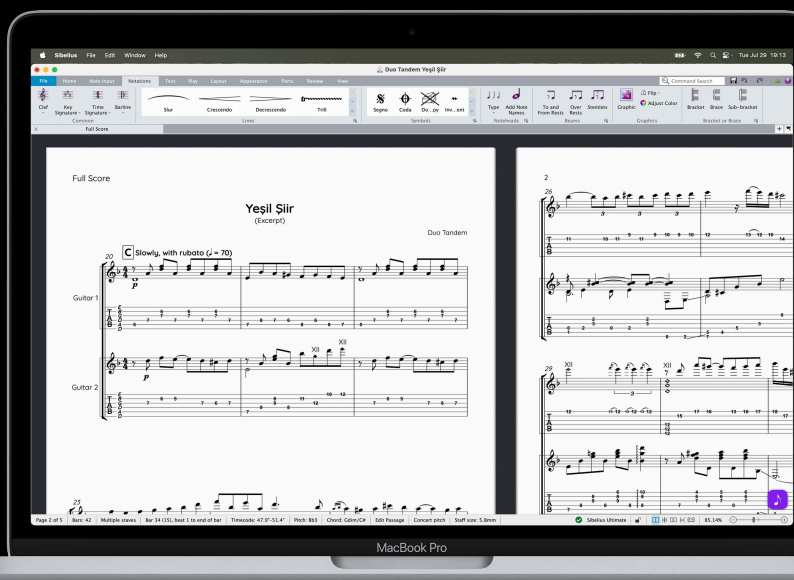




What's New in Sibelius

version 2026.2 to 2026.5



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1 Introduction

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.5

Sibelius 2026.5 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- [Support for VST3 Plugin Format](#)
- [Score Subsets and Parts with Sibelius Cloud Sharing](#)
- [Bar Rests Improvements](#)

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.2

Sibelius 2026.2 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- [Dark Color Theme Option](#)
- [Textures Preferences Moved to the Appearance Preferences](#)
- [Cross-Staff Beaming Improvements](#)
- [Double Note Values for Whole Notes and Longer Durations Engraving Rule](#)

