What's New in Sibelius

version 2026.2-2026.9



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1 Introduction

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.9

Sibelius 2026.9 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- Tie Height Customization
- Tremolo Placement Improvements
- Cross-Staff Voice Positioning Improvements

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.8

Sibelius 2026.8 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- Line Style Improvements
- Cross-Staff Ties
- macOS Spotlight Support

New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.6

Sibelius 2026.6 provides the following new features, changes, and improvements:

- Cross-Staff Accidentals
- Mobile Auto-Save
- Concert Pitch Wildcard
- Banjo Tab Improvements

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

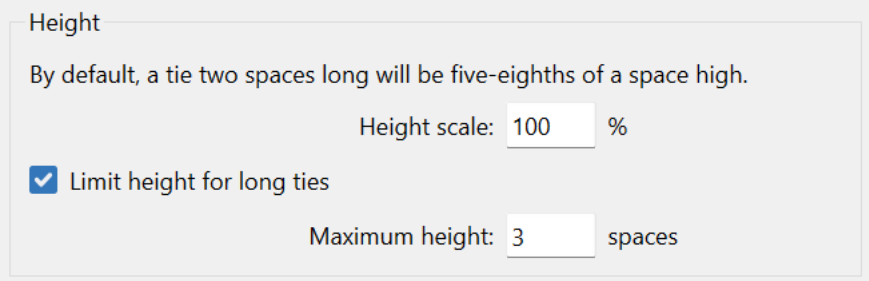
2 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.9

Tie Height Customization

Sibelius lets you set the height of ties globally within Engraving Rules.

To set the height of ties globally:

1. Choose **Appearance > Engraving Rules > Ties 1**.
2. Adjust the Height settings as desired.



Height scale: Lets you adjust the height of ties globally.

Limit height for long ties: Lets you limit the **Maximum height** of long ties.

3. Click OK.

Changing the global tie height engraving rule does not affect the height of any tie that has been manually adjusted (by dragging the middle tie handle or setting the height in the Inspector). However, limiting the height of long ties does apply to all ties in the score.

These new tie engraving rules, required changes to the Sibelius file format. When opening 2026.9 scores in previous versions of Sibelius, ties do not retain their global height scaling.

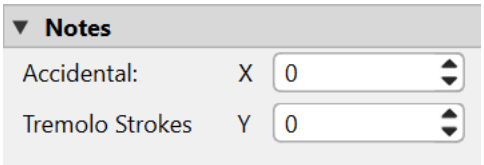
Tremolo Placement Improvements

Sibelius lets you customize the relative position between single-note and two-note tremolo strokes and the tip of note stems.

To customize the relative position between tremolo strokes and the tip of note stems do one of the following:

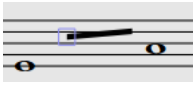
- Click and drag the tremolo stroke to place it where you want on the note stem.

  In the **Inspector**, adjust the **Y** value for **Tremolo Strokes**.

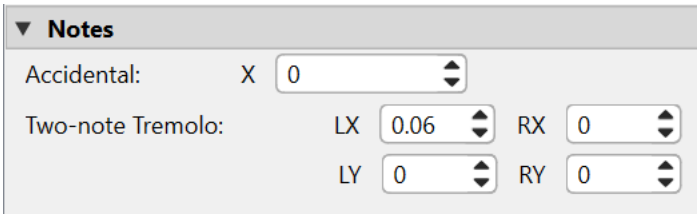


Adjustable Length for Two-Note Tremolos

Each two-note tremolo has independent left and right endpoint handles that can be dragged left or right and up or down to adjust the length and slant of the tremolo strokes without moving the stems.

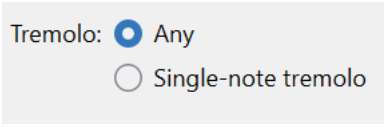


You can also set the selected two-note tremolo's left and right X and Y coordinates in the **Notes** pane of the Inspector.



Filter Tremolos

The Advanced Filter dialog (**Home > Select > Advanced**) provides options to filter notes with tremolos so that multiple tremolo positions can be edited quickly.

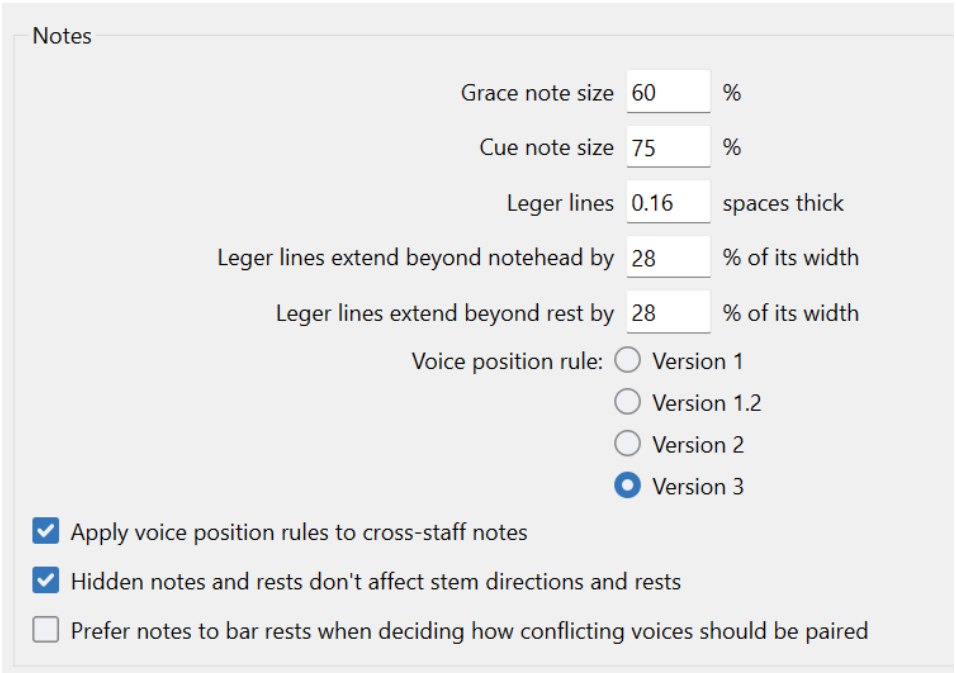


Cross-Staff Voice Positioning Improvements

Sibelius provides voice position rules for cross-staff notes so that noteheads, stems, beams, accidentals, and dots do not overlap or merge with other voices at the same location.

To enable voice-position rules for cross-staff notes:

1. Choose **Appearance > Engraving Rules > Notes and Tremolos**.
2. Under **Voice Position Rules**, enable **Apply voice position rules to cross-staff notes**.
3. Click **OK**.



For new scores, this rule is enabled by default. For legacy scores, it is disabled by default in order to preserve any existing custom note positions.

