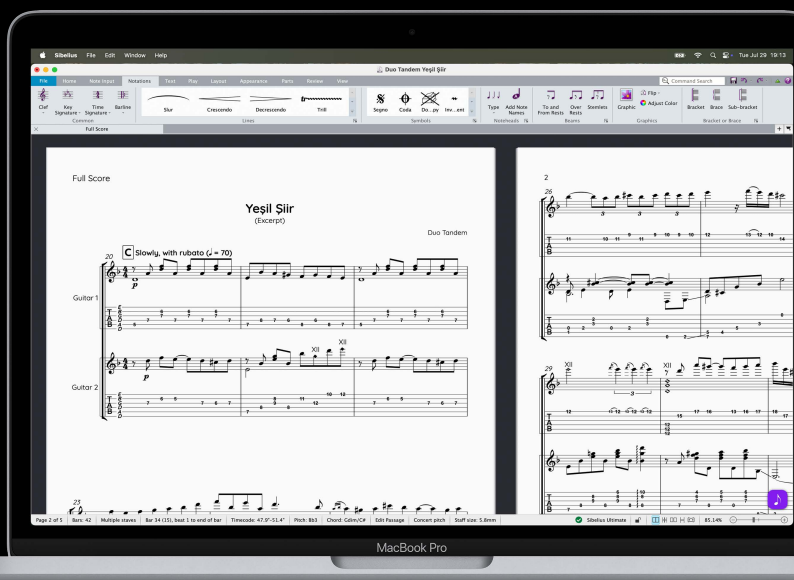




What's New in Sibelius

versions 2025.4 to 2025.10



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1 Introduction

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2025.10

Sibelius 2025.10 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- Improved first time user experience
- New Courtesy Time Signatures options
- Preferences for Launch Options
- Improved color contrast for the Ribbon
- Manuscript update

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2025.7

Sibelius 2025.7 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- [Improvements to Sibelius Feature Sets \(Tiers\):](#)
 - Sibelius First now supports up to 8 staves.
 - Sibelius Artist now supports up to 24 staves.
 - Dynamic Feature Sets (Tiers).
- [Auto Reset Note Spacing Option](#)
- [Status Bar User Interface Improvements](#)
- [Improved File Browser on Android Devices](#)

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2025.4

Sibelius 2025.4 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- Staff Filters (Sibelius Ultimate only)

System Requirements and Compatibility Information

Avid® can only assure compatibility and provide support for hardware and software it has tested and approved.

Avid lets you install an endpoint detection and response solution on your Sibelius client. While Avid does not support any specific solution, you can find general guidelines and information related to CrowdStrike Falcon on the following Avid Knowledge Base page:

https://kb.avid.com/articles/en_US/troubleshooting/en239659

For complete system requirements and a list of qualified computers, operating systems, hard drives, and third-party devices, visit:

www.avid.com/compatibility

Conventions Used in Sibelius Documentation

Sibelius documentation uses the following conventions to indicate menu choices, keyboard commands, and mouse commands:

Convention	Action
File > Save	Choose Save from the File tab
Control+N	Hold down the Control key and press the N key
Control-click	Hold down the Control key and click the mouse button
Right-click	Click with the right mouse button

The names of **Commands**, **Options**, and **Settings** that appear on-screen are in a different font.

The following symbols are used to highlight important information:



User Tips are helpful hints for getting the most from Sibelius.



Important Notices include information that could affect data or the performance of Sibelius.



Shortcuts show you useful keyboard or mouse shortcuts.



Cross References point to related sections in this guide and other Avid documentation.

Resources

The Avid website (www.avid.com) is your best online source for information to help you get the most out of Sibelius.

Account Activation

Create an Avid Master Account at:

- ▶ <https://my.avid.com/account>

Product Registration

Register your purchase online at:

- ▶ www.avid.com/register

Product Downloads

Download software, updates, documentation, and other resources from:

- ▶ my.avid.com/products

Support and Downloads

Contact Avid Customer Success (technical support), download software updates and the latest online manuals, browse the Compatibility documents for system requirements, search the online Knowledge Base or join the worldwide Avid user community on the User Conference.

- ▶ www.avid.com/support

Get Started Fast

Visit the Get Started Fast with Sibelius YouTube channel.

- ▶ [Get Started Fast with Sibelius](#)

Training and Education

Study on your own using courses available online, find out how you can learn in a classroom setting at an Avid-certified training center, or view video tutorials and webinars.