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

2 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.5

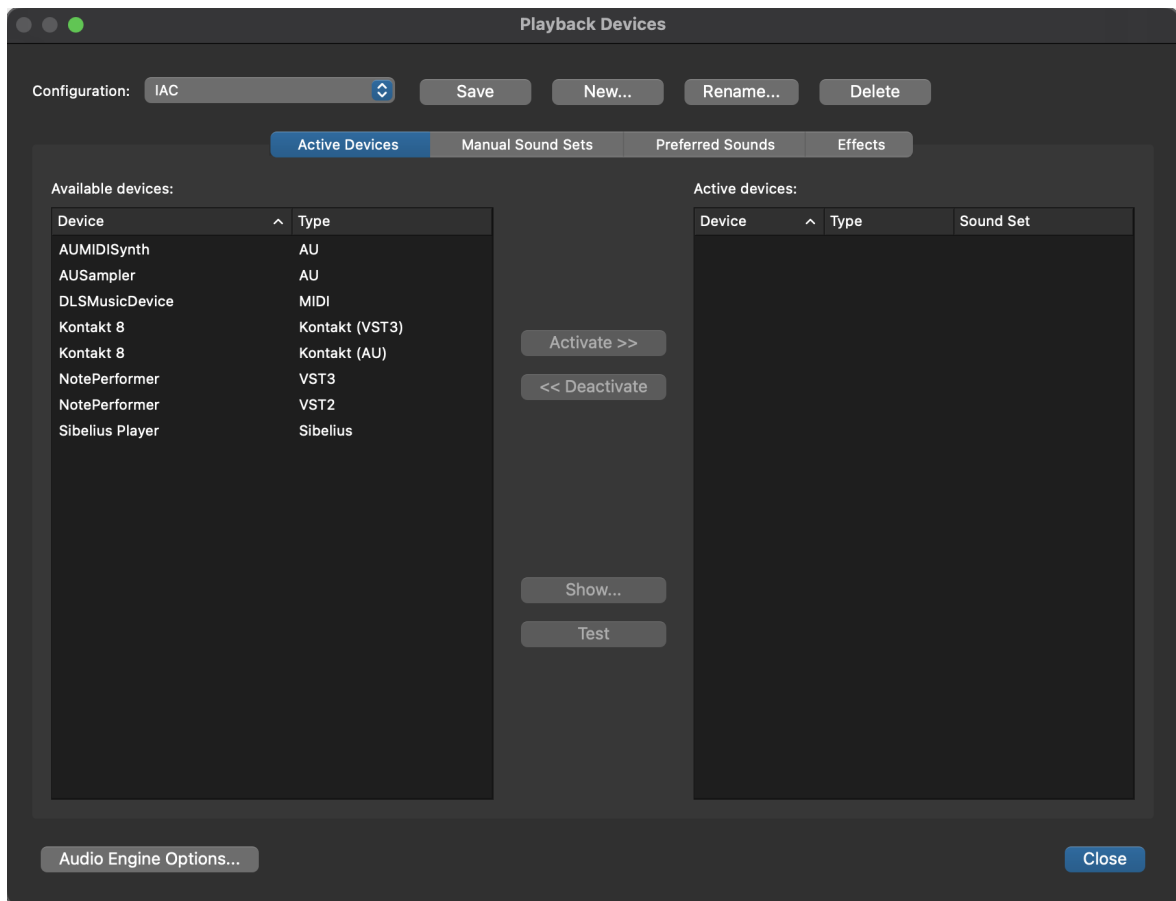
Support for VST3 Plugin Format

In addition to Audio Units (macOS only) and VST2 plugins, Sibelius now supports the VST3 plugin format. These plugins can be used as virtual instruments in the Sibelius Playback Configuration, as well as for audio processing in the Mixer window. When you first launch Sibelius, it scans your plugin folders to load all supported plugins.

 **VST®** (Virtual Studio Technology) is an open source SDK provided by Steinberg, GmbH).

To configure Sibelius to use a VST3 plugin as your Playback device:

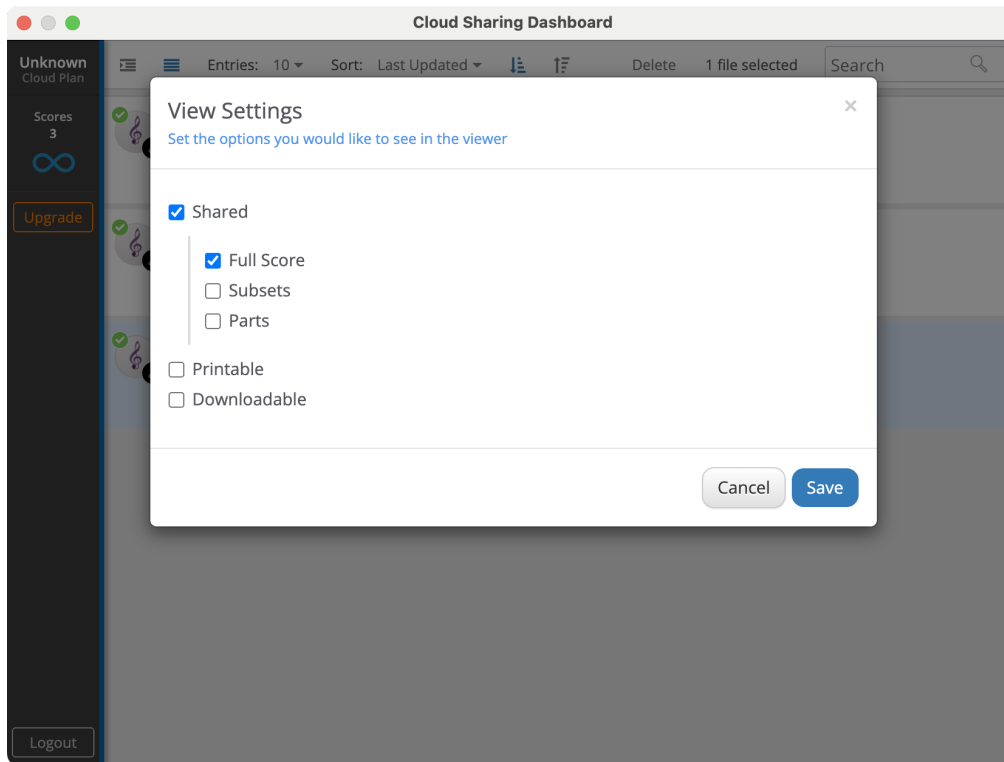
1. Choose **Play > Setup > Playback Devices**.



2. Select the desired Playback device from the **Available devices** list.
3. Click **Activate**.
4. Choose a sound set, if available.
5. Click **Save** and **Close**.

