

Dorico

Review Guide

Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH



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1 About

About Dorico

Dorico is a next-generation scoring application for Windows and macOS. Designed by musicians for musicians, it is sure to become the new choice of professional composers, arrangers, engravers, copyists and educators the world over. Combining incredible attention to detail, intuitive design and an unmatched feature set, Dorico raises the bar for scoring software.

Developed by an experienced team with more than 100 years' combined experience of designing and building world-class scoring software, and taking full advantage of more than 30 years of Steinberg expertise in building the most cutting-edge digital audio workstation software, Dorico has an impeccable pedigree.

About Dorico 1.0

Dorico 1.0 is the first major release of the new application, and includes SKUs for full retail licenses, educational licenses and crossgrade licenses for users of selected other scoring software.

Steinberg customers and partners have known for some time that we are working on a new scoring application, and the team has been running a blog about the development process for the new application.

Dorico 1.0 has a staggered announcement and launch schedule:

- The product's name was announced on May 17, 2016, and availability in the fourth quarter of 2016 was announced at the same time.
- Availability will be announced to distributors on September 26, 2016.
- Availability will be announced to customers on October 11, 2016.
- The downloadable SKUs will be available from October 19, 2016, and physical SKUs will be available shortly afterwards.

2 Feature highlights in Dorico 1.0

Streamlined workflow

Dorico has a simple, uncluttered interface that is intended to disappear and allow you to focus on the music. Designed to be comfortable and efficient on a laptop computer with a single display, but expanding effortlessly into the studio with multiple large displays, Dorico's single-window design puts all of the application's power within easy reach.

The interface is divided into five distinct modes — Setup, Write, Engrave, Play and Print — that are all one mouse tap away from the toolbar. Collapsible panels to the left, right and bottom of the window provide instant access to each mode's features, and can be hidden with a single click or key command to show as much music as possible on your display.

Shape your working environment to your own preferences: Dorico remembers how you set up your window for each project, and restores it each time you resume working. Open as many windows onto the same project as you like: keep one in Write mode to allow continued input and editing, and another in Play mode to allow easy tweaking of playback, or simply switch back and forth within the same window with a single click.

Switch swiftly between tabs for the conductor's score and instrumental parts, or split the window horizontally or vertically to allow you to work on both at the same time. Tear tabs off to move them to new windows, or to drag them between tab groups.

Dorico provides the environment to allow you to do your best work, and then gets out of your way.

High performance

Dorico has been built from the ground up with today's 64-bit computers in mind. Taking advantage of the multiple cores in high-performance CPUs, Dorico is fully multi-threaded, and will take advantage of all of your system's horsepower. Dorico's unique modular architecture allows multiple operations to be carried out in parallel across multiple cores, with the complex processing required to produce a score that both looks and sounds beautiful broken down into dozens of small tasks, many of them being carried out at the same time.

Furthermore, Dorico's architecture allows very efficient processing of edits and inputs to your project, with only the parts that have changed needing to be re-processed. The result is that Dorico is just as fast inputting into the longest of scores for huge symphony orchestra as it is writing for a solo instrument — and it doesn't get slower as your project gets larger.

Even on a high pixel density, high-resolution display, scrolling through the music is smooth as silk.

Project management features

Dorico handles multi-movement works — such as sonatas, symphonies, songbooks, musicals and operas — so easily and simply, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it until now.

In other scoring programs, each document is only designed to contain a single piece of music: if you need to start a new piece, song or movement, you have to trick the software into it, manually fixing bar numbers, editing clefs, key signatures and time signatures, and adding titles and other front matter yourself. You might even be forced into keeping different movements in separate documents because of performance degradation as the project gets larger, which creates problems later on when you need to produce instrumental parts from multiple documents.

Dorico solves all of these problems at a stroke. Each project file can contain as many independent pieces of music as necessary, called *flows*. Flows allow you to create works of any level of complexity, safe in the knowledge that each flow will be notated, laid out and handled separately, but allowing the easy creation of instrumental parts for multiple flows without breaking a sweat.

Dorico is designed with practical music-making in mind. When you write for live musicians, you need flexibility and control over instrument doublings, percussion layout and *divisi* passages. In Dorico, instruments belong to *players*, who are analogous to human beings in the real world. Instruments can be moved freely between players, or individual players can hold multiple instruments, so when you discover that smaller stage or pit requires you to combine two or more reed or percussion instruments onto a smaller number of players, it's the work of moments to reorganize your available forces in Dorico's powerful Setup mode.

