



# Score Reader

Your Musical Journey Begins

Developed by: Michael Laviola

# Score Reader User Manual

## Welcome to the Score Reader User Manual

Score Reader is a sheet music reader, library manager, annotation workspace, and live performance tool designed to help musicians organize, prepare, and perform with confidence. Whether you are managing a personal music collection, creating songbooks for rehearsals, building set lists for services or concerts, or marking up scores for practice, Score Reader is built to keep everything in one place with a workflow that feels natural across Apple devices.

At its core, Score Reader provides a structured, musician-friendly way to manage your music library. You can import and organize scores, group them into songbooks, create set lists for specific events, and move quickly between library browsing and performance mode. The app is designed for real-world musical use, from individual practice sessions to live ensemble settings where fast access, reliability, and clarity matter. Rather than treating your files as a loose collection of documents, Score Reader helps transform them into a practical, performance-ready library.

Score Reader also includes a powerful annotation system so you can personalize your music exactly the way you need. You can add text, musical symbols, chord markings, staff-based elements, and other visual notes directly onto your scores. Recent improvements make this experience even more capable, with features such as chord-specific annotation tools, a floating chord palette, multi-selection, marquee selection, grouped movement, and alignment controls. Together, these tools make it easier to keep annotations clean, readable, and consistent, especially when preparing music for repeated use or shared performance settings.

For users who work with set lists, Score Reader goes beyond simple playlists. Set lists can include actual scores as well as generated text-based items such as dividers and placeholders, allowing you to structure a performance or service exactly as needed. Songbooks and set lists are designed to work together, and the app supports more advanced organization through folders, including drag-and-drop folder management in the sidebar. This makes it easier to maintain large libraries and keep seasonal, event-based, or ensemble-specific material properly arranged.

The app also includes practice-oriented tools that extend beyond score viewing. Depending on your workflow, you may use built-in tools such as annotations, page navigation, jump links, practice views, the piano tool, metronome-related audio behavior, and a guitar tuner. These tools are designed to cooperate with one another more reliably so that audio and microphone-related features behave consistently and do not interfere with each other during use.

Score Reader is also designed with performance reliability in mind. Features such as improved file handling, stronger set list persistence, more robust import behavior, improved annotation rendering, and clearer onboarding all support the same goal: helping you trust the app when it matters most. Whether you are opening a single score, exporting native files, sharing materials, or preparing an entire songbook for a group, Score Reader is intended to reduce friction and keep your attention on the music rather than the technology.

Across iPad, Mac, and other supported Apple platforms, Score Reader adapts its interface to fit different screen sizes and usage styles while preserving the same core experience. The app supports both touch-friendly and desktop-friendly workflows, including platform-appropriate controls for selection, navigation, and advanced interaction. From quiet practice at home to fast-paced live use, Score Reader is built to support musicians who need both flexibility and stability.

## Score Reader User Manual

This manual will guide you through the main features of Score Reader, including library organization, songbooks, set lists, annotations, metadata editing, practice tools, sharing, settings, and performance workflows. Whether you are just getting started or looking to take fuller advantage of the app's more advanced features, this guide will help you understand how Score Reader works and how to make it part of your musical routine.

## Score Reader User Manual

Overview	5
File Types and Key Concepts	5
First-Time Setup and Onboarding	6
Interface Overview	7
Songbook Picker	7
Reader View	7
Library Management	8
Songbooks and Sharing	8
Creating and Importing Scores	9
Search and Filters	9
Score Details and Metadata	10
Reading a Score	10
Annotations	10
Spotlight	10
Jump Links and Page Tools	11
Set Lists	11
Practice Tools	11
Keyboard and Page Turners	11
Display and External Screens	12
Linked Performance	12
Settings	12
Troubleshooting	12
Live Performance Tips	12
Everyday Workflows	13
Final Notes	13

## Overview

Score Reader is built around a simple idea: bring your entire music workflow into one place. From organizing your library to preparing annotations and performing live, every part of the experience is designed to be fast, reliable, and musician-focused.

Unlike traditional sheet music apps, Score Reader is designed as a complete system for managing and performing music. It combines structured organization, powerful annotation tools, and performance-ready features into a single, cohesive workflow across iOS, iPadOS, and macOS.

With Score Reader, you can organize your music into structured songbooks and folders, read scores in a clean and distraction-free interface, annotate pages with text, chords, and musical symbols, and build set lists for services, rehearsals, performances, or practice sessions. You can also use live performance tools such as Spotlight and jump links for fast navigation, while sharing and syncing music across your own devices or with collaborators.