New ManuScript Command IDs

The following Command IDs have been added to ManuScript (Sibelius Ultimate only):

AudioEngineOptions

Audio Engine Options

toggle_metronome_on_off

Toggle Metronome On/Off

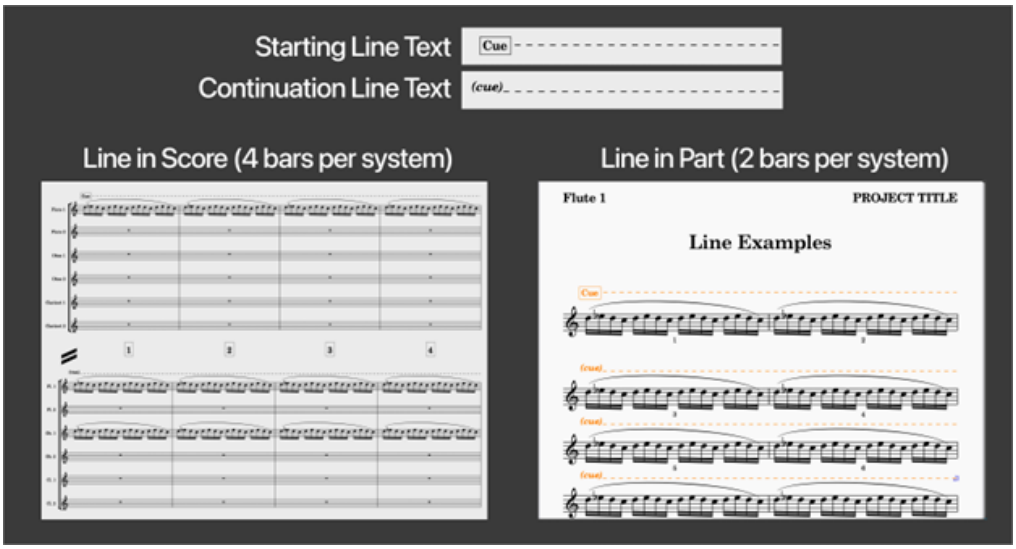
change_order_parts

Change Order of Parts

3 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.8

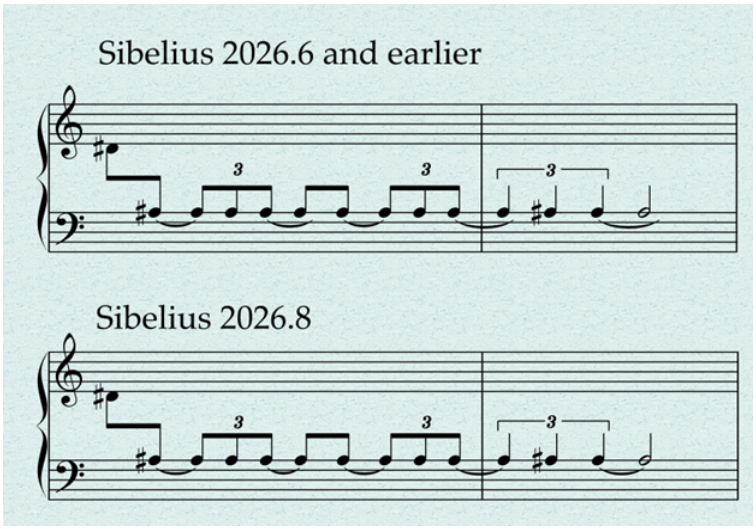
Line Style Improvements

It's now possible to define separate text items for the **`continuation`** and **`end`** portions of a line style. This is especially useful for lines that normally span multiple systems — such as cue lines — because the continuation text ensures these lines are correctly labeled in all parts, regardless of where system breaks fall relative to the score.



Cross-Staff Ties

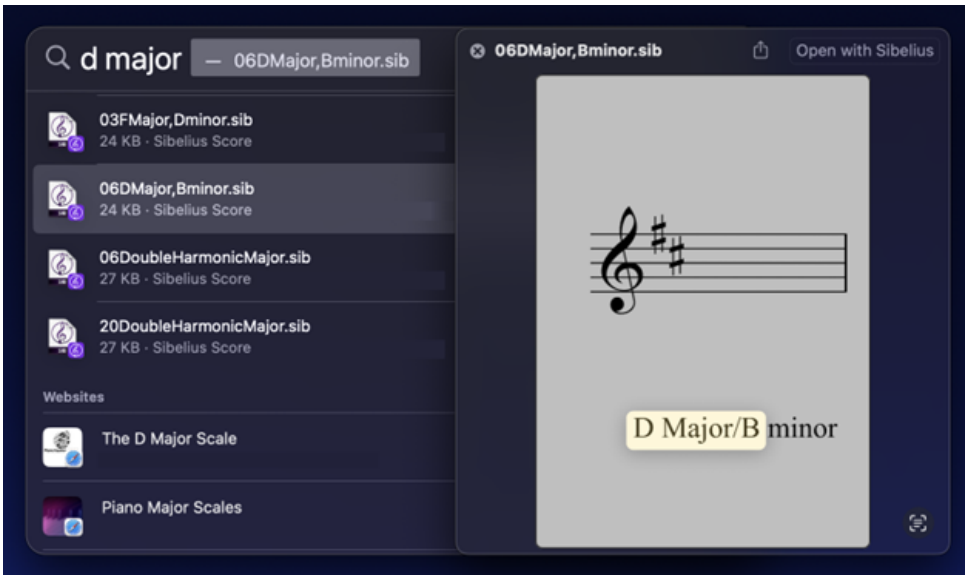
Sibelius correctly applies tie position rules to all cross-staff notes and tuplets. These improvements are controlled by a new engraving rule in the **`Ties 2`** tab: **`Rules for ties apply to cross-staff notes`**. When enabled, Sibelius applies tie position rules consistently to all cross-staff ties, including those within tuplets.



If you are collaborating with someone on an older version of Sibelius (i.e., before 2026.8), they will not see the cross-staff tie improvements in their version.