Score Subsets and Parts with Sibelius Cloud Sharing

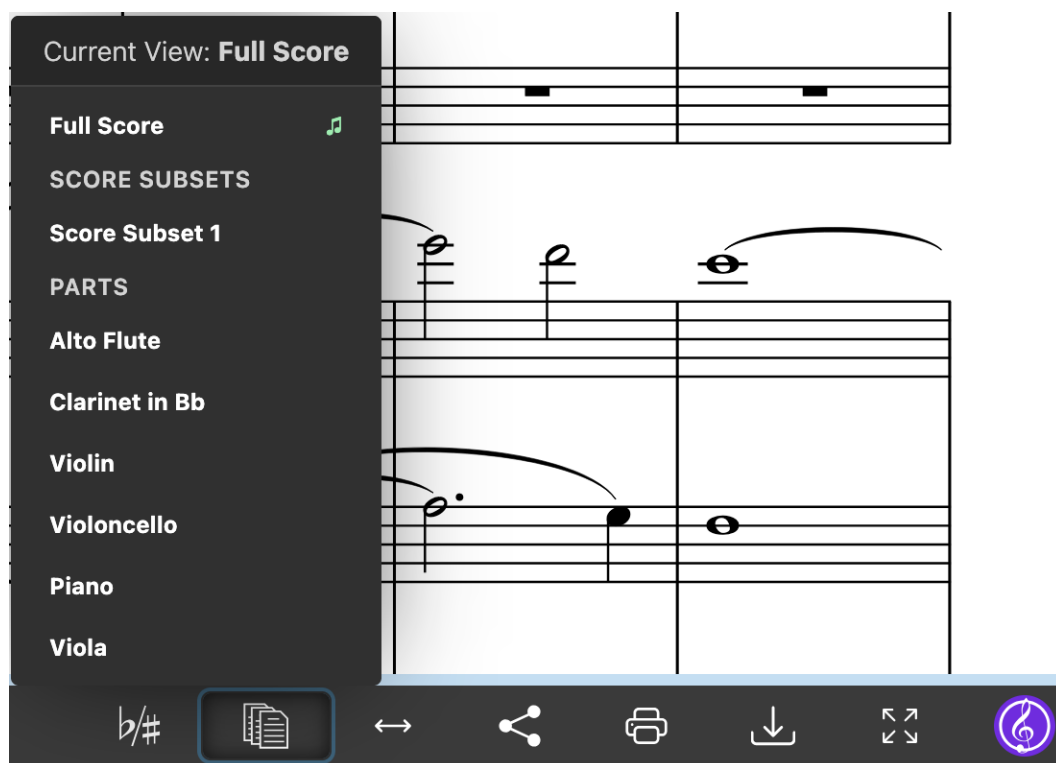
Sibelius Cloud Sharing lets you view all parts and subsets within the Cloud Sharing web viewer. This lets you share score subsets and parts with your musicians and collaborators using the cloud. When sharing a score, you can now specify whether the score will display the full score, subsets, and/or parts.



From within the Cloud Sharing Dashboard (**Home > Cloud Sharing**), enable (or disable) **Sharing** and any of the following options:

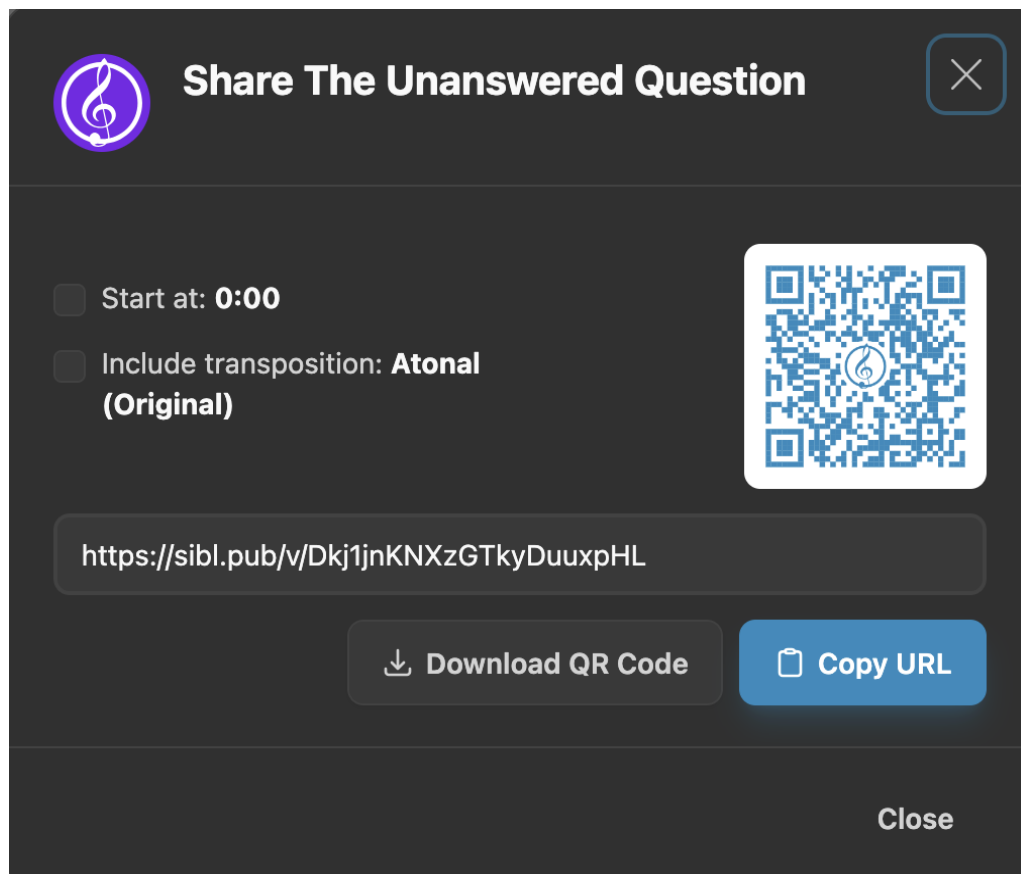
- **Full Score** option (enabled by default).
- **Subsets** option (off by default).
- **Parts** option (off by default).

When Sharing Subsets and/or Parts is enabled, the web viewer for the Sibelius file provides a Subsets/Parts icon in the toolbar that lets you access a list of all Parts and Subsets in the file. Click the part that you want to view and it appears in your browser.



If a change is made to the score and the change is pushed (**Home > Cloud Sharing > Push**), all open views (score and parts) receive a notification that the score has been updated and that it is time to refresh the browser.

To facilitate quickly sharing scores across an ensemble, Sibelius also generates a custom QR code for your score. Project the QR code on a screen or post it on a website, and everyone in the ensemble can quickly locate (and listen to) their parts. To access your custom QR code, click the **Share** icon in the Cloud Sharing Browser view.



Bar Rests Improvements

Sibelius provides a **Show bar rests** option in Engraving Rules (**Layout > Engraving Rules > Bar Rests**). When this option is disabled, bar rests are not shown, but you can manually show bar rests for selected measures.

The image displays a musical score snippet for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 21 and 22 visible. The Clarinet part is highlighted with a blue background, showing bar rests in measures 21 and 22. The Piano part is also highlighted with a blue background, showing bar rests in measures 21 and 22. The Violin and Viola parts show bar rests in measures 21 and 22. The Flute part shows bar rests in measures 21 and 22. The Piano part shows bar rests in measures 21 and 22. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and triplets.

Piano Bar Rests hidden by the Engraving Rule (**Show bar rests** disabled) while Clarinet Bar Rests are manually shown