Whether you are preparing at home, rehearsing with others, or performing live, Score Reader helps keep your music organized, accessible, and ready when you need it.

## File Types and Key Concepts

### Supported File Types

Score Reader supports both standard and enhanced file formats to give you flexibility while also unlocking advanced features within the app.

PDF files are the most common format for sheet music. They can be imported from external sources and are fully supported for reading, navigation, and annotation within Score Reader.

The .score format is the native Score Reader file type. In addition to storing the original score, it can preserve annotations, layout adjustments, and metadata such as composer, key, and tags. This allows your work to remain intact exactly as intended and makes it easier to continue using or sharing enhanced scores with other Score Reader users.

The .scoreset format is a Score Reader set list archive. It packages together a set list, its structure, including order, dividers, and placeholders, and any embedded content needed to recreate the performance setup on another device. This makes it especially useful for sharing complete song sets with others.

### Key Concepts

Understanding a few core concepts will help you organize your music and navigate the app more effectively.

A Songbook is the main way to organize your library. It functions like a structured folder and can contain scores, set lists, and subfolders. Songbooks can be used to group music by purpose, such as by artist, event, service, genre, project, or season.

## Score Reader User Manual

A Score represents a single piece of music. This may be a standard PDF or a .score file that includes additional Score Reader enhancements. Scores can be viewed, annotated, tagged, and added to set lists.

A Set List is an ordered collection of scores intended for performance or practice. In addition to musical content, set lists can also include non-musical items such as dividers or text placeholders, helping you structure a service or program more clearly. They are optimized for quick navigation during live use.

A Shared Songbook allows you to collaborate with others by sharing a collection of scores and set lists. This can be especially useful for bands, worship teams, or ensembles where multiple people need access to the same material. Shared songbooks help keep everyone aligned while preserving a consistent organizational structure.

### How These Work Together

Score Reader is designed around a simple hierarchy. Songbooks organize your library, scores are the individual pieces inside those songbooks, and set lists arrange those scores into a usable performance order.

For example, you might keep all of your music for a recurring service inside a songbook such as Sunday Masses, store the individual songs as scores within that songbook, and then build a set list such as Third Sunday of Easter that pulls those pieces together in the exact sequence you need.

This structure keeps your library flexible for everyday organization while remaining dependable and efficient during live performance.

### First-Time Setup and Onboarding

When you first launch Score Reader, a short onboarding experience guides you through the initial setup and introduces the main workflow of the app.

During onboarding, you will first choose a library location. This determines where your music library will be stored, such as in iCloud Drive, another provider, or local storage. Your choice affects how files are saved, accessed, and, in some cases, synchronized across devices.

Next, you will create your first songbook. Songbooks serve as the foundation of your library and help structure both your scores and your set lists. Creating one early in the setup process helps you begin organizing your music in a meaningful way from the start.

The onboarding experience also introduces the main features of Score Reader, including navigation, annotations, set lists, and performance tools. The goal is to give you a practical overview so you can begin using the app with confidence.

The onboarding flow is designed to be quick, flexible, and easy.

# Interface Overview

Score Reader is organized into two primary areas, designed to separate library management from performance workflows while keeping navigation simple and intuitive.

The Songs area is your music library. This is where you browse and manage your scores and songbooks. You can organize music into folders, review metadata, search your collection, and prepare your library for practice or live use.

The Set Lists area is your performance workspace. This is where you build and run set lists for rehearsals, services, concerts, or other live situations. Set lists allow you to place songs in order, add structure through dividers or placeholders, and navigate through material quickly during use.

Together, these two areas allow you to prepare your music in advance and transition smoothly into performance mode when needed.

## Songbook Picker

At the top of the screen, the Songbook Picker lets you control which scores are visible in your library.

You can choose to view All Songbooks, which displays every score across your entire library. You can also focus on an individual songbook, which narrows the view to a single collection. If needed, you can select multiple songbooks at once and combine them into a unified view.

This makes it easier to narrow your library based on your current context, whether you are practicing, organizing content, or preparing for a specific event.

## Reader View

When you open a score, Reader View becomes the main workspace and provides a focused, full-screen reading experience.

Within Reader View, the app keeps essential tools close at hand. You can access annotation tools for marking up the page, jump links for moving quickly between sections, page tools for layout and page management, practice tools for rehearsal-oriented use, and settings for adjusting the reading experience.