- ▶ www.avid.com/sibelius/learn-and-support

Products and Developers

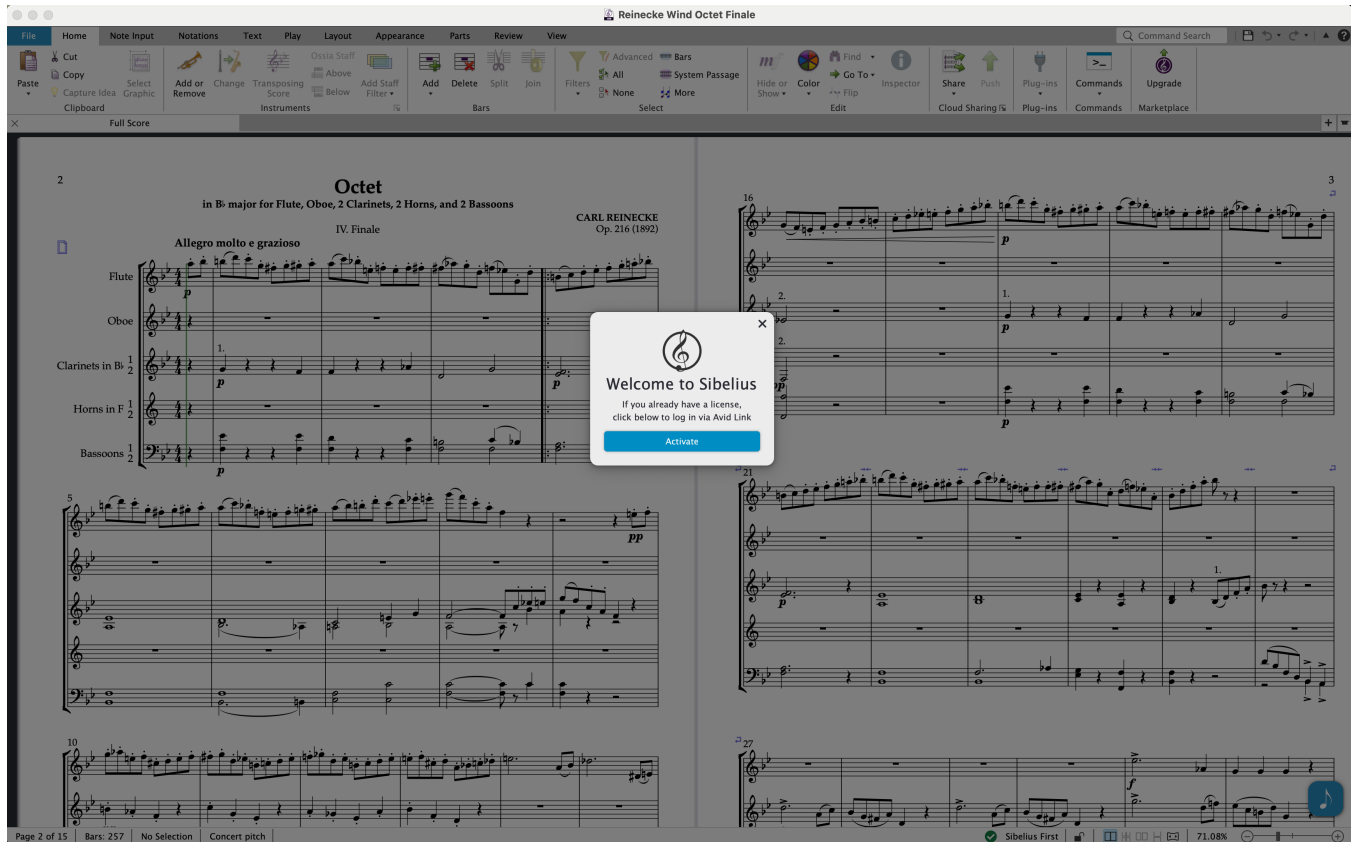
Learn about Avid products, download demo software, or learn about our Development Partners and their plug-ins, applications, and hardware.

- ▶ www.avid.com/products

1 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2025.10

Improved First Time User Experience

The first time you run Sibelius after installation Sibelius First launches and you are presented with the Welcome to Sibelius window where you can Activate your Sibelius license. If you do not have a license and you just want to run Sibelius First, or if you already have an activated Sibelius Artist or Sibelius Ultimate license, you can dismiss this window and start working on your score.



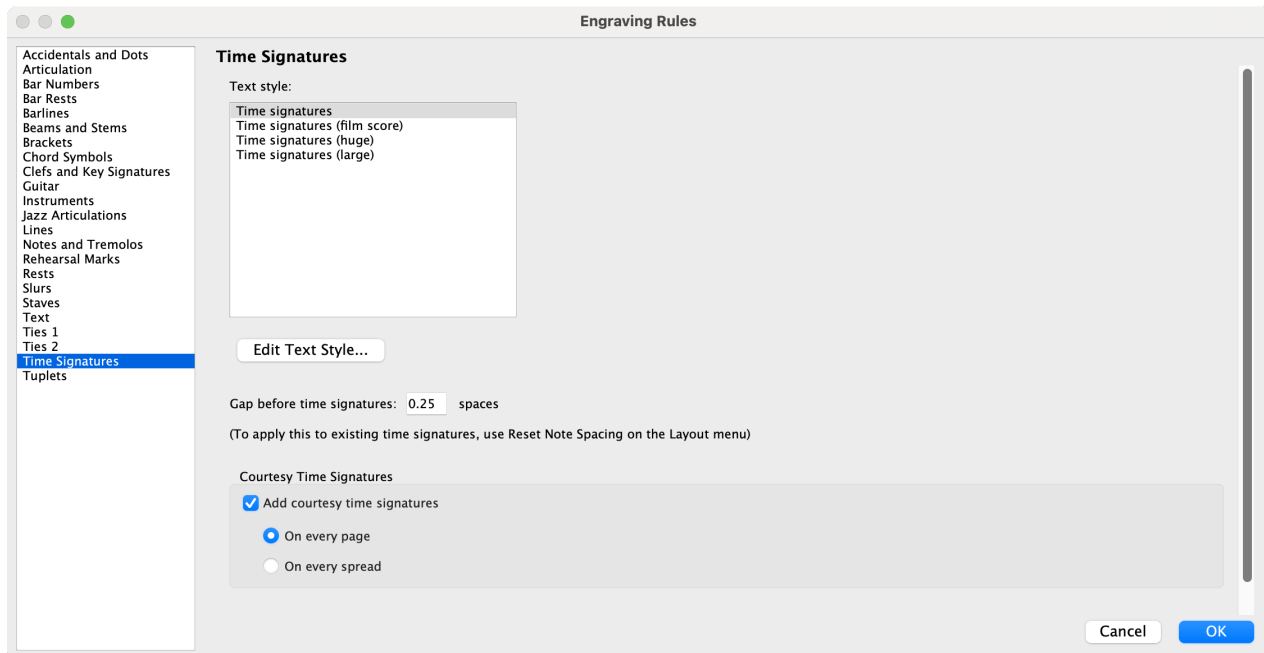
Welcome to Sibelius window

New Courtesy Time Signatures Options

Sibelius provides new options in Engraving Rules to show courtesy time signatures on every page or on every spread.

