The Hybrid Music System for the BBC Microcomputer

Music Publisher

Music Publisher is a powerful new software package that lets anyone create and print high-quality musical scores using a BBC Micro and low-cost printer. It does for printed music what the word processor does for text, allowing music to be entered, edited, stored and printed out in a variety of formats. But it doesn't stop there, because unlike previous programs, *Music Publisher* handles the complex process of score layout *entirely automatically*, applying the rules of notation to produce perfectly composed pages without user effort.

Music students may notate their compositions knowing that details such as stem direction, part alignment and beamed grouping will be guaranteed correct. Composers may enter music even faster than hand-writing it, and let the computer space notes, fit bars and justify staves to produce a neat 'fair copy' every time, even after alterations. Arrangers may print a conductor's full score and then extract the individual parts, reformatted to the high standards required by performers. Publishers may print a wide range of music, from string quartets to pop songs, in page formats up to 12 inches wide.

Music Publisher is also very easy to use. The user enters the score in text form using simple codes for the musical symbols and the program instantly lays out the current section of the staff, visible in a window above the text. Full layout and justification takes place automatically when the score is previewed or printed, and is very fast – about 2 seconds per line of music.

Because the program lets the user edit a true display of the score but avoids awkward manual positioning of the symbols, it is both easier to use and gives more accurate results than other music printing programs, including some costing five times as much.

Example reproduced at 65% of original size.– 'Pharaoh's Song' from 'Go Moses!' by Edward Davidson, courtesy of Smallfax Music.

Score symbols

- notes and rests from hemidemisemiquaver to semibreve
- chords and percussion
- ties, single and double dots, triplets
- sharp, flat and natural signs
- staccato and tenuto
- fermata, trill, arpeggio and pedalling
- leger lines, 8va, 15ma, 8va basso
- treble, alto, tenor and bass clefs
- multiple key signatures, seven sharps to seven flats
- multiple time signatures, 1/1 to 99/64
- repeats, simple and with alternative endings
- metronome markings with any note length (any number)
- one or two separate parts per staff
- up to six staves, with brace for piano parts
- up to four lines of text per part, e.g. four verses of lyrics
- dynamic markings such as pp, ff, cresc. etc. may be entered as a line of text
- score title text with unlimited number of lines, aligned left, right or centre

Automatic layout

- vertical alignment of simultaneous items in all parts
- rhythmic spacing of notes, rests, chords and percussion
- stems up and down, with manual override
- ties up and down, including multiple ties on chords
- beam grouping, with manual override
- beam positioning and sloping
- separation of close note-heads in chords and two parts
- alignment and staggering of sharps, flats and naturals
- positioning of lyric syllables under corresponding notes
- determination of number of bars in each score line, with manual override

- inclusion of bar numbers on every fifth bar
- high-resolution justification of score lines to required length
- determination of number of score lines to each page
- automatic extraction of staves of instrumental parts

User options

- main menu with 'point and click' selection of all operations
- easy text-based score format for accurate entry and editing
- simple letter-codes for all symbols, e.g. C,D,E for notes
- WYSIWYG score window shows each bar while editing
- WYSIWYG print preview shows exactly what will print
- best and draft print modes
- very fast score display – typically 2s per line of 3 parts
- fast printing – for an A4 page, typically 60 seconds in draft mode and 120 seconds in best mode
- start-bar setting, allowing preview and print from any bar
- load and save of scores from disc as standard text files
- unlimited number of separate scores per score file
- optional entry and editing of scores in VIEW or Wordwise

Capacities

- notes per score file:
  approximately 3500 on Model B, 4000 on Master
  For a typical vocal + piano score, this is 70/80 bars or 10/12 pages
- simultaneous notes in each part: 4
- simultaneous notes in all parts: 24
- notes per bar in all parts: 180 single or 288 with chords
- parts: 6
- parts per stave: 2
- text lines per staff: 8
- staves: 6
- bars per score: unlimited
- pages per score: unlimited

Package contents

- ROM (16K)
- Issue Disc (dual 40/80-track DFS format) for making an unlimited number of start-up discs
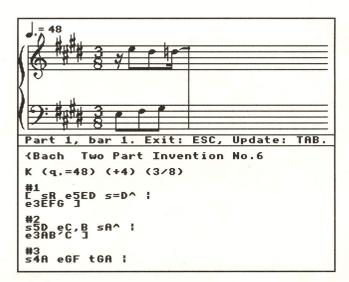- Labels for start-up discs
- User Guide

Additional items required

- BBC Microcomputer with monitor/TV and disc drive
- Epson-graphics compatible 9 or 24-pin printer
- One blank disc

Price – £60 + VAT.

HYBRID

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