macOS Spotlight Support

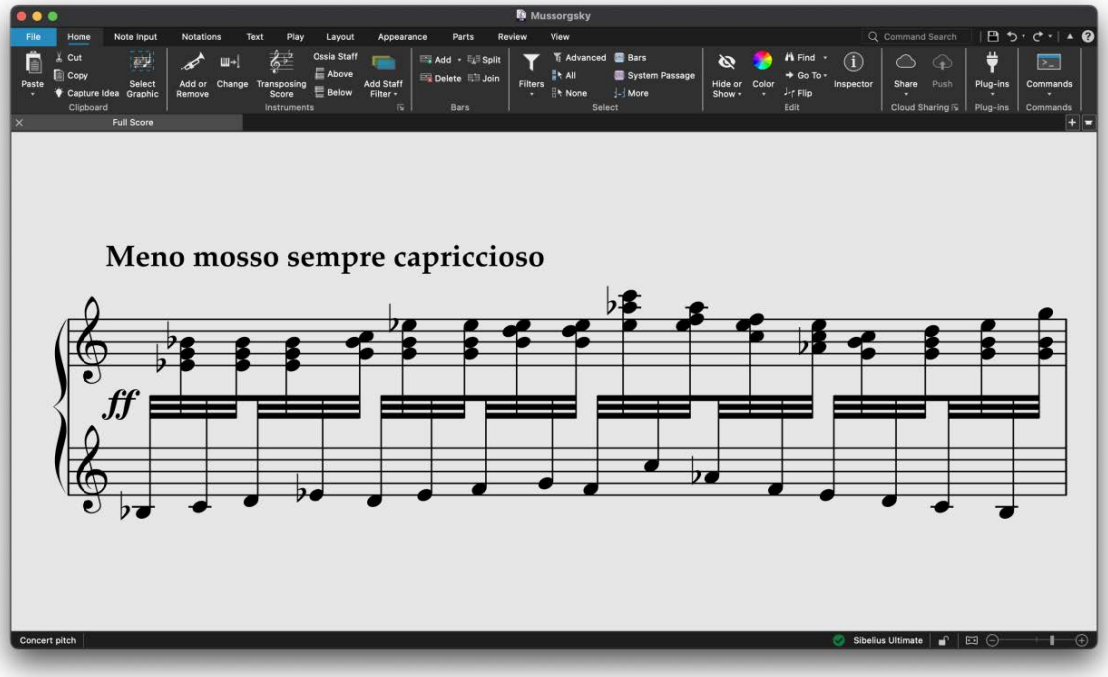
Sibelius 2026.8 adds Spotlight integration. You can now search for text “within” a Sibelius file via Spotlight, allowing you to quickly locate the file you need.



4 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.6

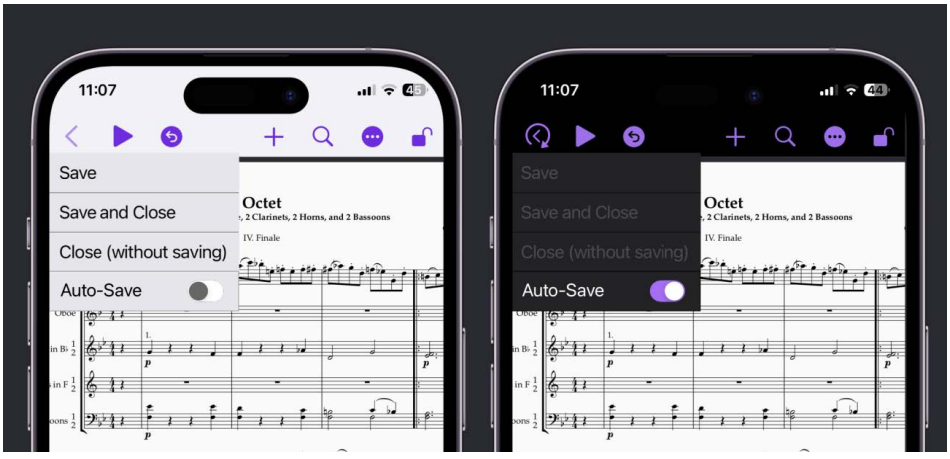
Cross-staff Accidentals

Sibelius is now fully aware of all accidentals within cross-staff contexts and notates these passages appropriately. To use the new cross-staff accidental logic within an existing score, activate the option via **`Engraving Rules > Accidentals and Dots > Rules for accidentals apply to cross-staff notes`**.



Mobile Auto-Save

Sibelius for mobile now contains an option to Auto-Save your work after every change. The new option is off by default. To turn on **`Auto-Save`**, simply long-press the **`Back`** button and then tap the **`Auto-Save`** toggle. To remind you that the feature is on, the **`Back`** button's icon changes and all other save options are disabled. To turn **`Auto-Save`** off, long-press the **`Back`** button and tap the toggle.



Concert Pitch Wildcard

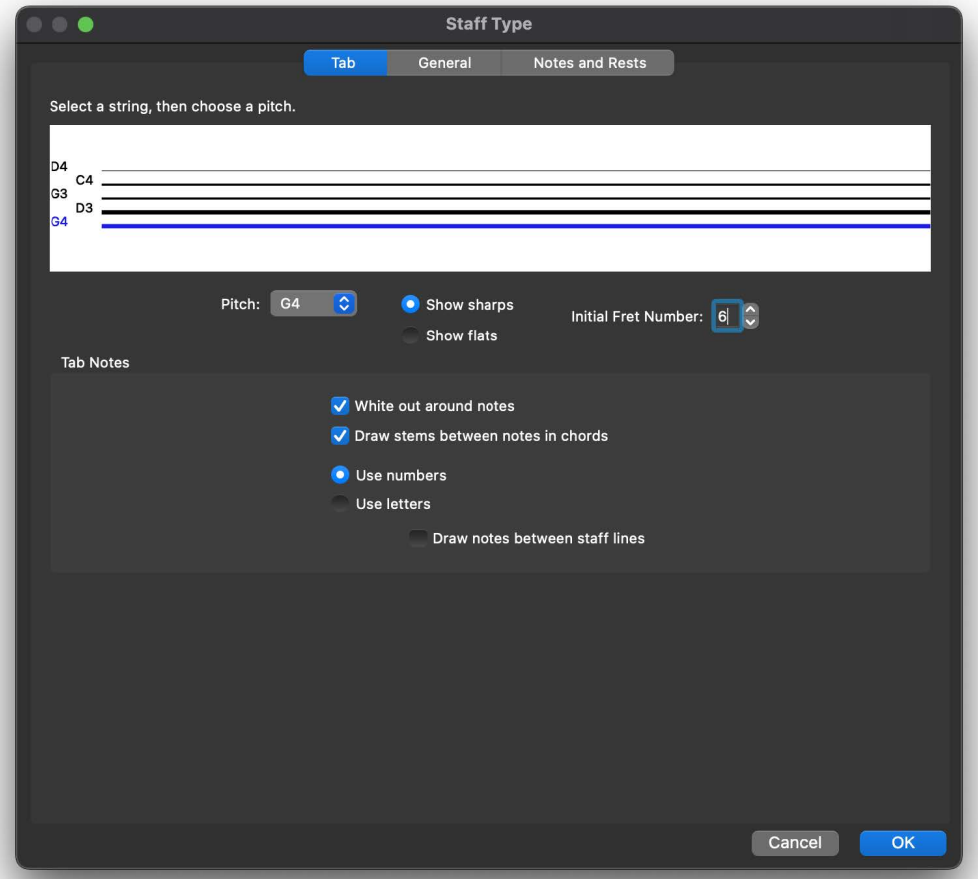
Sibelius 2026.6 introduces a very useful new wildcard: **\$concertpitch**, that dynamically changes depending on the transposition state of the current view. For example, if viewing the score in concert pitch, the **\$concertpitch** wildcard renders by default as **Concert Pitch**. If viewing the score as a Transposing Score, the same **\$concertpitch** wildcard renders as **Transposing Score**.

You can add the new wildcard into any text item in your score. If you'd like to customize the text for the **\$concertpitch** wildcard, you can do so via the **File Tab** (Backstage) or by editing the text object in-place using the following syntax (note the semi-colon between the two options): **\$concertpitch=Sounding Pitch;Written Pitch**.