To enable Courtesy Time Signatures:

1. Choose **Appearance > Engraving Rules > Time Signatures**.



2. Enable the **Add courtesy time signatures** option.
3. Select either **On every page** or **On every spread**.
4. Click **OK**.

The image displays two pages of a musical score. The left page is labeled '2' and the right page is labeled '3'. Both pages show a multi-staff score with various instruments including Flute (Fl.), Cor Anglais (Cor. A.), Clarinet (Clar.), Clarinet Bass (Cl. B.), Bassoon (B.), Saxophone (Sax.), Cymbals (Cym.), Trombone (Tromb.), and Tuba. The score includes dynamic markings like 'pp' and 'ppp', and performance instructions such as '1st Solo', 'Sola', 'en delay', and 'avec des baguettes de Tish'. The courtesy time signatures are visible at the top of each page, indicating the time signature for that page.

Courtesy Time Signatures on Every Page



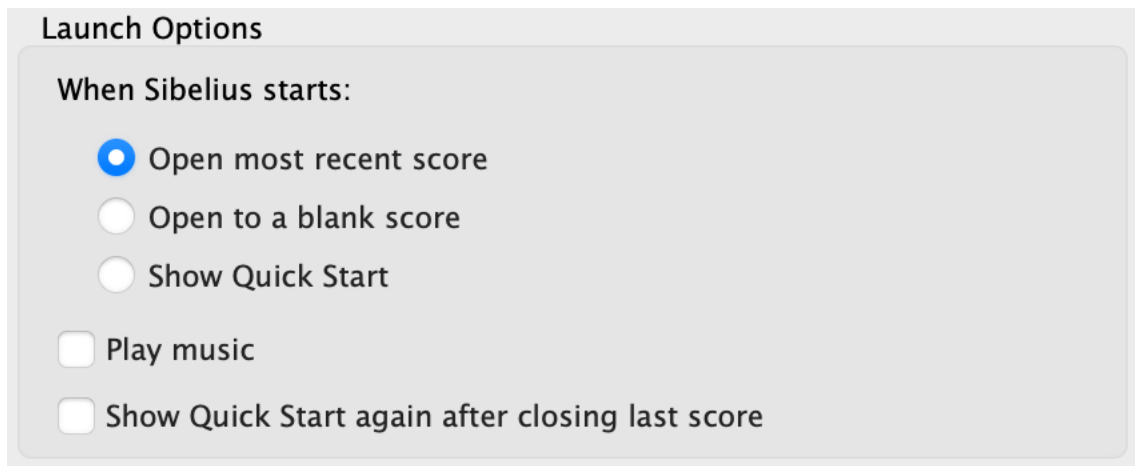
Courtesy Time Signatures on Every Spread

Launch Options Preferences

The Launch Options preferences let you specify how Sibelius behaves on launch.

To set Sibelius Launch Options:

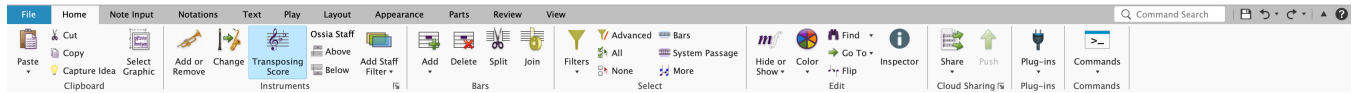
1. Choose **File > Preferences > Other**.



2. Select the desired behavior for **When Sibelius starts**:
 - **Open most recent score** (selected by default)
 - **Open to a blank score**
 - **Show Quick Start**
3. Enable (or disable) **Play music**.
4. Enable (or disable) **Show Quick Start again after closing last score**.

Improved Color Contrast for the Ribbon

Sibelius provides improved color contrast in the ribbon, along with new icons for the Quick Action Buttons in the upper right-hand corner of the Sibelius window.



Ribbon, Home tab shown

ManuScript Update (Sibelius Ultimate Only)

The following variable has been added to ManuScript for Engraving Rules using the `Score` object.

- **RestoreOriginalItemAfterSingleBarSelection**

Returns True if Sibelius restores the original item, such as a clef or time signature, when adding a new item to a single bar passage selection; False otherwise. This corresponds to **Preferences > Note Input > Restore original item after single bar selections (read / write)**.

2 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2025.7

Improvements to Sibelius Feature Sets

Sibelius First Improvements

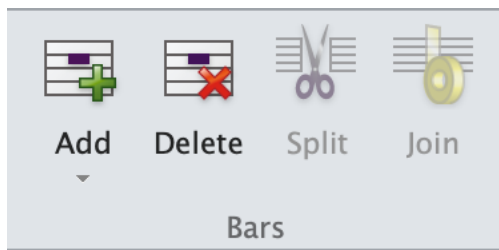
Sibelius First now supports up to 8 staves (up from 4 in previous versions).

Sibelius Artist Improvements

Sibelius Artist now supports up to 24 staves (up from 16 in previous versions).