Reader View is designed to keep everything you need accessible while minimizing distractions, making it suitable for both practice and live performance.

# Library Management

Your Score Reader library can be stored in iCloud Drive, another file provider, or locally on your device. This flexibility allows you to choose the storage approach that best fits your workflow.

From the Library view, you can create, rename, or delete songbooks, move and organize scores between songbooks, edit metadata such as title, composer, or notes, and refresh library access if files or providers change. These tools help you keep your music organized, tidy, and easy to access across your devices.

When using iCloud Drive, it is recommended that you keep your files downloaded to the device, especially before rehearsals or performances. This can improve responsiveness and help ensure offline access when needed.

## Changing Library Location

You can change where your library is stored at any time. When doing so, Score Reader gives you two options for how to handle your existing files.

Choosing Move Scores transfers your current library to the new location, helping preserve your existing collection and structure. Choosing Start Fresh creates a new, empty library in the selected location. This can be useful if you want to begin with a clean setup.

# Songbooks and Sharing

Songbooks help you organize your music into meaningful groups, making it easier to find and manage your scores over time. Many users choose to organize songbooks by artist, event, service, genre, or project, but the system is flexible enough to support whatever structure best matches your workflow.

For example, you might create separate songbooks for a choir season, a recurring Sunday service, a particular ensemble, or a recording project. By grouping related content together, songbooks make it easier to manage large libraries and prepare material more efficiently.

## Sharing Songbooks

Score Reader also makes collaboration easier by allowing you to share entire songbooks with others. You can share a songbook to invite others to access and collaborate on it, or you can add a shared songbook that has been provided to you.

Shared songbooks are especially useful in group settings where multiple people need access to the same music collection. At the same time, your private songbooks remain separate and visible only to you, allowing you to maintain personal organization alongside shared collaboration.

# Creating and Importing Scores

Score Reader allows you to add new content in several ways using the Add button.

You can create a New Score, which is useful when starting from scratch. New scores can be blank or staff-based, making them suitable for notes, composition, or custom preparation.

You can also use Scan Score to digitize printed sheet music with the built-in scanner. This provides a quick way to bring paper music into your digital library and convert it into a usable score.

The Import from Files option allows you to bring in existing .score or PDF files from the Files app or other connected providers.

## Importing on macOS and iOS

In addition to in-app import tools, Score Reader also supports more direct import workflows on macOS and iOS.

On macOS, you can drag PDFs or folders directly into the app to import them. On both macOS and iOS, you can also place PDFs directly into your Score Reader library folder, such as:

iCloud Drive → Score Reader → Songbooks → Personal Songbooks

When PDFs are placed into the Score Reader library path, they are automatically recognized by the app, converted into .score files, indexed, and added to your library. This provides a flexible workflow for users who prefer to manage files directly through the file system.

## Search and Filters

Score Reader includes search and filtering tools to help you locate music quickly, especially as your library grows.

You can search by title and use Show Filters to narrow results further. Available filters may include recently played items, recently added items, composer, arranger, key, tags, tempo, and notes.

Using songbooks together with search and filters can make large libraries much easier to navigate. For best results, it is helpful to combine clear songbook organization with detailed metadata.

# Score Details and Metadata

Each score in Score Reader can include metadata such as title, composer, key, tempo, tags, and notes. This information helps make your library more useful and easier to search.

In addition to musical metadata, you can also view practical file details such as page count, file name, and dates. Keeping score information complete and accurate improves both organization and search quality, especially over time as your library expands.

# Reading a Score

The reader is designed with performance in mind. You can swipe or use controls to change pages, access tools from the top bar, and navigate within set lists while remaining focused on the music.

Score Reader also supports external keyboards, page turner pedals, Spotlight, and linked sessions, making it adaptable to a wide range of practice and stage setups.

# Annotations

To enter annotation mode, tap the pencil icon. Once annotation mode is active, you can move the annotation toolbar by dragging it, allowing you to position it wherever it feels most convenient.

Annotation tools include pen, pencil, marker, text, musical symbols, staff tools, eraser, and move controls. You can also use actions such as undo, redo, clear page, cancel to discard changes, and done to save your changes.

These tools make it possible to personalize music in a way that suits your own performance and rehearsal needs, while keeping annotations clear and organized.

# Spotlight

Spotlight highlights a focused area of the score while dimming the rest of the page. This can be useful for following lines of music more closely, guiding attention during rehearsal, or showing other musicians where the group is and where it is heading next.