Banjo Tab Improvements

In Sibelius 2026.6, new default Banjo Tab Instrument definitions now assume an initial fret number of **6** for the fifth string. Alongside these new instruments, you can still find the **legacy** banjo definitions that used an initial starting fret of **1**.

This change is possible due to the newly added **initial fret number** property for each string on a tablature staff. The **initial fret numbers** can be edited via the **Edit Instruments > Edit Staff Type** dialog, as well as via ManusScript (see the *ManuScript Language Guide* for details).



5 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.5

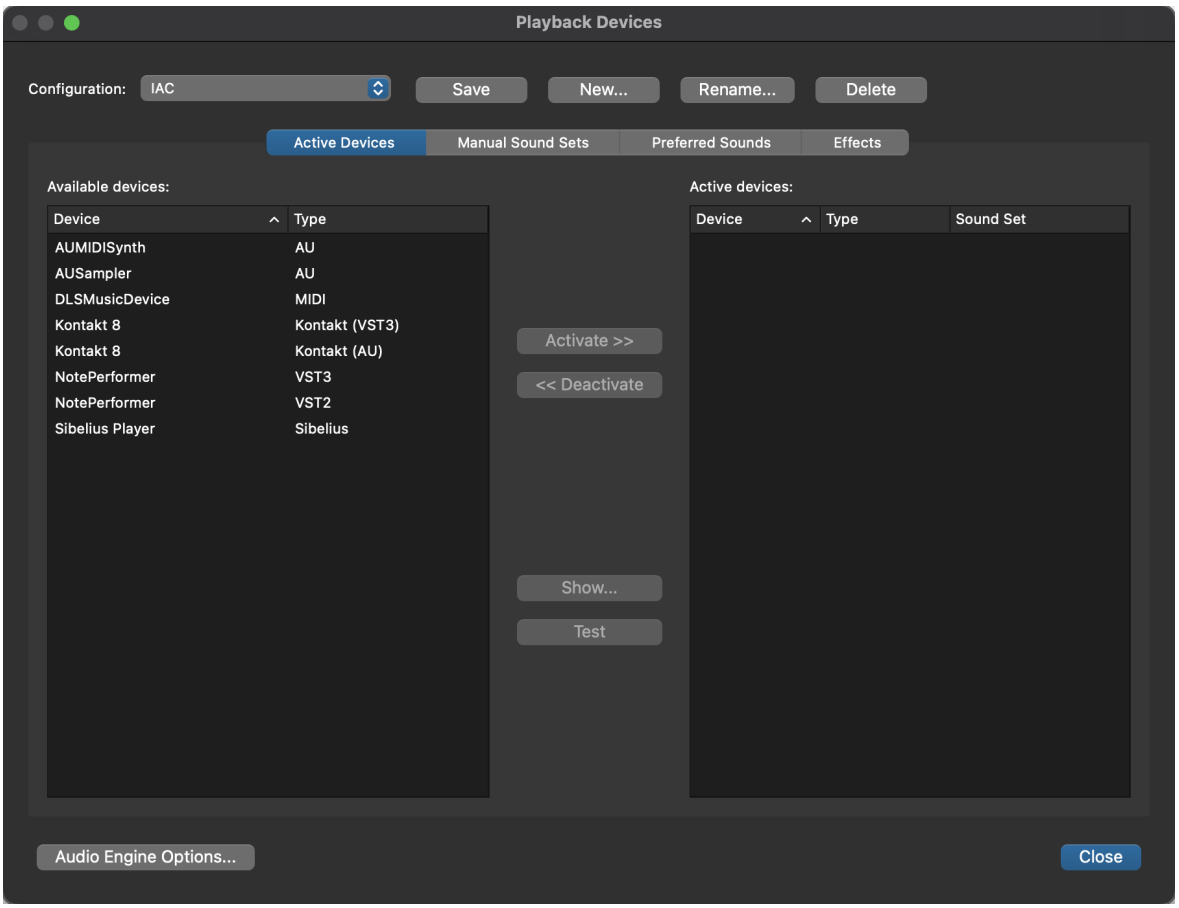
Support for VST3 Plugin Format

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:

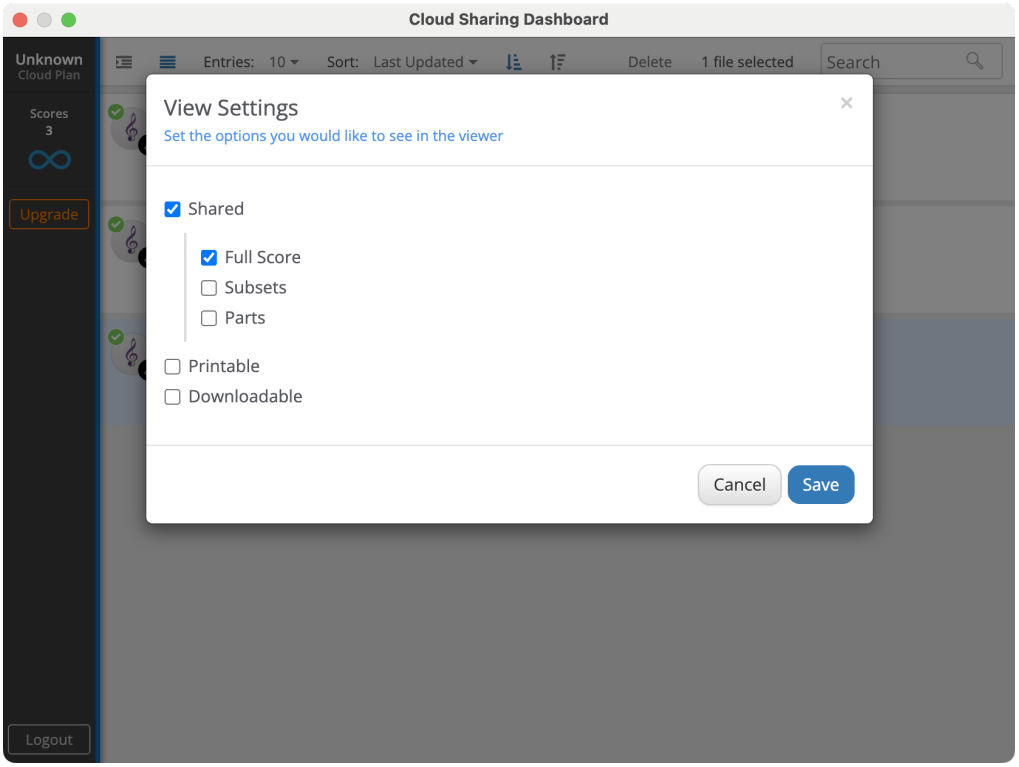
1. Choose **`Play > Setup > Playback Devices`**.