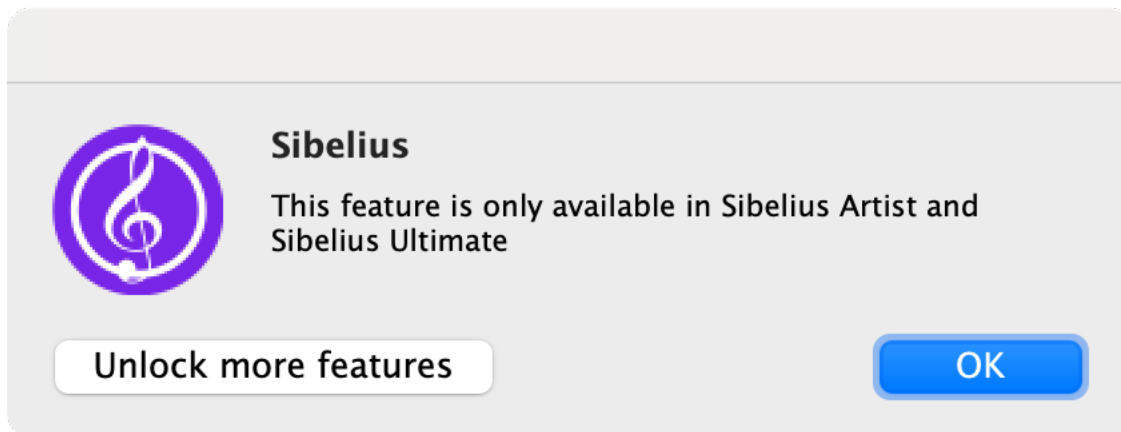
Dynamic Feature Sets

Sibelius First and Artist now show all features in the ribbon, however any features that are not available in your licensed feature set are greyed out. If you need to use any feature that is unavailable, you can try it using a time-limited free trial of Sibelius Ultimate. You can upgrade to your desired feature set at any time.



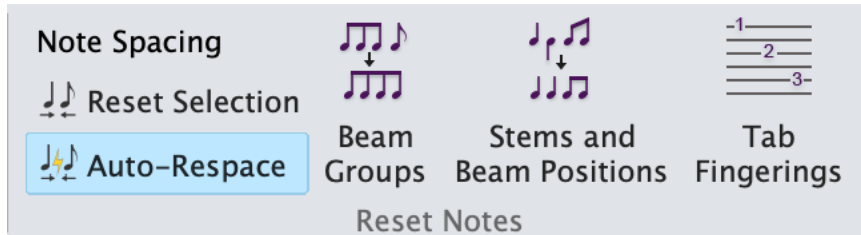
Sibelius First: Add and Delete Bars (supported), Split and Join Bars (unsupported)

Click any grayed-out option or invoke any command that is not available in your current licensed feature set to be prompted to upgrade to a version of Sibelius that supports the feature you want to use.



Auto-Respace Note Spacing Option

Sibelius provides an option to enable (default) or disable **Auto-Respace** for note spacing. When enabled, notes respace automatically as you edit, add, or remove notes to your score. This is usually useful when you are sketching, composing, or working to just get notes on the page. If you are an advanced user engraving complex music, you may want to disable **Auto-Respace**. When disabled, note spacing is not affected when editing and any manual edits to note layout in the score stay in place. However, entering or deleting notes still results in note respacing.



To enable (or disable) Auto-Respace:

- ▶ Select (or deselect) **Appearance > Note Spacing > Auto-Respace**.

When Auto-Respace is disabled, the following operations do not result in re-spacing (so, collisions may occur):

- Sliding notes left and right
- Transposing
- Moving a tied set of notes chromatically
- Using Pitch Correction Tool on the Keypad
- Respelling accidentals
- Changing notehead styles
- Adjusting accidental X position in the Inspector
- Adding / Removing any of the following:
 - Chord Symbols
 - Lyrics
 - Notes in a chord
 - Accidentals
 - Ties & Tie Into objects
 - Scoops & Falls
 - Arpeggios
 - Accidental brackets
 - Notehead brackets

Status Bar User Interface Improvements

The right side of the Status bar provides the following improvements:

- Updated icons for better legibility.
- Display of the currently licensed tier (First, Artist, or Ultimate).

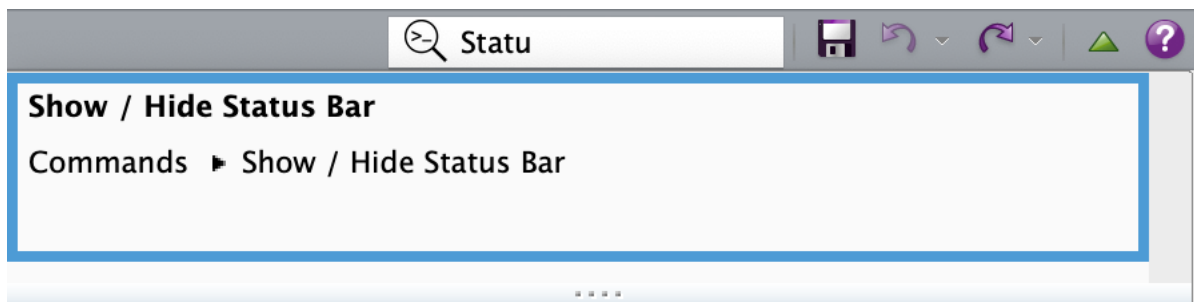


Show/Hide Status Bar Command

Sibelius lets you hide the Status bar at the bottom of the Score window to help maximize vertical screenspace (you can also hide the Ribbon).

To show or hide the Status bar:

1. Type Show/Hide Status Bar in Command Search.
2. Click **Commands > Show/Hide Status Bar**.

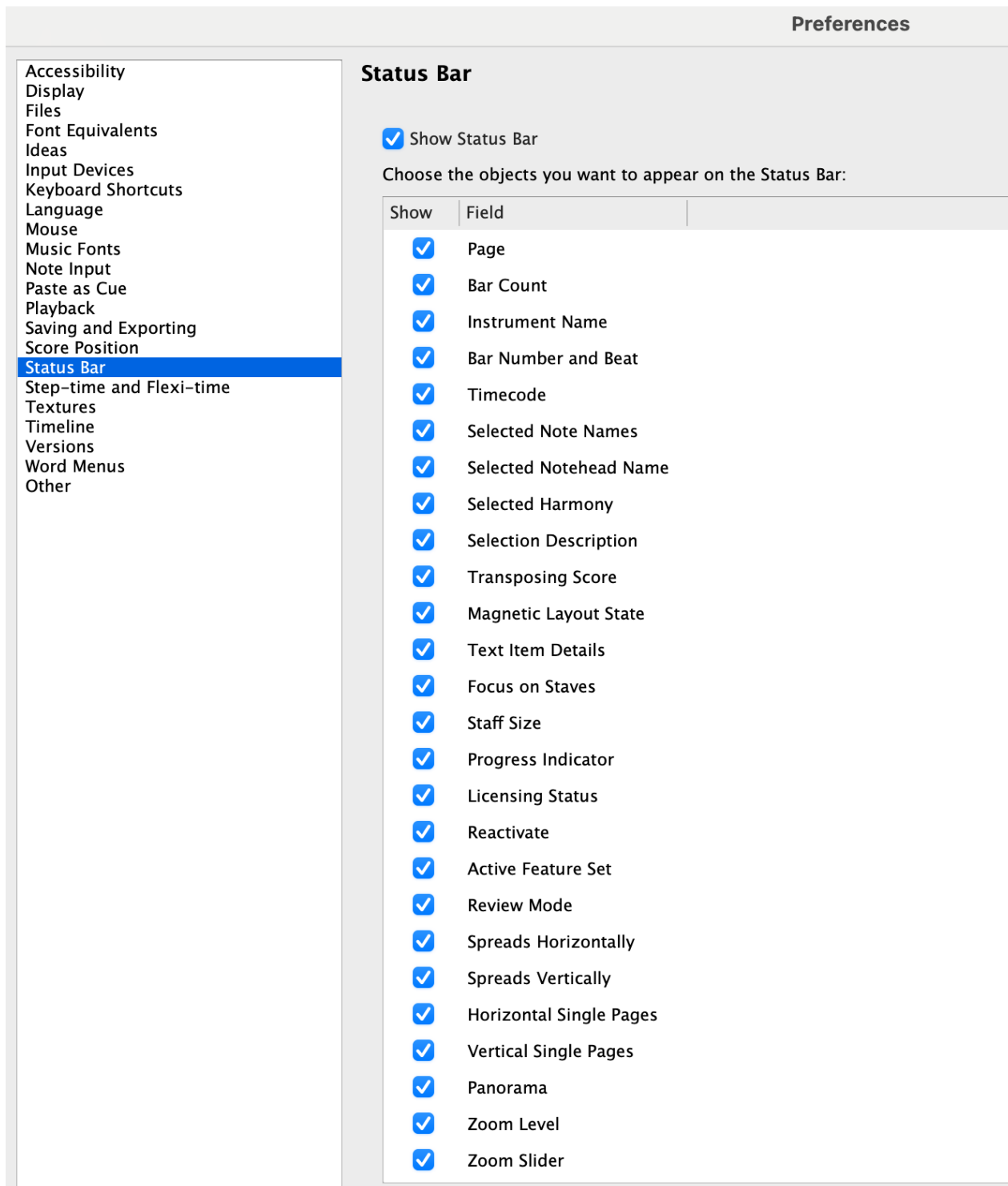


Status Bar Preferences (Sibelius Ultimate Only)

Sibelius lets you customize what you want to see and access in the Sibelius Window Status Bar.

To customize the Status Bar:

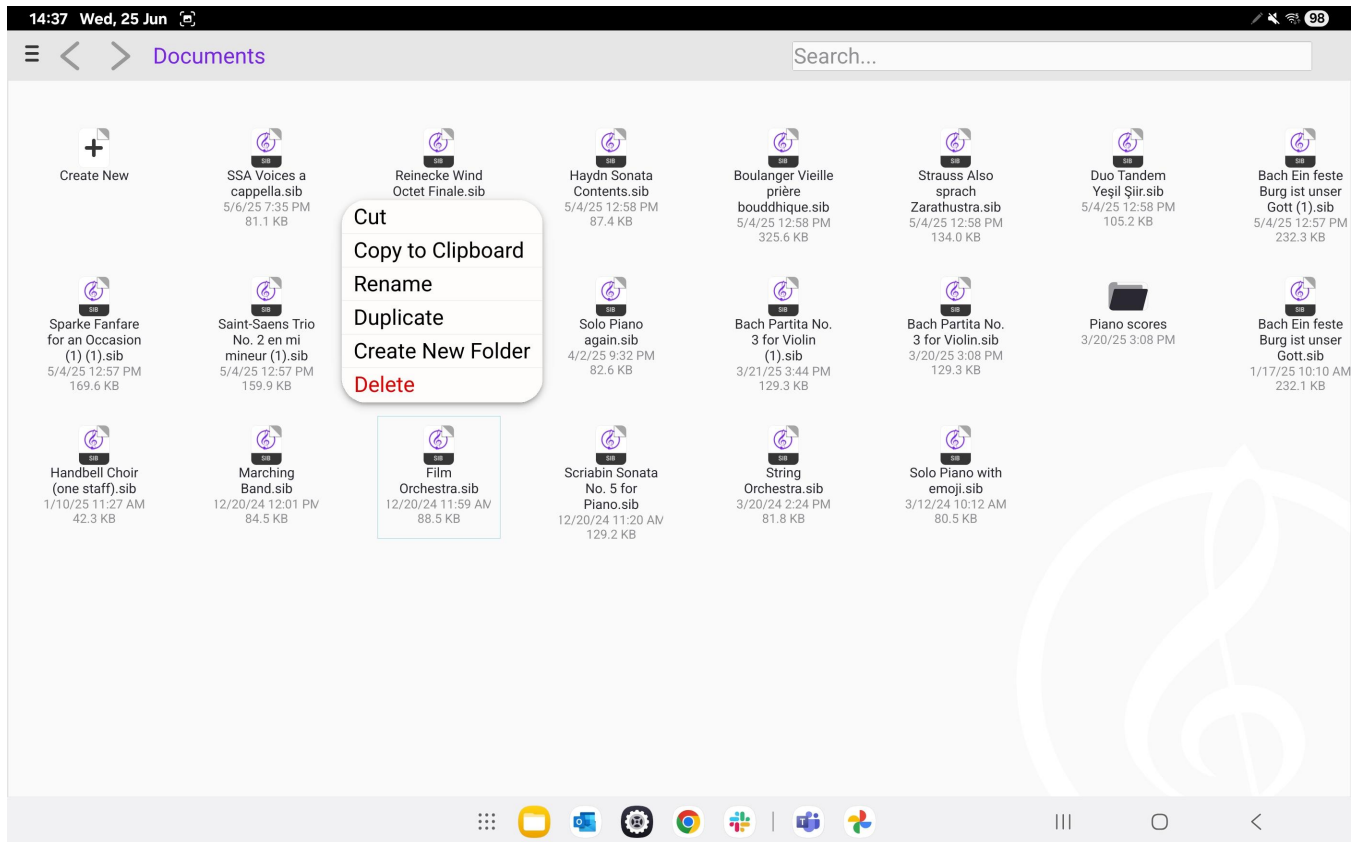
1. Choose **File > Preferences > Status Bar**.
2. Select or deselect the items you want to show or hide (including the Status Bar itself).



