

# Notation Programs Side by Side



*Floyd Richmond*  
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# A Side by Side Comparison of Notation Programs

- ❖ Finale
- ❖ Sibelius
- ❖ Notion
- ❖ Noteflight
- ❖ MuseScore
- ❖ Flat.io

# History

- ❖ Finale - Late 80s
- ❖ Sibelius - Mid-90s
- ❖ Noteflight - Mid 00s
- ❖ Notion - Late 00s
- ❖ MuseScore -
- ❖ Flat.io

# Common Features

- ❖ Setup-Assistant
- ❖ Templates
- ❖ Different Musical Fonts
- ❖ House Styles
- ❖ Score Layout
- ❖ Pro-Level Output
- ❖ Used by Publishers

# Common Features

- ❖ NOTE ENTRY
  - ❖ Point and click
  - ❖ Type Into the Score
  - ❖ MIDI input
    - ❖ Step-time entry
    - ❖ Real-time entry
  - ❖ Scanning

# Common Features

## ❖ FILE FORMATS SUPPORTED

❖ Native

❖ XML (<http://www.musicxml.com/music-in-musicxml/>)

❖ MIDI

# Unique Features of Finale

- ❖ SmartMusic
- ❖ Free version - NotePad
- ❖ Intermediate versions
- ❖ SmartMusic instruments (and other virtual instruments)
- ❖ They own (and freely share) XML technology
- ❖ Comes with “lite” scanning software

# Unique Features of Sibelius

- ❖ ProTools notation
- ❖ Built-in and external virtual instruments
- ❖ Score distribution system - Sibelius Showcase
- ❖ iPad Reader
- ❖ Web Plug-In (Scortch) . . .
- ❖ Comes with “lite” scanning software



# Unique Features of NoteFlight

- ❖ Cloud-based
  - ❖ Pros:
    - ❖ Runs in any browser or OS,
    - ❖ No Installation required,
    - ❖ Always updated,
    - ❖ Available with classroom option.
  - ❖ Cons: Requires web connection
- ❖ iPad Version
- ❖ Approachable by students

# Unique Features of Notion

- ❖ Outstanding virtual instruments
- ❖ iPad Version
- ❖ SBO 2016 Most Innovative Teaching Tool

# Unique Features of MuseScore

❖ Free!

# Unique Features of Flat.io

- ❖ By Google - like Google Docs
- ❖ Collaborative Composition

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