Naturally, Dorico allows you to originate both the conductor's score and parts for individual players from the flows of music in your project as individual *layouts*. Changes made to the music in one layout are automatically reflected in any others in which that music appears, while allowing complete independence in terms of page and system appearance between every layout.

With such powerful control at your fingertips, married to fast and efficient batch printing and export features, taking control of the logistics of live performance has never been easier.

Flexible input and editing

Inputting music in Dorico is fast and easy. Use your keyboard or mouse to input notes, and learn ergonomic and mnemonic key commands to allow you to fly through note input faster than ever before.

Using easy to remember patterns of key commands (single, unmodified keys to set duration, accidental, articulation and pitch of notes; **Shift** with a

letter to create other types of items; and so on), you can enter practically every notation from the computer keyboard alone.

Dorico's approach to handling and notating rhythms is unique: each note is stored the way it sounds, not the way it is notated on the page. It has the freedom and flexibility to notate every note according to the changing musical context using its sophisticated understanding of the rules of meter, ensuring that the rhythm is always clearly communicated, no matter how complex the situation.

Dorico thinks about music the way it sounds, and not the way it is notated. In other scoring programs, once a note has been input with a particular duration and at a particular rhythmic position, there it stays: if you want to change its length or move it earlier or later in time, you generally have to work through multiple steps to cut and paste the music, and you will probably have to do some manual adjustment of other notes in nearby bars (for example, to remove unnecessary ties) afterwards to ensure the music remains notated as clearly and simply as possible.

Not with Dorico, though: simply engage Insert mode, then either insert new notes or edit existing ones, and see the rest of the music instantly updated, with all the rhythms automatically spelled out according to the rules of music theory. Even tuplets don't stand in its way: if you need to insert or delete music such that a tuplet will end up crossing a barline, Dorico handles it for you seamlessly, splitting the tuplet in two either side of the barline, and allowing it to be consolidated again into a single tuplet if the whole duration ends up on one side of a barline.

Dorico is also the only real-time scoring application with true support for open meter, allowing you to write your music with no time signature at all, and impose meter and barlines later on, or never, as you prefer!

Graphical excellence

Developed in consultation with experienced engravers working with some of the world's most demanding music publishers, the automatic engraving engine at the heart of Dorico produces the most elegant, beautiful results of any scoring application. Attention has been lavished on every detail of the appearance of the music, from the meticulous design of every symbol in the default Bravura font, to the precise placement rules for every notated element.

There are delightful details at every turn: ledger lines are automatically shortened to allow accidentals to their left to be positioned more closely; adjacent columns of accidentals are kerned to allow them to either be tucked together if their shapes allow it or to be padded a little if the abutting edges are too strongly vertical; slurs are allowed to pass through the stems of flats to prevent their curvature from becoming too extreme; ties are always positioned such that neither their end points nor the apex of their curve touch a stave line; stems are attached to noteheads with incredible precision to ensure they join perfectly, even at extreme magnification;

dynamics are optically centered under notes, providing exceptional visual balance; the list goes on and on.

Dorico's attention to detail in pursuit of emulating the finest traditions of the craft of music layout and engraving is second to none. Your music will simply look better, with less effort.

Impeccable note spacing

Dorico allows music to be spaced more tightly than other scoring programs, without undermining clarity and legibility. While other programs use a simplistic and conservative approach towards the width of each notated item, drawing a vertical line to the left and to the right of its furthest extent, Dorico creates a detailed axis-aligned profile to the left and to the right of each item, and considers whether or not any part of two abutting profiles would collide if given the ideal amount of rhythmic space. This means that other scoring programs will often leave unnecessary space between consecutive items, resulting in unsightly rhythmic distortion, but Dorico, on the other hand, produces spacing of beautiful consistency and balance every time.

Furthermore, Dorico makes it easy both to tweak rhythmic spacing in specific situations, and to create a note spacing change that will take effect from a particular rhythmic position until you specify otherwise, making it easy to tailor the spacing settings to the musical context and produce stable, elegant spacing throughout your project.

Not only does Dorico create detailed profiles to the left and to the right of every item to allow kerning or tucking of adjacent items, but it also creates a profile both above and below every item on every staff, which it not only uses to position items relative to each staff — for example, to ensure that slurs avoid collisions with noteheads, stems, and articulations within their arc — but also to position staves vertically in relation to each other. Dorico automatically adjusts the distance between staves within a system, and between systems on a page, to ensure that your page is spaced beautifully in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions.