3. Click **OK**.

Improved File Browser on Android Devices

The File Browser on Andoid devices has been updated with enhanced security and a new way to create scores. Use the File pop-up menu to **Cut**, **Copy**, **Rename**, **Duplicate**, **Create New Folder**, or **Delete** any file or folder.



File menu for the selected .sib file

3 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2025.4

Staff Filters (Sibelius Ultimate Only)

Sibelius Ultimate provides Staff Filters that let you focus on specific voices or players on a staff. This is analogous to visual filters that one might put over a camera lens, such as a "red light filter" that lets red light pass through and appear within a photo. For example, a Voice 1 Staff Filter shows only the musical data from Voice 1 in the selection, hiding any objects that are not in Voice 1.

The name of the selected filter is displayed in the upper-left corner of the frame.



Staff Filter Options

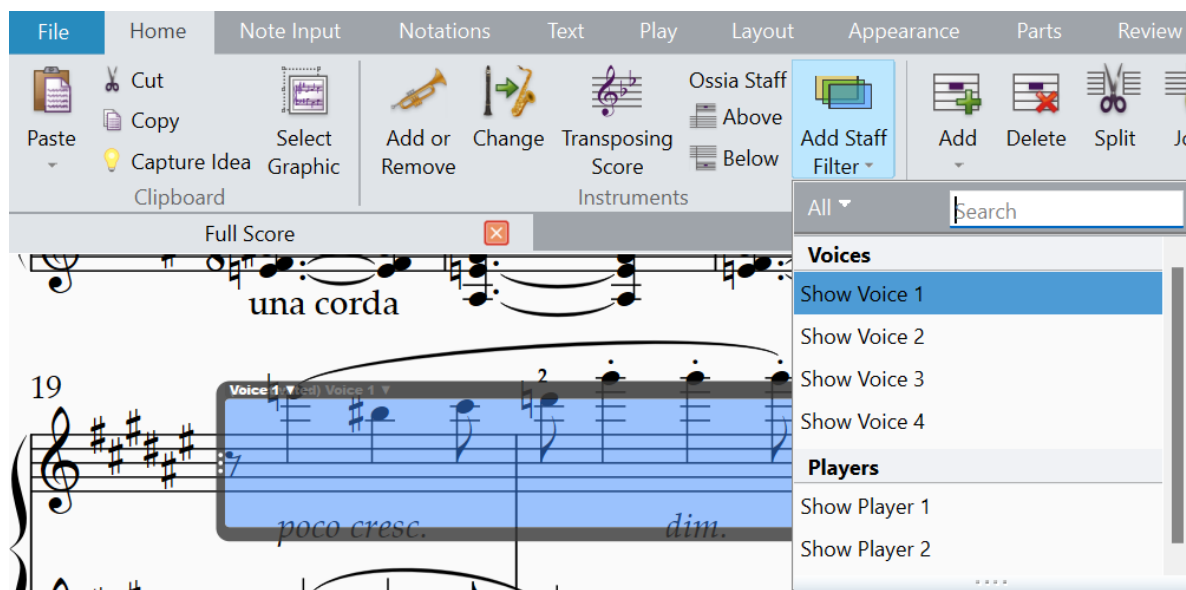
The options available for staff filtering vary depending on the selected staff content. The following lists all possible types of staff filters.

- Voices: Voices 1–4
- Players: Players 1–2

Adding Staff Filters

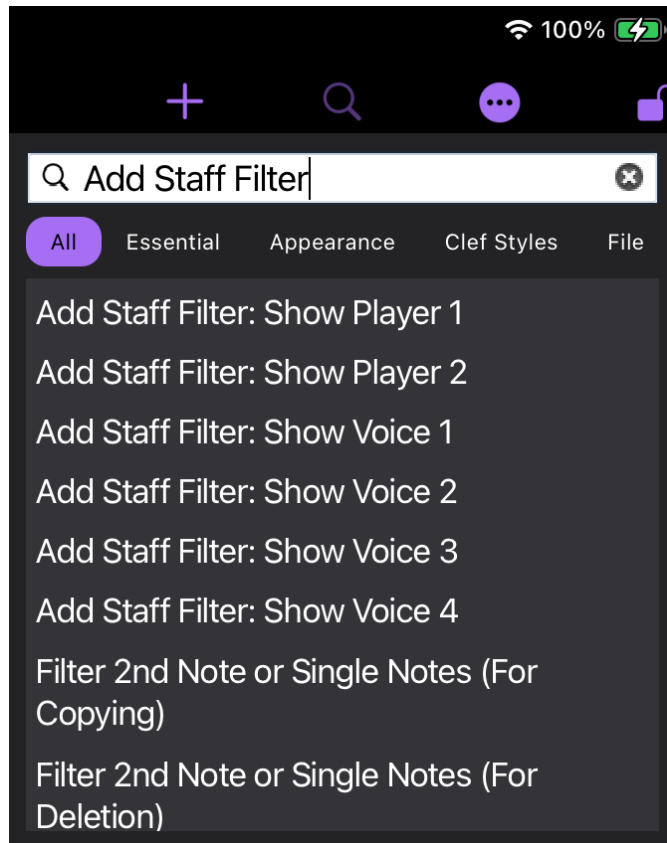
To add a Staff Filter:

1. Make a passage selection on a staff.
2. Do one of the following:
 - ▶ Choose the desired filter from **Home > Instruments > Add Staff Filter** (Mac and Windows only).



Add Staff Filter on Windows

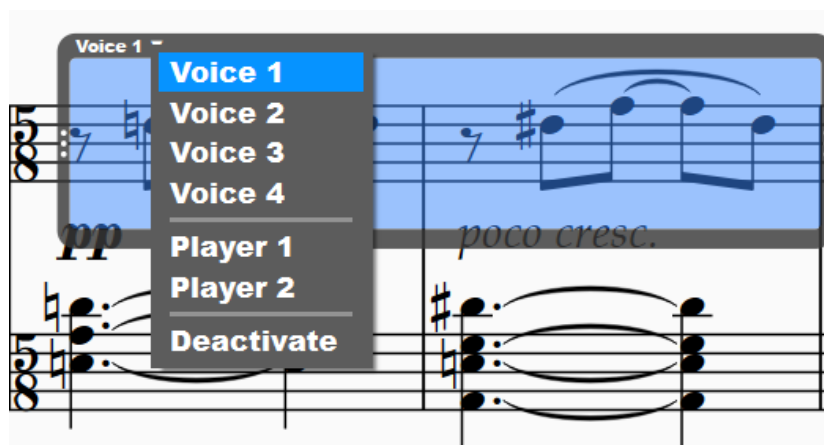
- Or enter "Add Staff Filter" in the Command Search (all platforms). On Sibelius for mobile, select the desired filter type from the Command Search results.



Add Staff Filter on iPad

Filter Type Indicator/Selector

Click the name of the selected filter in the upper-left corner of the filter frame and select a different filter



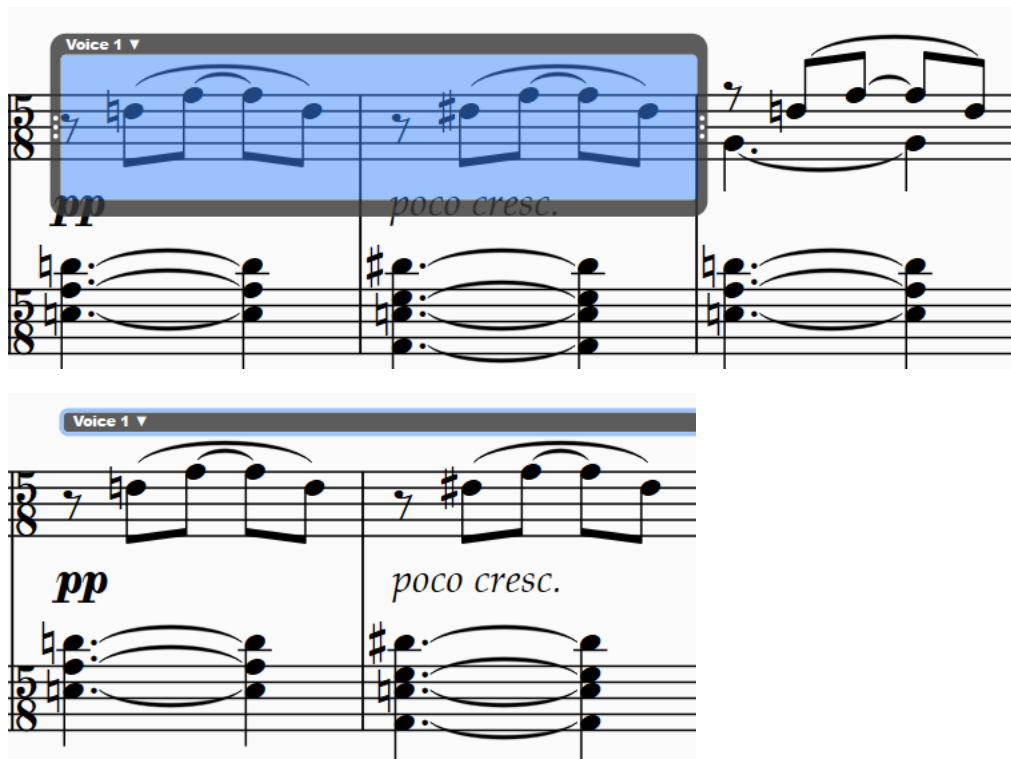
💡 Notes spaced under staff filters act as though they are hidden

Working with Staff Filters

When starting from a range selection, slurs and articulations are only added to notes that are shown (they will not be applied to notes that are either filtered out using a Staff Filter or are hidden). This lets you work freely on music in a part knowing that notes on the same staff in another player are not affected.

To collapse or expand a Staff Filter frame:

- Click anywhere in the Staff Filter frame.



- Click the gray bar over the passage to expand the Staff Filter.

