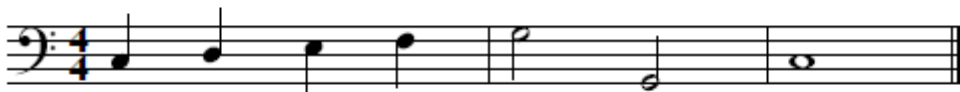
```
X: 1
%T: title
%C: composer
M: 4/4
L: mcm_default
K: C
V: 1 clef=treble
V: 2 clef=bass
%%staves [1 2]
V: 1
[K: treble]
C2 D2 | C1 []
V: 2
[K: bass]
C,2 G,2 | C,1 []
```



## How to enter notes in the bass-clef?

Simply, click Menu > Insert > [K: bass] or click F1; then you will see a staff with a bass-clef. You can enter notes with short cuts; again, move your cursor over a button and you find the short cut, if defined. See below: you will see that the code [K: treble] has been overruled by the following code [K: bass].

```
X:1
%T:title
%C:composer
M:4/4
L:mcm_default
K:C
[K:bass]
C,4 D,4 E,4 F,4 | G,2 G,,2 | C,1 |]
```



More examples: Menu > Help.

## 6. Save/Export your notes !

You can save/export (see menu: 'File > Save as' and menu: 'Export')

- mcm (for modifying your code etc. later when you've time...)
- PDF
- midi (for a sound file).

N.B. the results of converting mcm to midi are not always perfect. A few things to remember: don't use trills or repeat, that information is not exact enough for the computer. Experiment with midiconversion and you will hear expected and unexpected results.

## 7. Just a few more things to say...

There is a complete new world to discover for you. So, experiment with MC Musiceditor, study the Helpfile (Menu > Help) and you will create nearly all you want with music scores... This introduction and of course our MC Musiceditor will be extended and updated in the future. For now, happy composing!

A frequently asked question: I like to have note-examples for my paper, can MCM-files be exported to BMP, JPG etc.? In an earlier version of the MC Musiceditor we had this option, but now it is not necessary:

- Enter some code
- Export MCM to PDF: press button View (or F4)
- Make an image of the screen (Alt + PrtScr or use the snapshot-tool in Acrobat Reader: Tools > Select & Zoom > Snapshot tool)
- Paste this screendump to an image-editor (such as Irfanview -[www.irfanview.com](http://www.irfanview.com), which is an excellent freeware multimedia viewer, browser and converter. A great alternative: XnView - [www.xnview.org](http://www.xnview.org))
- Edit this image
- Save it to the fileformat you like (jpg, png etc.).

If you have any questions or complaints please send us an email: [info@mcmusiceditor.com](mailto:info@mcmusiceditor.com)

## 8. Thanks

MC Musiceditor is made by Reinier Maliepaard, psychologist, software engineer, musician and teacher at the ArtEZ Conservatorium Netherlands (music theory and music history). MC Musiceditor is based on a modification of the ABC-language of Chris Walshaw. Special thanks to Chris Walshaw (ABC language), Michael Methfessel (abc2ps), Jef Moine (abcm2ps), Aladdin Enterprises (gswin32c), James Allwright/Seymour Shlien (abc2midi, abc2abc), Krzysztof Kowalczyk (SumatraPDF), Hans-Peter Wickern (hpwColorMemo plugin) and Neosoft Corporation (Neobook) for their great contributions. Without them MC Musiceditor couldn't have been built.

Icons by Axialis Software (<http://www.axialis.com>)