3 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.2

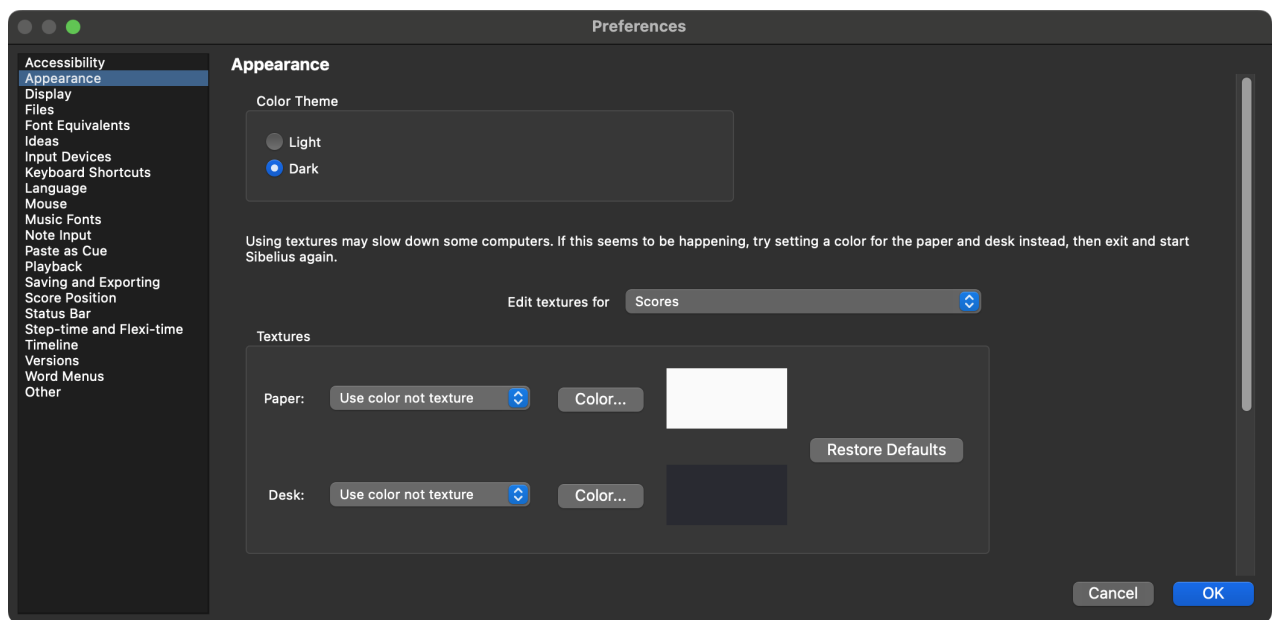
Dark Color Theme Option

Sibelius lets you switch between **Light** and **Dark** color theme appearance options. With **Light** enabled, Sibelius appears with a light user interface and updated graphics for icons. With **Dark** enabled, Sibelius presents a darkened user interface. This may be preferable when you are working in a low light environment.

 Additionally, the Textures preferences have been moved to the Appearance Preferences page.

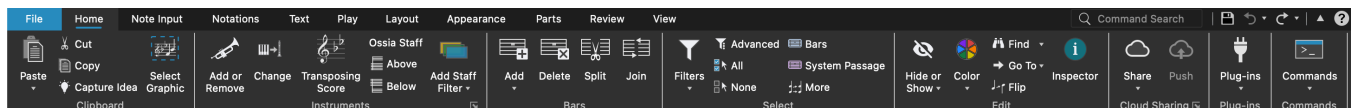
To set the appearance for Sibelius to either the Light or Dark theme:

1. Choose **File > Preferences > Appearance**.
2. Select either the **Light** or **Dark** for the **Color Theme** as desired.



3. Click **OK**.

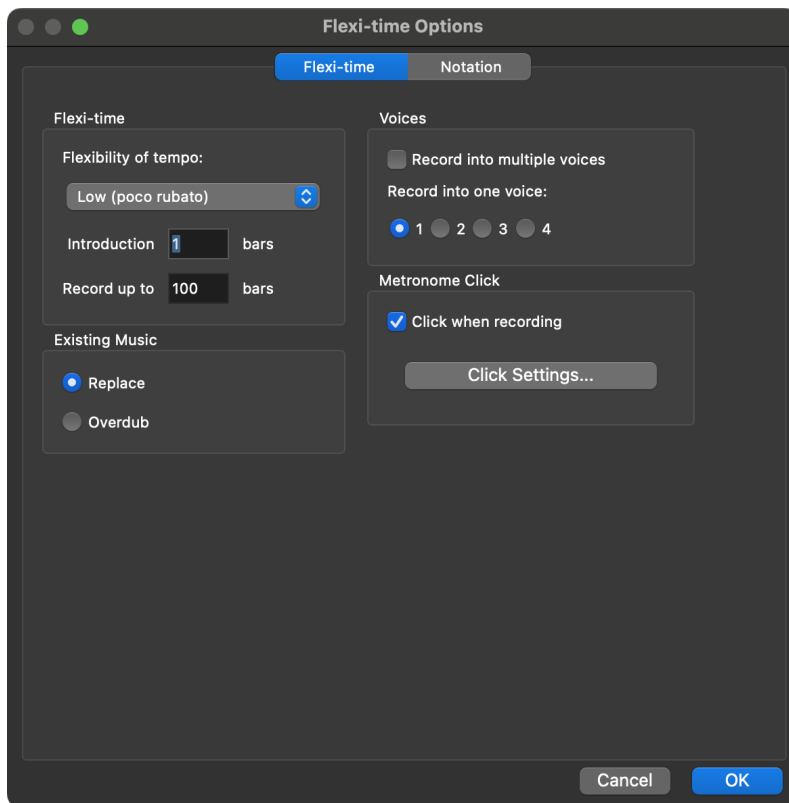
The following images provide a few examples of the Dark theme:



Home tab, Dark theme



Keypad, Dark theme



Flexi-time Options dialog, Dark theme

Textures Preferences Moved to the Appearance Preferences

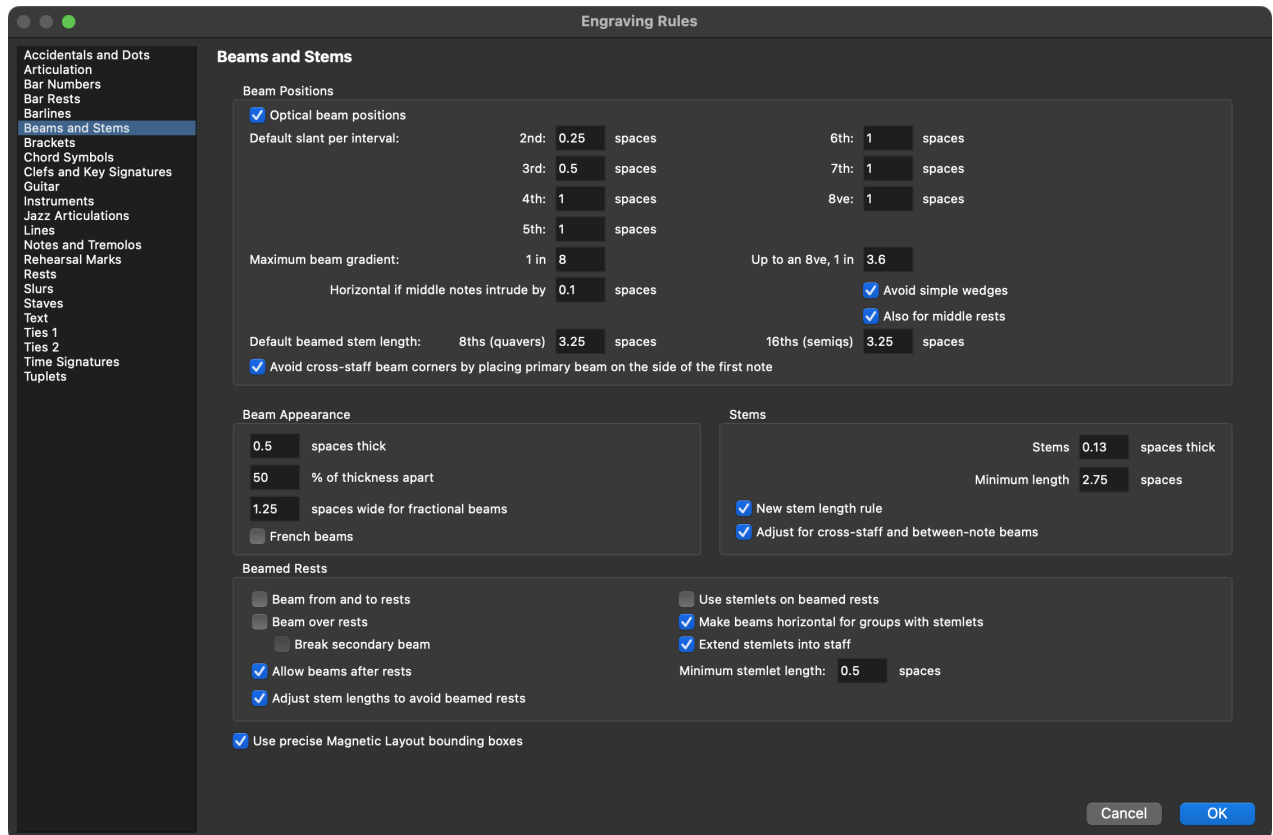
The **Textures** preferences have been moved to the **Appearance** preferences page. Additionally, you can now click the **Restore Defaults** button to restore the default Textures settings.