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

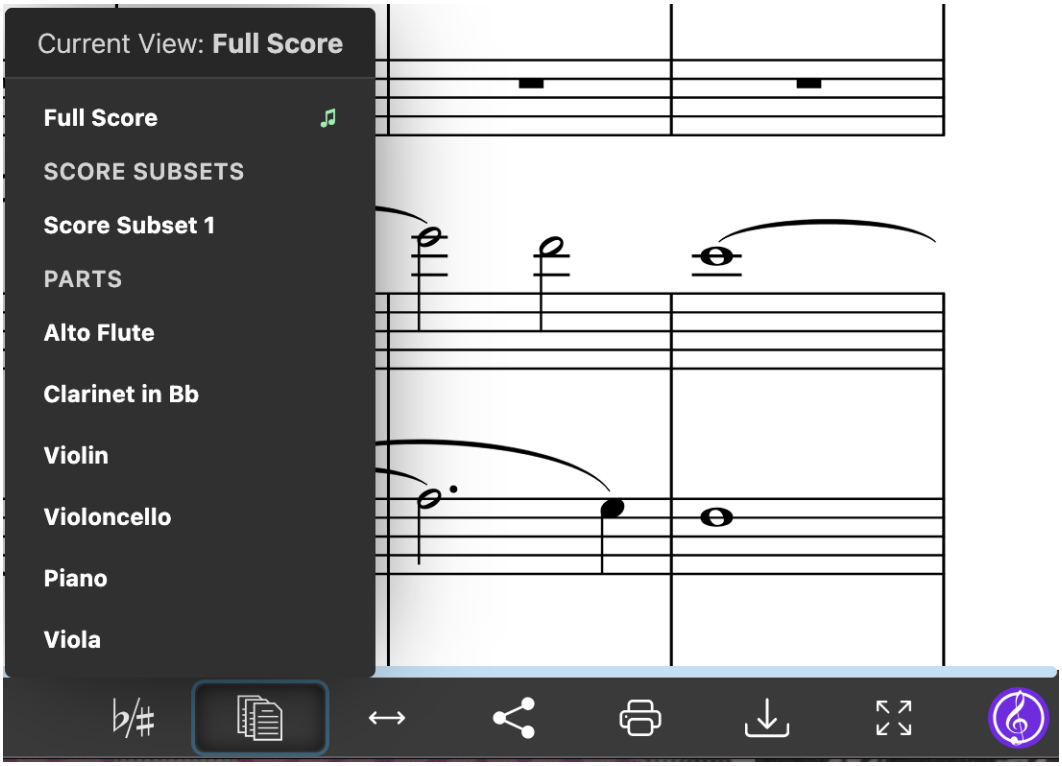
Sibelius Cloud Sharing lets you view all parts and subsets within the Cloud Sharing web viewer. This lets you share score subsets and parts with your musicians and collaborators using the cloud. When sharing a score, you can now specify whether the score will display the full score, subsets, and/or parts.



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

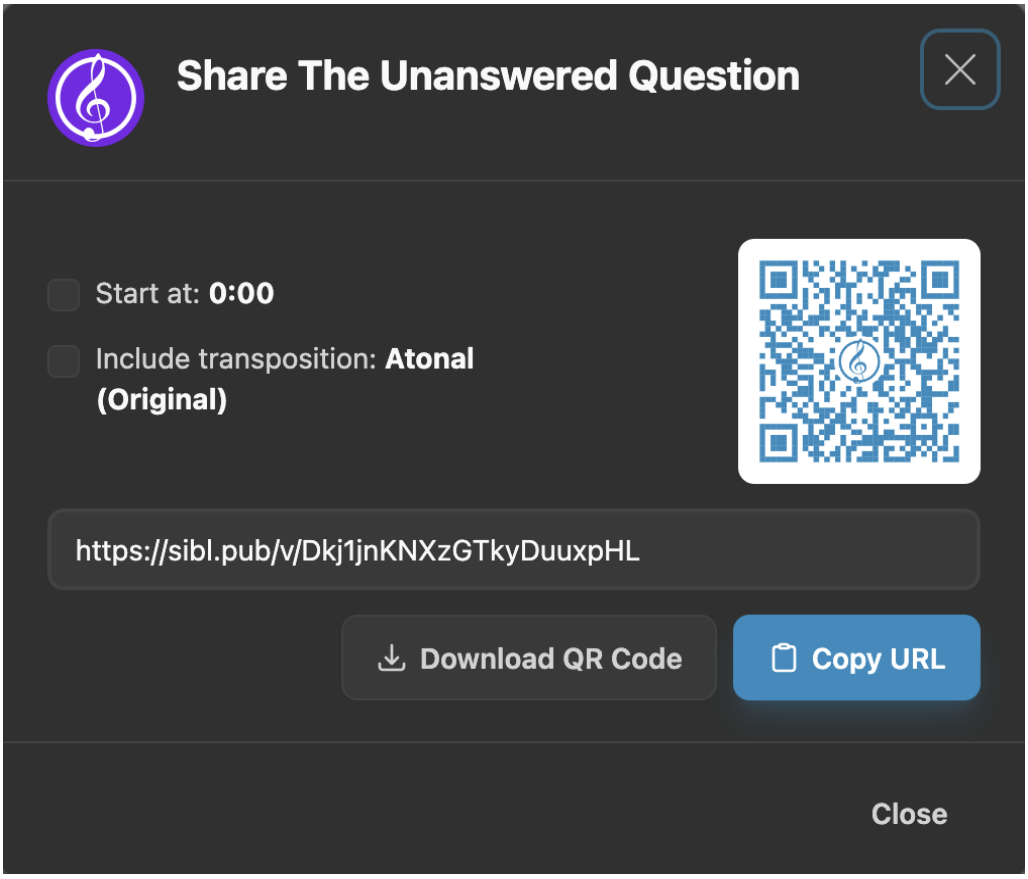
- **`Full Score`** option (enabled by default).
- **`Subsets`** option (off by default).
- **`Parts`** option (off by default).

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.