Powerful page layout

Dorico makes it easy to produce a consistent and attractive layout for every project, thanks to its unique page layout features. Switch to Engrave mode, and its power is instantly revealed to you: frames for music, text, and graphics can be laid out in any arrangement for any kind of project.

Define preset arrangements of frames as master page definitions that can be applied again and again across multiple projects, even adapting dynamically and automatically to different page sizes. Dorico automatically chooses an appropriate master page for the first page of each layout, with music and text frames sized correctly to allow room for titles and other front matter.

Override a master page for a specific purpose — for example, to include a music example in a footnote in a critical edition, or an alternate guitar fill in a song — and see your edits at a glance in the right-hand Pages panel. Quickly apply a new master page, or remove an override, or change the page numbering, all from one simple panel.

Create text frames to provide performance instructions, dialog cues, critical commentary or extra verses of lyrics. Re-use the same text in multiple layouts by choosing from existing flows of text in your project. Powerful typographical controls are provided, with hierarchical text styles and support for OpenType features making it easy to set great-looking and consistent text across your project.

Include page-relative graphics such as logos in your master pages, and they will appear wherever that master page is used. If you need one-off graphics on just a single page, simply drag out a graphics frame and import your graphic right there.

Re-use the music from a single flow in multiple music frames by applying a filter — choose which flows to include, which players within that flow, and even which bars — to produce complex layouts such as a thematic index at the start of a book containing multiple works, or even *primo/secondo* layouts for four-hands piano music almost completely automatically!

Dorico aims to provide the tools to produce complex layouts entirely within a single application, rather than requiring multi-step workflows involving placing graphics exporting from a scoring application into a separate page layout application, saving time both on initial project setup and on subsequent revisions.

Semantic richness

Dorico has been designed to think about music the same way you do. Other scoring programs are organized around concepts that are very generic — symbols, text styles, line styles, expressions, articulations — forcing you to learn a whole new vocabulary on top of your musical knowledge to find your way around the software. You need to learn that an immediate dynamic instruction like *forte* is text, or an expression, while a gradual dynamic instruction like a *crescendo* hairpin is a line, or a smart shape.

In Dorico, a dynamic is called a dynamic: whether it's an immediate or a gradual dynamic, you'll find it in the same place in the interface, and you can create it with a consistent set of tools.

The same is true for every other kind of notation, from tempo marks to key signatures, from ornaments to playing techniques. Dorico's user interface is organized according to musical concepts, not according to concepts that are convenient for software designers. The result is software that thinks as musically as you do.

Set the rules, then break them

The way your music appears in Dorico is governed by hundreds of individual rules and settings, and a huge number can be changed to make your music look as individual as you are.

Layout options allow you to control the page size, margins, default stave size, note spacing and even score order of each of the layouts in your project individually.

Notation options affect how the music is notated — such as how notes should be split by ties or notated using one or more rhythm dots in order to make the rhythm as clear as possible, or how long an accidental should continue to change the pitch of a given note — and can be set independently for each flow.

Engraving options affect how the music looks graphically on the page. Everything from your preferred fonts, line thicknesses and distances between different types of notations right down to the smallest details, such as the minimum width of a ledger line in a run of fast notes, or by exactly how much the curvature of a tie should clear a staff line, or any one of dozens of other similar options.

Once you have set the default layout, notation and engraving options to suit your project or client's preferences, you don't have to stop there. Dorico's sophisticated Properties panel allows you to make dozens of other local adjustments for exceptional circumstances, simply by selecting the item you need to edit, and opening the bottom panel in Write or Engrave mode: flip a slur from one side of the stave to the other; change the alignment of a dynamic; adjust the ending aperture of an individual hairpin.

Finally, if neither setting defaults nor overriding a specific case gets you the appearance you need, you can simply nudge, tweak and edit the graphical position of any part of any object directly from within Engrave mode.

Dorico provides awesome automatic, default behavior, but it also provides hundreds of rules to allow you to change that behavior, and if you need to get right down to the tiniest of details, you can do that too.

World-class audio engine

Dorico includes the same world-class audio engine that powers Cubase and Nuendo, delivering a crystal-clear 32-bit floating-point resolution and 192 kHz sample rate, with a pristine sound quality that is the hallmark of the Cubase music production experience. Dorico supports all VST 3-compatible virtual instruments and effects, and includes the HALion sample engine and channel strip modules, including a top-end compressor and brickwall limiter. Dorico also supports VST Expression 2, making it simple to map playing techniques from notations in the score to virtual instrument playback, and VST Note Expression, for unparalleled per-note expressive control.