Cross-Staff Beaming Improvements

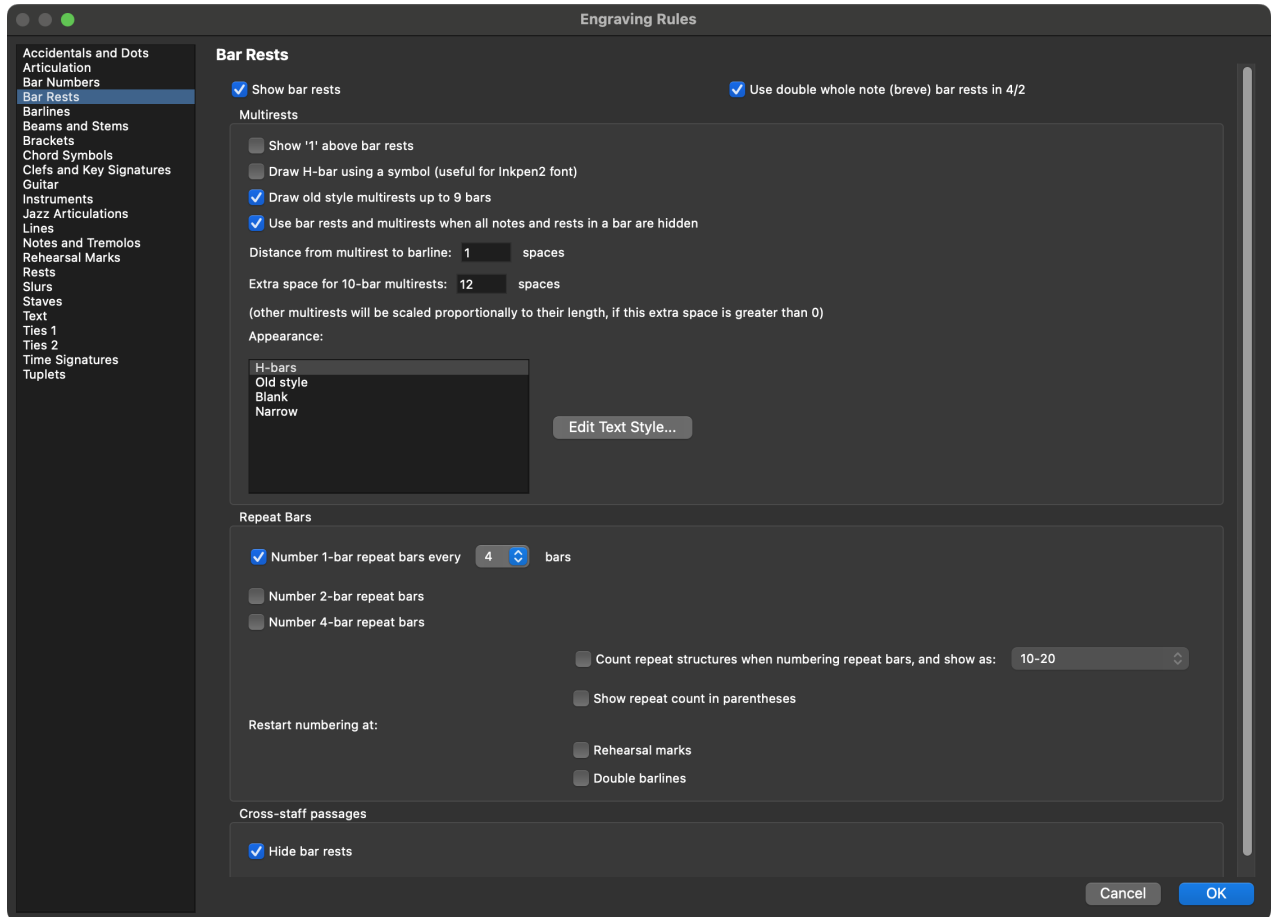
Sibelius provides improved handling of cross-staff beaming and rests. Enable the **Avoid cross-staff beam corners by placing primary beam on the side of the first note** option to avoid unwanted beam corners. Enable the **Hide Bar Rests** option to automatically hide rests on staves bridged by beams.

To enable the option for improved cross-staff beaming:

1. Choose **Appearance > Engraving Rules > Beams and Stems**.
2. Under **Beam Positions**, select the **Avoid cross-staff beam corners by placing primary beam on the side of the first note** option to avoid unwanted beam corners.