Spotlight can be customized with options such as size, brightness, border and glow, and auto-hide timing. These settings allow you to adjust the feature to match your environment and preferences.

On supported Face ID devices, an experimental Eye Tracking option is also available in beta. This feature includes quick and calibrated modes, along with options such as double-blink toggling. Because it is still highly experimental, performance may vary.

### Jump Links and Page Tools

Jump Links provide a fast way to move between sections of music, such as repeats, codas, or other performance destinations. They work together with the Spotlight feature to make navigation more immediate and visually guided during live use.

Page Tools give you more control over the structure and layout of a score. You can reorder pages, adjust layout, crop pages, add blank pages, insert pages from the library, add pages from a PDF, and split a larger document into separate songs.

The Split into Songs feature is especially useful when working with bulk scans or combined files. It allows you to take one large score containing multiple pieces, define where each new song begins, and rename those sections accordingly. This can save considerable time when preparing scanned music for long-term organization.

### Set Lists

Set lists are designed to organize music for performance. In Score Reader, they can be more than a simple list of songs. You can create set lists, folders, and nested folders, allowing for a more structured and flexible arrangement of performance material.

Within a set list, you can add songs, dividers, and placeholders. This allows you to build a sequence that reflects not only musical order but also the practical structure of a rehearsal, concert, or service.

Set lists can also be exported in different forms, including as an archive or as a combined PDF. These options are useful for sharing, printing, or preserving a complete performance arrangement.

### Practice Tools

Score Reader includes practice tools designed to support rehearsal and preparation. These include a metronome for tempo control, a piano tool for quick musical reference, quick recording for capturing practice sessions, and a guitar tuner for instrument setup.

Together, these tools extend the app beyond passive score viewing and make it more useful as an active practice environment.

### Keyboard and Page Turners

Score Reader supports a variety of hands-free and hardware-assisted navigation methods, including external keyboards, Bluetooth pedals, and head-turn gestures on iPad.

By default, the right arrow key or space bar moves to the next page, while the left arrow key moves to the previous page. These controls can be customized in Settings → Page Turner, allowing you to tailor navigation to your own setup.

# Display and External Screens

Display-related features can be configured in Settings → Display Settings. Available options include keeping the screen awake, showing a clock overlay, and managing external display behavior.

These features are especially useful for stage setups, dual-screen performance arrangements, or rehearsals where timing and visibility are important.

# Linked Performance

Linked Performance allows multiple devices to synchronize in real time. In this setup, one device acts as the host and controls navigation, while follower devices stay in sync. This can be useful in ensemble settings where multiple musicians need to move through the same material together.

Linked Performance can operate over Wi-Fi or Bluetooth and is available through Settings → Linked Performance.

# Settings

The Settings area contains many of the controls that shape how Score Reader behaves. Key sections include library settings, display settings, Spotlight options, page turner controls, and Linked Performance.

Before rehearsals or performances, it is also a good idea to use Download All from iCloud if needed, so your files remain available offline.

# Troubleshooting

The Debug & Logging section provides tools that can help when investigating problems or working with support. From here, you can enable verbose logging, export logs, and review information related to sync or other issues.

These tools are especially helpful when diagnosing unexpected behavior or gathering information for support purposes.

# Live Performance Tips

Before a performance, it is a good idea to prepare your setup in advance. Make sure all required files are downloaded locally, enable Keep Screen Awake, test your page turner or navigation controls, open the correct set list, and verify that features such as Spotlight and jump links are working as expected.

## Score Reader User Manual

A few simple preparation steps can make live use more dependable and reduce the chance of interruptions when performance begins.

### Everyday Workflows

A typical library-building workflow might begin with creating a songbook, importing or scanning music, adding metadata, and then annotating scores as needed. Over time, this creates a more useful and searchable collection.

Preparing for a performance often involves building a set list, adding songs and structural items such as dividers, making sure files are downloaded, and testing your controls before the event.

When sharing music with a band or group, a common workflow is to organize a songbook, share it with collaborators, and then use Linked Performance if synchronized live navigation is needed.

These everyday workflows reflect the way Score Reader is designed to be used: as a practical system for organizing, preparing, and performing music.

### Final Notes

Score Reader works best when its features are used together. Clear songbook organization, detailed metadata, well-prepared set lists, and reliable performance tools all contribute to a smoother musical workflow.

When combined, these elements create a fast, dependable, and stage-ready system that helps keep your attention where it belongs: on the music.