

Playback Tips

Text in Sibelius

It's important to understand that Sibelius "reads" and reacts accordingly to text objects in your score. Things like tempo markings, repeat signs, technique indications like "pizz" and "arco", and dynamics are all played back by Sibelius provided that they are entered in the right way. Here's a quick run-down of some of the important text instructions and how to enter them correctly:

Tempo markings

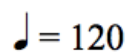
Sibelius will obey tempo words such as Andante, Presto and Largo when it plays back your score.

- Go to **Create > Text > Tempo**
- Click in the score where you'd like the tempo marking to appear and then type the word (or right-click and choose a word from the menu)



Metronome markings

- Go to **Create > Text > Metronome Mark**. Click in the score where you want the marking to appear.
- Right-click on the flashing cursor and choose a rhythmic value from the menu (ie. the crotchet)
- Type **space**, **=**, **space** and then type the number (ie. 120)



It can be useful to know that you can enter metronome markings into your score and then hide them. They won't print out on the score or parts, but they will affect the playback of the score.

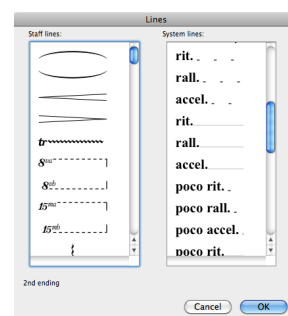
- To hide a metronome marking, select it and then go to **Edit > Hide or Show > Hide**



Rall, Rit, Accel.

The above indications are all found in the **Lines** menu (**Create > Lines**).

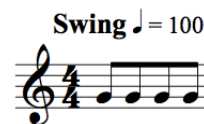
- Press **L** to open the **Lines** menu and choose the one you need from the list of System Lines on the right-hand side
- Click **OK** and click in the score where you'd like the rit or rall to appear
- Extend the line (if applicable) for the duration of the tempo change



Rhythmic Feel (Swing)

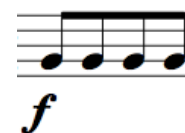
It's possible to write a jazz piece with straight quavers and have Sibelius play it back with a swing feel.

- Go to **Create > Text > Tempo** and click in your score where you'd like the Swing indication to appear
- Type the word **Swing**, or a variation. Sibelius recognises Light Swing, Heavy Swing, Swung, Swing 16ths, Triplet Swing, Bebop and Cool (plus a range of other non-Swing related words)
- Now when you record parts into your score, you can play them in with a swing feel. Sibelius will notate them as straight quavers and play them back with the swing feel



Dynamics

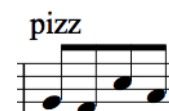
- Select the note and go to **Create > Text > Expression**
- A flashing cursor will appear. Hold down **Ctrl** (or **⌘**) and type the dynamic. Holding down **Ctrl** (**⌘**) means that the dynamic will appear bold



Technique markings

In Sibelius, Technique text is used to indicate performance instructions for a single instrument or voice.

- Select the first note and go to **Create > Text > Technique**
- A flashing cursor appears and you can type the word you need (ie. pizz or pizzicato, arco, mute, solo). You can also right-click and choose a word from the menu



Repeat barlines

- Select the barline
- Go to **Create > Barline > Start (or End) Repeat**



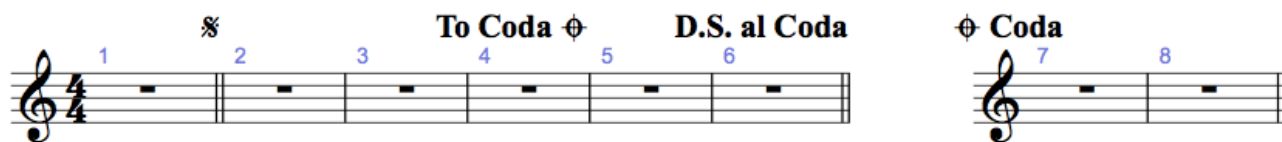
1st and 2nd time endings

- Go to **Create > Lines**
- Select the 1st time ending (or one of the other options)
- Click in the score where you'd like it to appear
- Adjust the position and the length using the handles



Codas

Using the example below, here are the steps for setting up a Coda with a D.S. al Coda instruction. Press **Escape** after each step to ensure you have nothing selected before moving on to the next step



- Separate the Coda from the rest of the piece by selecting the barline at the end of bar 6 and going to **Layout > Break > Split System**
- Select the barline at the end of bar 6 and add a double barline: **Create > Barline > Double**
- Go to **Create > Text > Other system text > Repeat (D.C., D.S., To Coda)**, click above the start of bar 7. A flashing cursor will appear. Right-click on the cursor and choose the **Coda symbol**, then type a **space** and the word **Coda**
- Go to **Create > Text > Other system text > Repeat (D.C., D.S., To Coda)**, click above the end of bar 6. Right-click on the flashing cursor and choose **D.S. al Coda**
- Go to **Create > Text > Other system text > Repeat (D.C., D.S., To Coda)**, click above the end of bar 4. Right-click on the flashing cursor and choose **To Coda**. Right-click again and choose the coda sign
- Go to **Create > Text > Other system text > Repeat (D.C., D.S., To Coda)**, click above the double barline at the end of bar 1. Right-click on the flashing cursor and choose the **segno**

Playback of notes

There are times when you might want a part of your score – say an instrumental solo – to be played the first time through a repeated section, but not during the subsequent passes.