In Dorico's Play mode, you can make edits to the MIDI performance of your music using familiar piano roll and automation lane tools, and in the pop-out Mixer window, you can balance playback, add channel strip effects and control audio signal routing with flexibility that is unrivaled in scoring programs.

Great-sounding content

To make your projects sound incredible, Dorico includes more than 1,300 production-ready sounds from HALion Sonic SE 2, plus the complete HALion Symphonic Orchestra library. HSO includes more than 100 patches and combinations, including strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments with dozens of different playing techniques, covering all common articulations and bowings in unrivaled expressiveness and full dynamic range.

Dorico also includes more than two dozen professional-quality effects plugins, including channel strip effects, guitar amp modeling and the REVerence convolution reverb processor.

Printing and exporting graphics

Dorico's dedicated Print mode makes it fast and easy to print your project to your printer, or to export graphics in a variety of formats that you can either send to somebody else to print for you, or take into page layout software for further pre-press work.

Through a simple, unified user interface, you can set up a batch job to print or export the score and some or all of the instrumental parts from your project with the single click of a button. If your printer includes an automatic duplexing unit, Dorico can automatically create imposed booklets and print on both sides of each sheet of paper for you. When printing 2-up or spreads layouts, if your score or part has an odd number of pages, Dorico can even automatically print the odd final page onto a smaller sheet of paper for you.

Dorico can export music in PDF, SVG, PNG and TIFF formats. If you are producing music for professional printing or publication, the ability to create a true monochrome PDF (where black is specified as 100% Key, i.e. black ink) rather than one using the RGB color model (where black is specified as a "rich black," i.e. a combination of colored inks) means that you can send your graphics files to a professional printer with confidence. If you need to include colored objects in your music, of course Dorico can do that too.

Import and export

Projects often start or finish outside your scoring software. Dorico can import MusicXML and MIDI files from Cubase, other scoring programs and other DAWs. It can also export MusicXML files, allowing you to take projects started in Dorico into other applications.

When Dorico imports MusicXML files, the focus is on importing the musical symbols, not the precise details of appearance and positioning that may be encoded within. Coarse details, such as whether a slur should curve above or below the staff, or whether a hairpin should be drawn with a solid or dashed line, will be imported, but fine details, such as the positions of the control points that dictate the precise curvature of the slur, or the horizontal offsets of either end of the hairpin, are not imported. Dorico's sophisticated engraving engine is better able to produce music that looks as good as if you had input it directly into Dorico if it is not encumbered with this data.



3 Key features and reasons to buy

Key features

- Next-generation scoring software, designed by musicians for musicians
- Beautiful engraved output with unrivaled attention to detail
- Flexible note input and powerful editing
- Streamlined, single-window interface puts every tool at your fingertips
- Unlimited number of staves and movements, sections or pieces within the same project
- Create layouts for full scores and instrumental parts with independent page size, staff size, and system layout
- Use your computer keyboard or MIDI keyboard to input music quickly and efficiently
- Superior rhythmic spacing with automatic optical kerning
- Import and export in MusicXML, MIDI, and graphics formats
- Award-winning 32-bit floating-point Steinberg audio engine
- Compatible with VST 3 virtual instruments and effects processors
- More than 1,500 sounds, including HALion Sonic SE workstation and complete HALion Symphonic Orchestra library
- High-end VST effect processors, including channel strip modules (compressor, EQ, limiter) and convolution reverb

Reasons to crossgrade from Sibelius

Top 5

- Designed by the original core Sibelius development team, with the benefit of all their years of expertise. Experience their vision of how a next-generation scoring application should work, look and feel.
- No monthly subscription or annual plan required — buy the current version of Dorico and receive maintenance releases at no additional cost. You choose when you want to update to a future version, with simple, one-off upgrade pricing.
- Import in-progress projects into Dorico in MusicXML format, and continue to collaborate with other Sibelius users by exporting MusicXML files.
- Simple, streamlined user interface that fits comfortably on a single display, with fast keyboard access to every feature.
- Flexible input and editing, with superior handling of complex meters and tuplets, makes it quicker and easier to express your musical ideas.

Reasons to crossgrade from Finale

Top 5

- State-of-the-art 64-bit technology and multi-core performance from brand-new code, not straining under the weight of legacy features and fixes.
- The power and flexibility you demand, but in a friendlier, faster, modern and more efficient package.
- Import in-progress projects into Dorico via MusicXML, and collaborate with other Finale users by importing and exporting MusicXML files.
- Superior horizontal music and vertical stave/system spacing, including comprehensive collision avoidance and unique kerning capabilities, producing beautiful results by default.
- Experience the high-performance, world-class Cubase audio engine, including support for VST 3 instruments and effects.