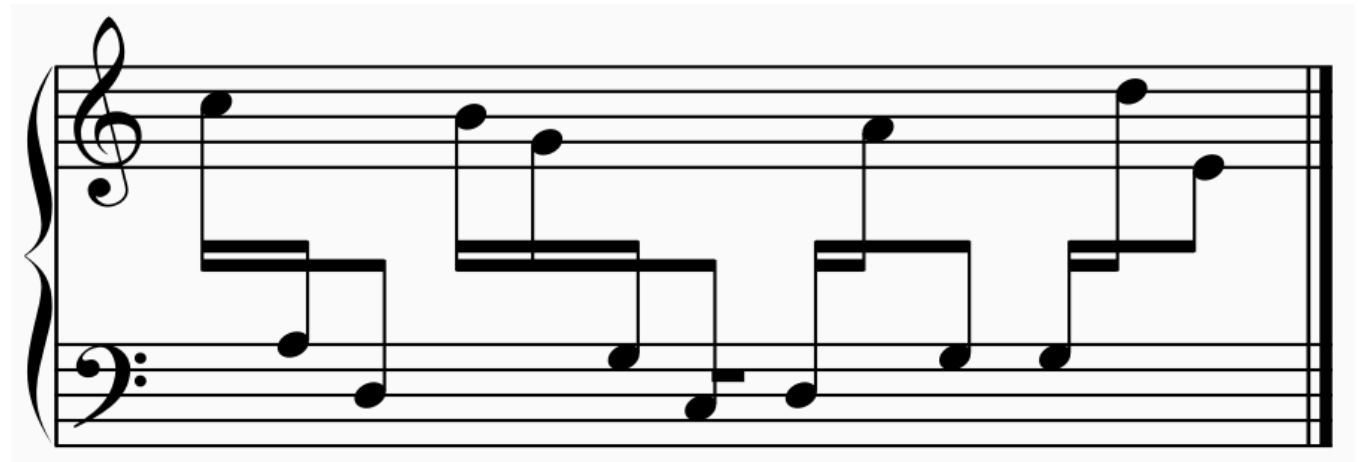


3. Choose **Engraving Rules > Bar Rests** and under **Cross-staff passages**, enable **Hide Bar Rests** to automatically hide rests on staves bridged by beams.

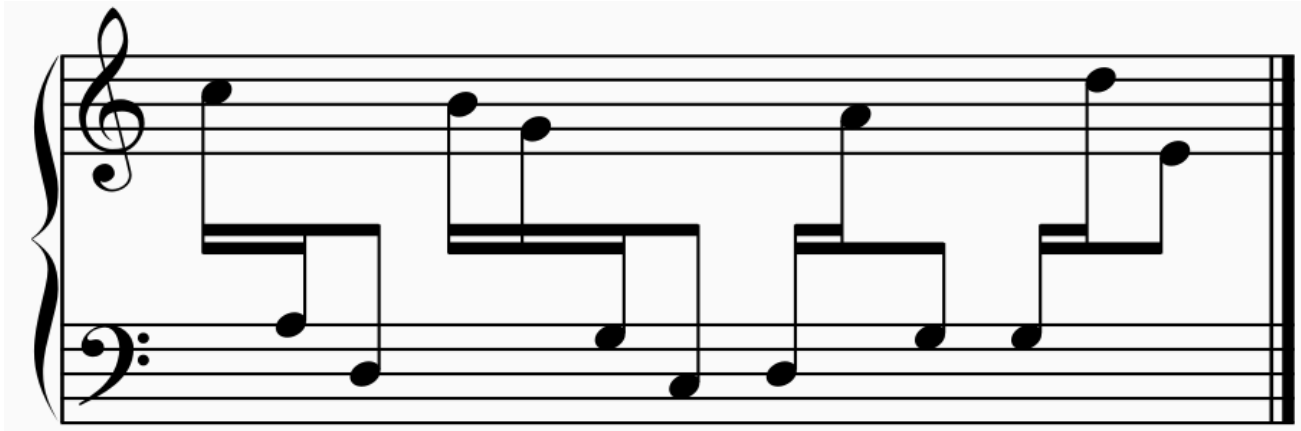


4. Click **OK**.

The following images show an example of cross-staff beaming with this option disabled and enabled:



Avoid cross-staff beam corners by placing primary beam on the side of the first note option disabled



Avoid cross-staff beam corners by placing primary beam on the side of the first note and Hide bar rests options enabled

Double Note Values for Whole Notes and Longer Durations Engraving Rule

A new engraving rule changes the legacy behavior for two-note tremolos within Sibelius. This option is disable for old scores (to preserve this legacy behavior), but enabled for new scores. When enabled, double tremolos on whole notes and double whole notes appear with doubled note values.

1. Choose **Appearance > Notes and Tremolos**.
2. Enable **Double note values for whole notes and longer durations**.

Two-Note Tremolos

☐ Touching stems
☐ Outer tremolo touching stems
☒ Between stems
☒ Double note values for whole notes and longer durations

3. Click **OK**.



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