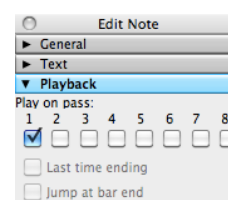


- Use Technique text to write **Solo 1st time** in the relevant place in the score
- To ensure the solo only plays on the second pass (play-through) of that section, select the notes/bars of the solo and then go to **Window > Properties**
- Click on the **Playback** tab
- Under **Play on pass**, make sure the only first box is checked (uncheck the remaining boxes)

Playback of Repeat Barlines

Sometimes you might need a repeated section to play back more than twice. For example, you can arrange for Sibelius to play back all 8 verses of a song.

- To do this, select the **End Repeat barline** and go to **Window > Properties**
- Click on the **Playback** tab
- Under **Play on Pass**, check boxes 1-7 (this means the repeated section will be played back 8 times)



Drum Parts

In Sibelius 6, you can enter one bar of the drum part and then use the **Repeat Bar** sign to fill in the rest of the pattern. In the bars that contain the Repeat Bar sign, Sibelius will hide the drum part so that it still plays back in your score.

- Enter one bar of the drum part
- Select the next bar, go to the 5th keypad layout and press the repeat bar sign (or the 2-bar repeat bar sign, or 4-bar repeat bar sign)



Changing Individual Instrument Sounds

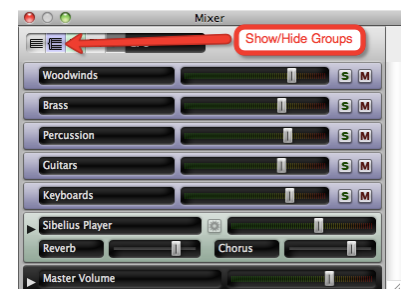
- Open the **Mixer** (press **M**)
- Click on the triangle to the left of the instrument name
- Click on the triangle to the right of the current instrument sound and choose a new sound from the available options



Using the Mixer

One of the last things you should do before exporting your score as an audio file is to make sure the balance (volume level) of instruments is OK throughout the score.

- You can change the balance by opening the **Mixer** (press **M**)
- Use the volume sliders for each instrument
- You can change the overall volume with the **Master Volume** slider at the bottom
- Turn on the **Show/Hide groups** button so you can alter the volume level of an entire instrumental family (ie. the Woodwinds) all at once
- Use the **Mute** or **Solo** buttons if you want to create a backing track without a specific instrumental part (ie. the voice part in a piano/vocal score)



Live Tempo

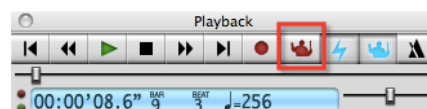
In Sibelius 6, the Live Tempo feature allows you to “conduct” your score to create subtle changes in tempo.

- Go to **Play > Calibrate Live Tempo**
- Choose your input method – ie. computer keyboard

- Click **Start Calibration**
- Tap along with the beat using your space bar
- Then go to **Play > Live Tempo Options** and choose your settings

Recording your Live Tempo

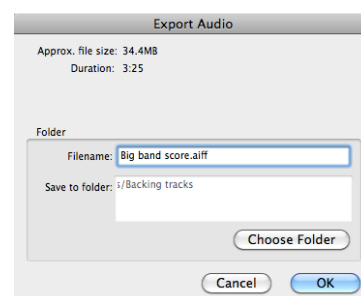
- Select a note in your score which is at the beginning of the section you'd like to "record" your conducting
- Press **Y** to ensure the playback line is at that location
- Click on the **Record Live Tempo** button on the Playback window
- Start tapping the space bar at the tempo you'd like your score to be played and continue on, speeding up or slowing down as necessary
- Whilst you're recording, the playback will be quite "lumpy" sounding – don't worry!



Export as an Audio file

When you're happy with the way your score is sounding, you're ready to export your score as an audio file so that you can share it with the members of your ensemble (either in its entirety, so as a Karaoke-style backing track).

- Rewind the playback line to the beginning of your score
- If necessary, open the **Mixer** and mute any instruments you don't want playing back in the backing track
- Click on the **Export Audio** button on the toolbar (it looks like a CD)
- Give the file a name and choose where to save it
- Click **OK**
- Sibelius will "play through" the file and record it as an audio file



The resulting file will be a WAV (Windows) or AIFF (Mac) file and it will be quite large in size. If you'd like to convert it to a smaller mp3 file, do the following:

- Open iTunes
- Locate the file in Windows Explorer or the Mac Finder window
- Drag the song into the iTunes window
- Once it's in iTunes, right-click on the title and choose **Convert to mp3**

Make a Webpage

- Go to File > Export > Scorch Web Page
- Give the file a name, choose where to save it and click OK
- In the window that opens, choose the template and size (leave the settings as they are if you're unsure)
- Check the Allow printing and saving box if you want to allow these options
- Sibelius will create a web page in the location you chose.