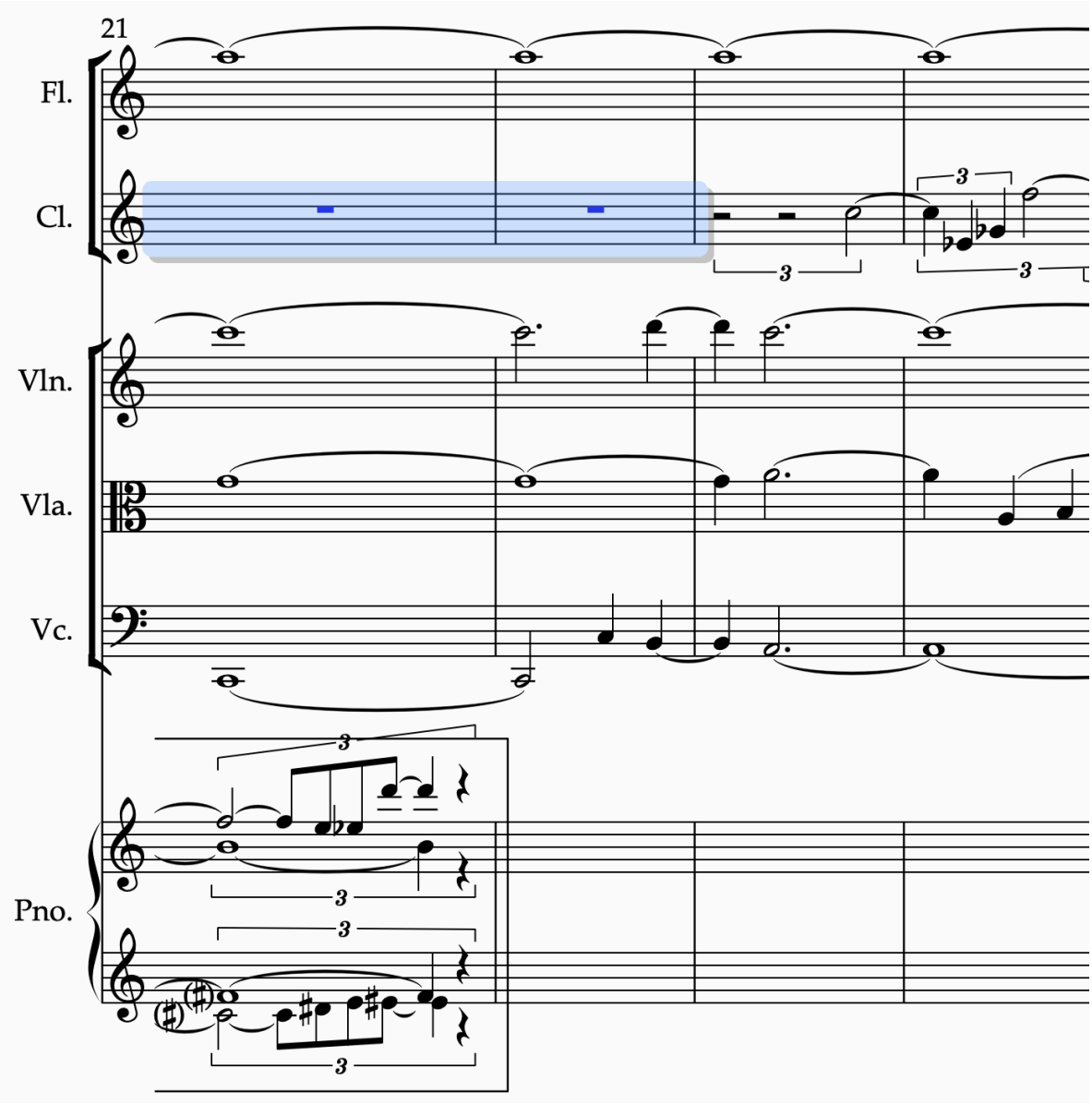
If a change is made to the score and the change is pushed (**`Home > Cloud Sharing > Push`**), all open views (score and parts) receive a notification that the score has been updated and that it is time to refresh the browser.

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



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

6 New Features and Improvements in Sibelius 2026.2

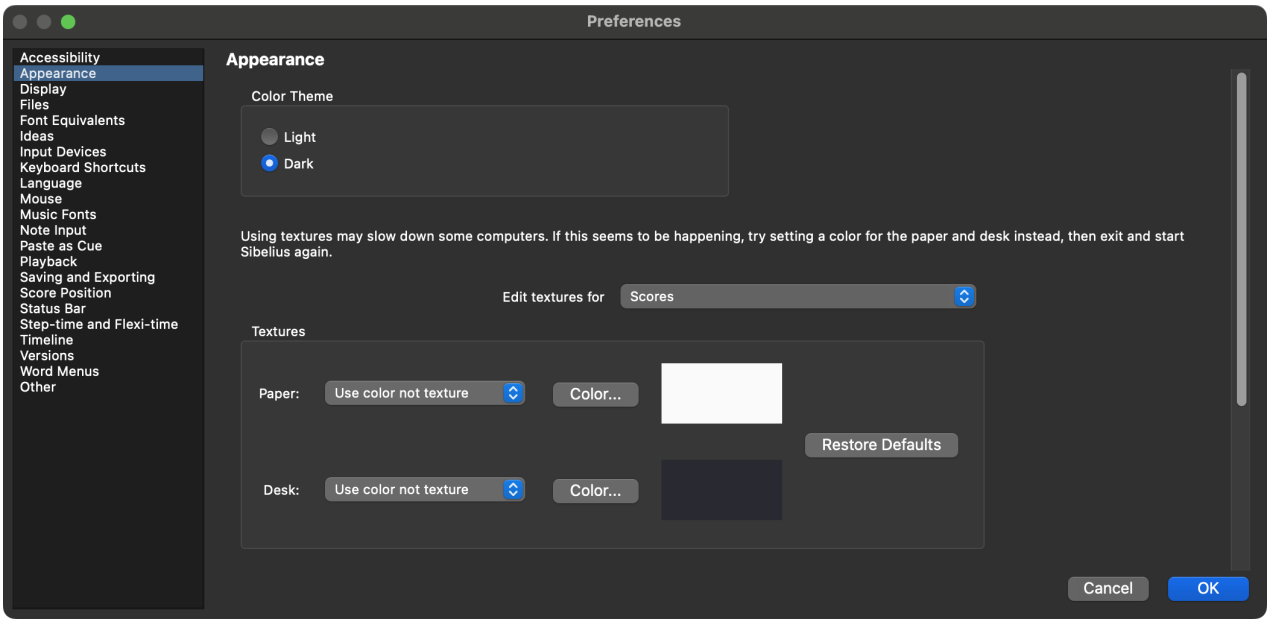
Dark Color Theme Option

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.

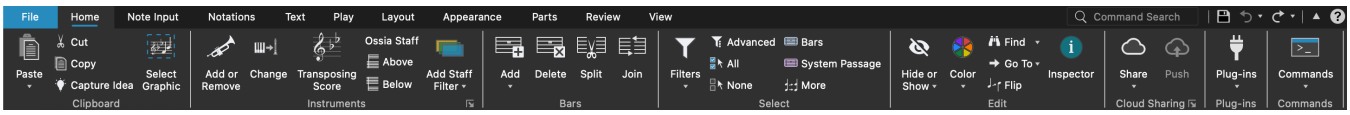
To set the appearance for Sibelius to either the Light or Dark theme:

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



3. Click **OK**.

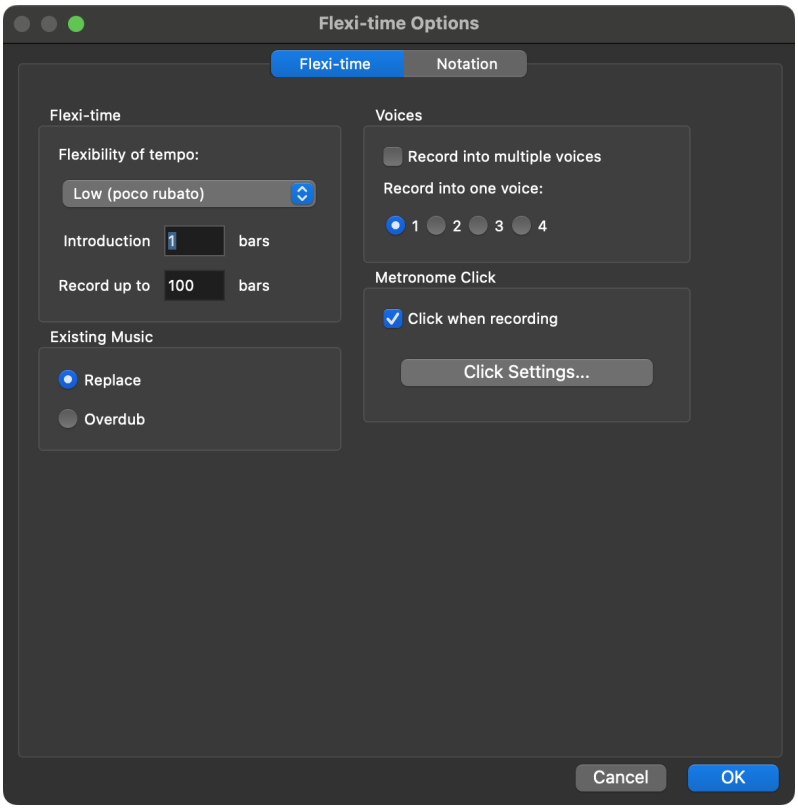
The following images provide a few examples of the Dark theme:



Home tab, Dark theme



Keypad, Dark theme



Flexi-time Options dialog, Dark theme

Textures Preferences Moved to the Appearance Preferences

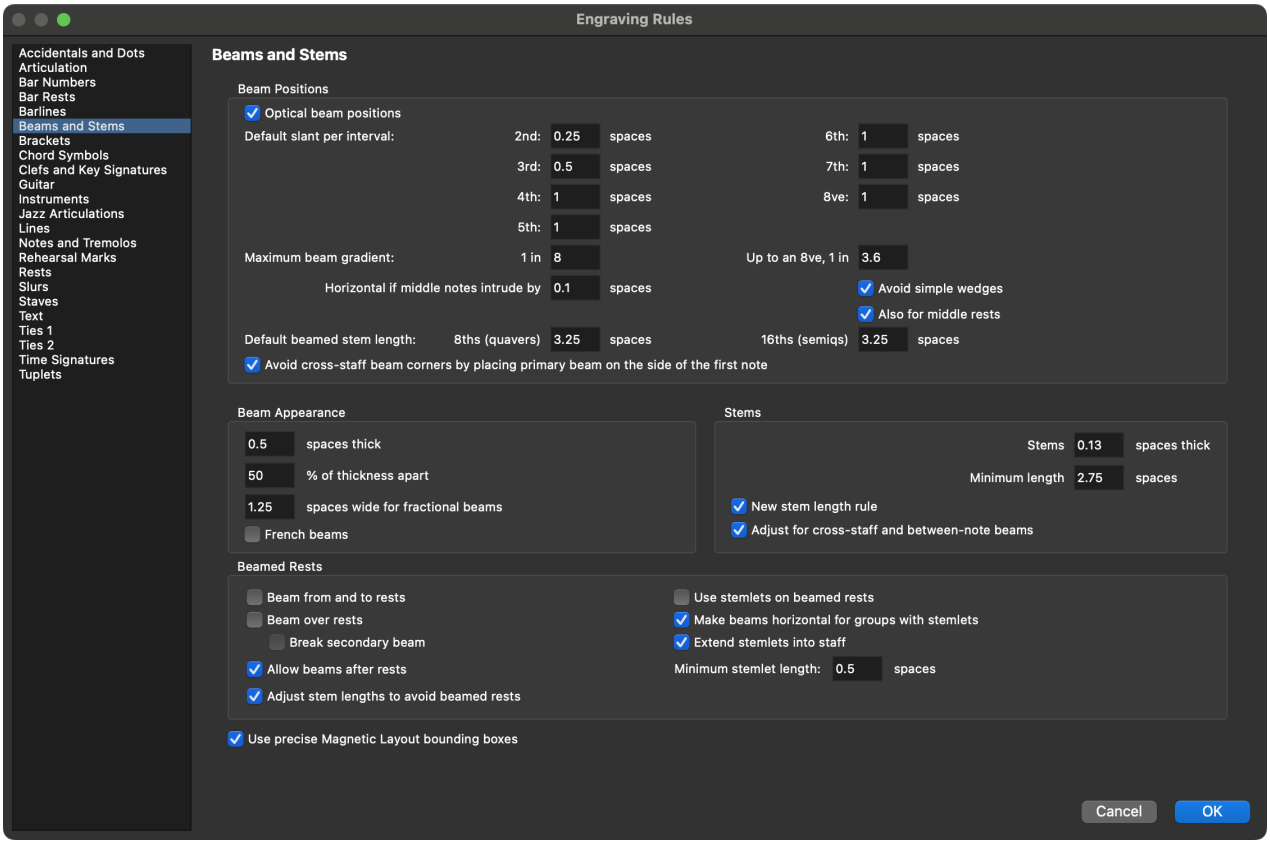
The **`Textures`** preferences have been moved to the **`Appearance`** preferences page. Additionally, you can now click the **`Restore Defaults`** button to restore the default Textures settings.