Reasons to buy for composers and arrangers

Top 5

- Dorico has the most flexible note input and editing of any scoring application. Seamlessly insert music, change rhythms and durations, and Dorico will ensure the music is always notated clearly and correctly.
- However small your project starts and however large it ends up — from a simple song to a whole symphony, opera or show — Dorico's high performance will never slow you down.
- Dorico is the only scoring program with smart score preparation tools to intelligently handle multi-movement works and the automatic creation of condensed conductor's scores.
- Superior support for modern techniques of composition — including open meter, complex tuplets, microtonality and more besides — allow you to directly communicate your musical ideas, and reduce the number of workarounds necessary in other scoring software.
- Direct manipulation of MIDI data, including continuous controllers, keyswitches, and VST Expression, allows you to produce natural-sounding playback with ease, using either the provided HALion Symphonic Orchestra library, or any VST 3-compatible virtual instrument.
- Simple, streamlined user interface that fits comfortably on a single display, with fast keyboard access to every feature.

Reasons to buy for engravers and publishers

Top 5

- Dorico is designed to emulate the finest traditions of music engraved by master craftsmen, producing beautifully balanced and proportioned output by default.
- Superior horizontal music and vertical stave/system spacing, including comprehensive collision avoidance and unique kerning capabilities, make it faster to get to a great result.
- Behind Dorico's automatic behavior is a powerful engine that provides multiple levels of control, from global project notation and engraving settings down to local, situational rules, right down to purely graphical tweaks in its dedicated Engrave mode.
- Unique and powerful DTP-style page layout features, including resizable and chainable frames for music, text and graphics.
- Create multiple output formats with different combinations of instruments, page and stave sizes etc. within a single project file, then export press-ready true monochrome PDFs with a single click.

Reasons to buy for students and teachers

Top 5

- Simple, streamlined user interface that fits comfortably on a single display, with fast keyboard access to every feature, and no need for external keypads, MIDI devices etc. — ideal for student laptops.
- Dorico's rich understanding of music theory ensures that the music is always rendered clearly and unambiguously, no matter how complex the rhythmic or harmonic situation.
- Create assignments and learning materials quickly and easily with powerful and flexible page layout features.
- Superior support for modern techniques of composition — including open meter, complex tuplets, microtonality, and more besides — allow you to directly communicate your musical ideas, and reduce the number of workarounds necessary in other scoring software.
- High-performance audio engine and world-class virtual instruments help you to refine your musical ideas before the music hits the stand.

4 Product fact sheet

Language versions and support

Dorico will ship worldwide from a single multi-language package.

Please note that while the GUI is localized in all nine languages right from the start, the initial documentation will be in English only (and updated later on for other languages).

The user interface is localized in the following languages:

- English
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish
- Japanese
- Simplified Chinese
- Portuguese
- Russian

Components included

Dorico retail box

- Dorico installation DVD-ROMs (2 discs)
- Generic Quick Start Guide multi-language folded sheet
- Dorico license activation code
- USB-eLicenser

System requirements

64-bit Windows 10, Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan or macOS 12 Sierra. Intel or AMD dual core CPU. 8 GB RAM recommended (4 GB minimum). 12 GB free storage space. Display resolution of 1,920 x 1,280 or greater recommended (1,366 x 768 minimum). DVD-ROM drive for software installation using included optical media. OS-compatible audio hardware.

Internet connection required for activation, account setup and personal product registration. Additional downloads may be required for installation.

For recommended systems and support of future operating systems, please refer to the Support section on our web site www.steinberg.net.

eLicenser

Dorico uses the Soft-eLicenser, which allows the software to be activated on a single computer. To allow customers to use the software on more than one computer, the boxed SKUs include a USB-eLicenser. The customer can transfer the Dorico license from the Soft-Licenser to the USB-eLicenser, allowing the license to be used on another computer.

Dorico retail box

Product	€ SRP *
Dorico Retail GBDFIEJ	€579

* SRP includes 19% German VAT

Dorico competitive crossgrade box

Product	€ SRP *
Dorico CG GBDFIEJ	€299

* SRP includes 19% German VAT

Dorico competitive crossgrade is available to customers who hold a license for a retail version of the full Sibelius or Finale product (not one of the cut-down versions such as Sibelius First, Sibelius Student or Finale PrintMusic).

Download

Product	€ SRP *
DL Dorico Retail	€559
DL Dorico CG	€279

* SRP includes 19% German VAT