To resize the selection of the filter:

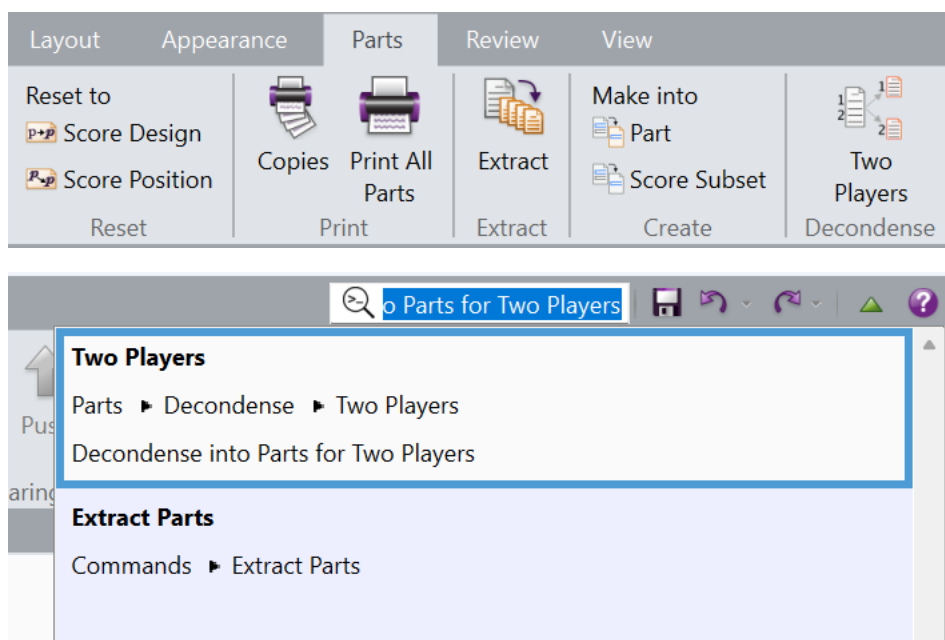
- Click and drag either side of the filter frame and drag left or right.

Decondensing Staves with Staff Filters

One of the main use cases for Staff Filters is to "show" score data in one view while "hiding" it in another, as would be the case for a condensed "two-player" staff in the full score and decondensed individual parts.

To decondense into Parts for Two Players:

1. Make a range selection on any condensed staff (for example, a staff with more than 1 player) in the full score.
2. Choose the **Decondense** command (**Parts > Decondense > Two Players**) or in the Command Search.



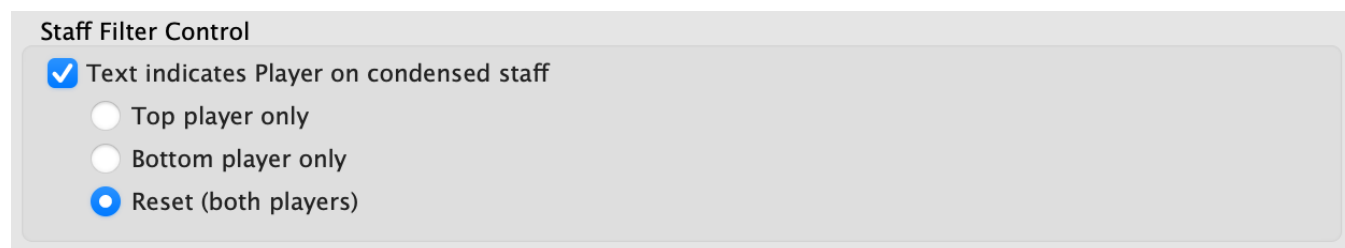
Sibelius creates two new Dynamic Parts for the selected staff and automatically applies Staff Filters to the new parts. To view a Staff Filter, select a bar, and click on the gray line (collapsed Staff Filter) that appears above the passage. Staff Filters are labeled in the top-left corner (for example, "Player 1") and color-coded (blue for Player 1, green for Player 2, and so on).

Once set up, you can write and edit in either part or the full score, and the filters ensure only music for each player is shown in the corresponding part.

Text Directives and Staff Filters

In a score, combined staves often include indications (such as "1." or "2.") to specify which player is playing. In Sibelius, these are **Text Directives**, and they ensure that the correct music is displayed in the part of each player.

Text Directives are configured in the Playback Dictionary (**Play > Interpretation > Playback Dictionary**). The **Staff Filter Control** settings let you specify whether the Text Directive is shown for the top player, bottom player, or both.



Important Settings for Decondensing Parts

For decondensing to function correctly:

- **File > Preferences > Note Input > Editing:** ensure that **Respace includes hidden notes and rests** is disabled.
- **Appearance > Engraving Rules > Bar Rests:** ensure that **Use bar rests and multi rests when all notes and rests in a bar are hidden** is enabled. (This is enabled by default for scores created in Sibelius 2023.5 or later.)
- **Appearance > Engraving Rules > Accidentals and Dots:** ensure that **Allow hidden notes to update accidentals** is disabled. (This is disabled by default for scores created in Sibelius 2023.5 or later.)

New .sib File Format

Sibelius 2025.1 uses a new .sib file format. For compatibility with earlier versions of Sibelius, you will need to **Save Score As** to the corresponding legacy file format.

Updates to Manuscript Language

Manuscript for Sibelius includes the following new CommandIDs for staff filters:

- Add Staff Filter: Show Voice 1 "staff_filter_voice_1"
- Add Staff Filter: Show Voice 2 "staff_filter_voice_2"
- Add Staff Filter: Show Voice 3 "staff_filter_voice_3"
- Add Staff Filter: Show Voice 4 "staff_filter_voice_4"
- Add Staff Filter: Show Player 1 "staff_filter_player_1"
- Add Staff Filter: Show Player 2 "staff_filter_player_2"
- Activate or Deactivate Staff Filter: "activate_deactivate_staff_filter"



For technical support go to
www.avid.com/support