Cross-Staff Beaming Improvements

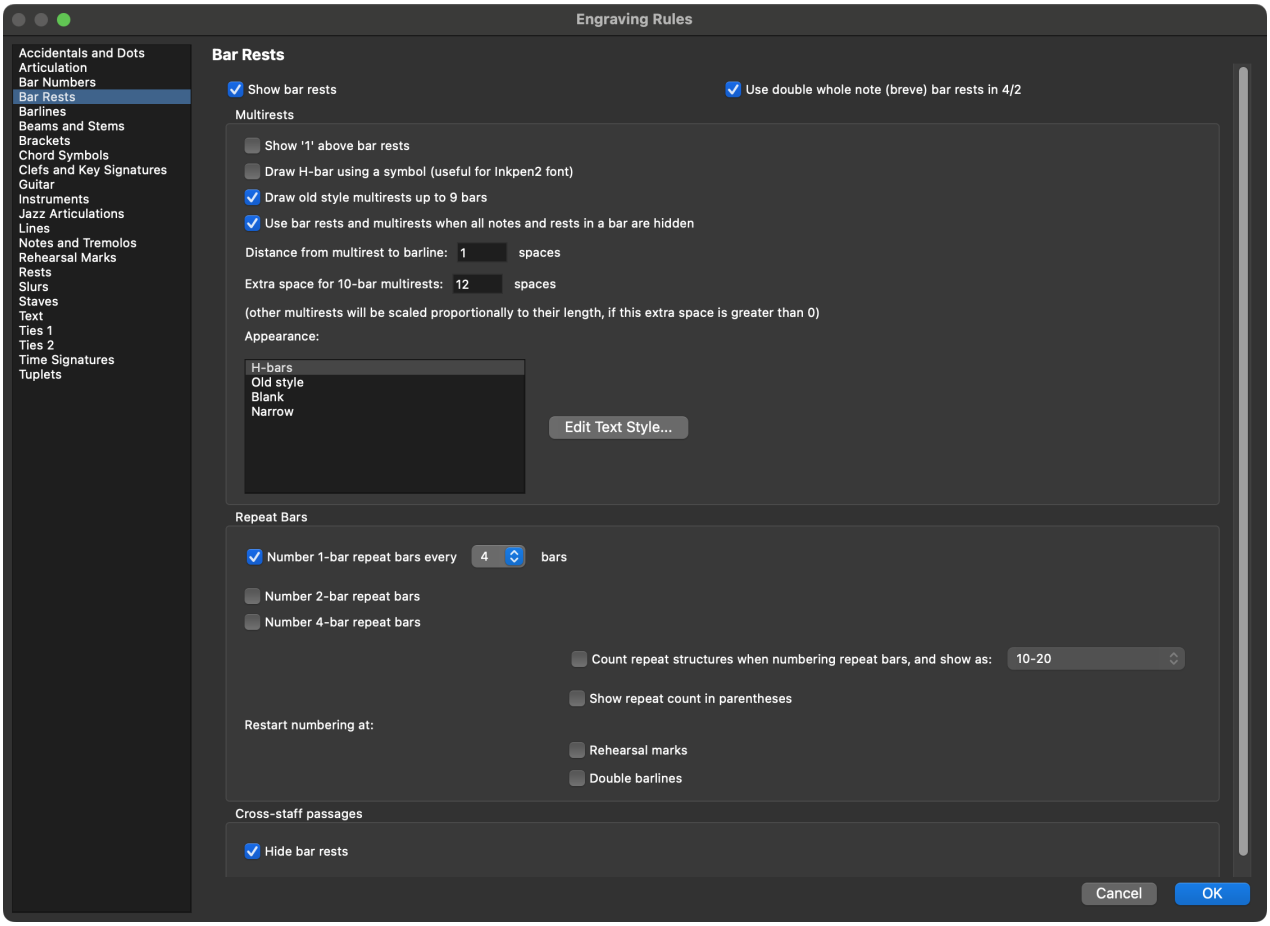
Sibelius provides improved handling of cross-staff beaming and rests. Enable the **`Avoid cross-staff beam corners by placing primary beam on the side of the first note`** option to avoid unwanted beam corners. Enable the enable **`Hide Bar Rests`** option to automatically hide rests on staves bridged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

To enable the option for improved cross-staff beaming:

1. Choose **`Appearance > Engraving Rules > Beams and Steams`**.
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.

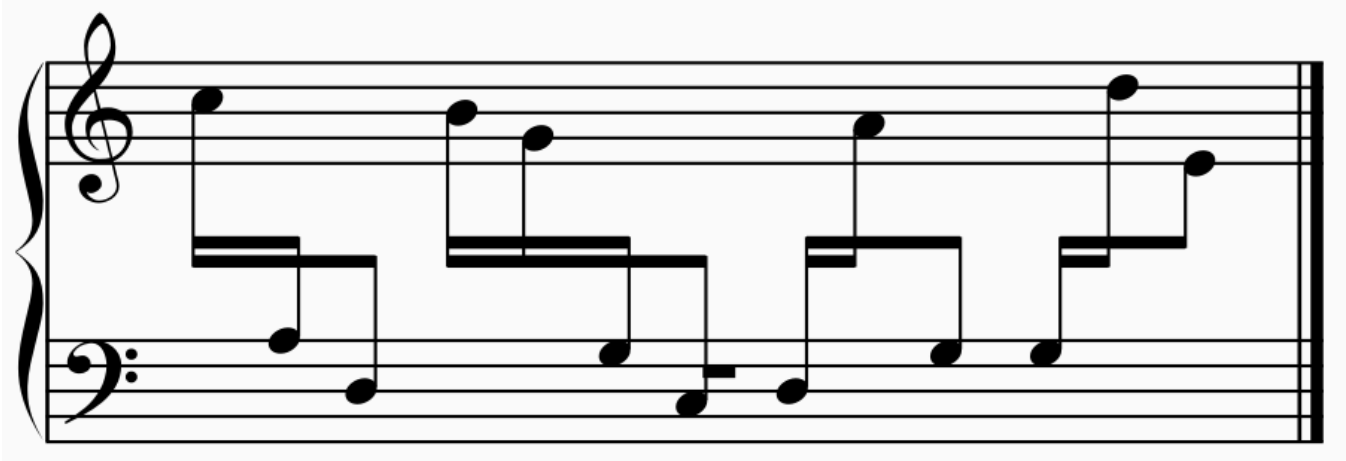


3. Choose **Engraving Rules > Bar Rests** and under **Cross-staff passages**, enable **Hide Bar Rests** to automatically hide rests on staves bridged by beams.

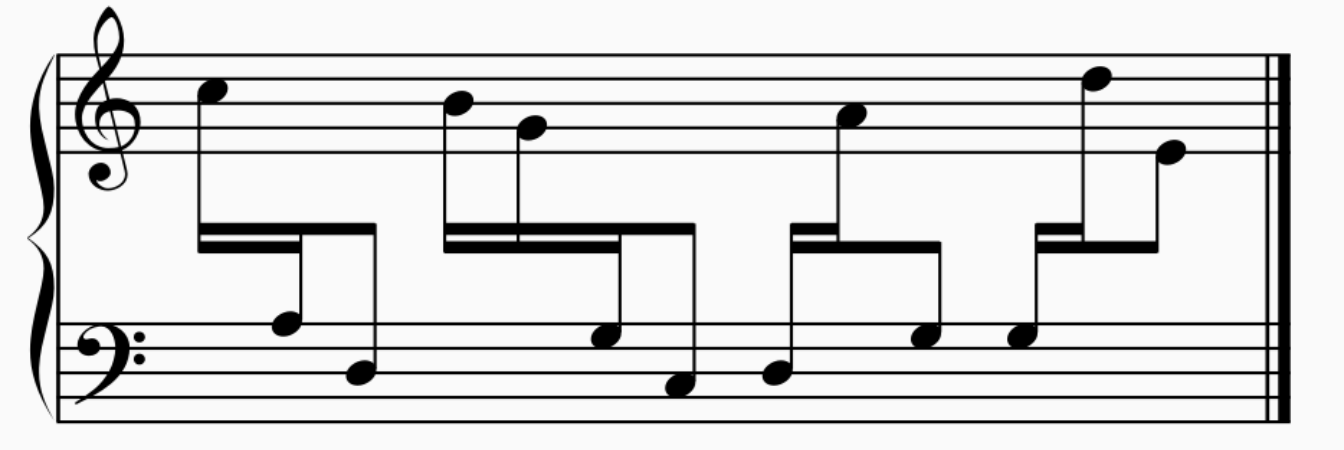


4. Click **OK**.

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

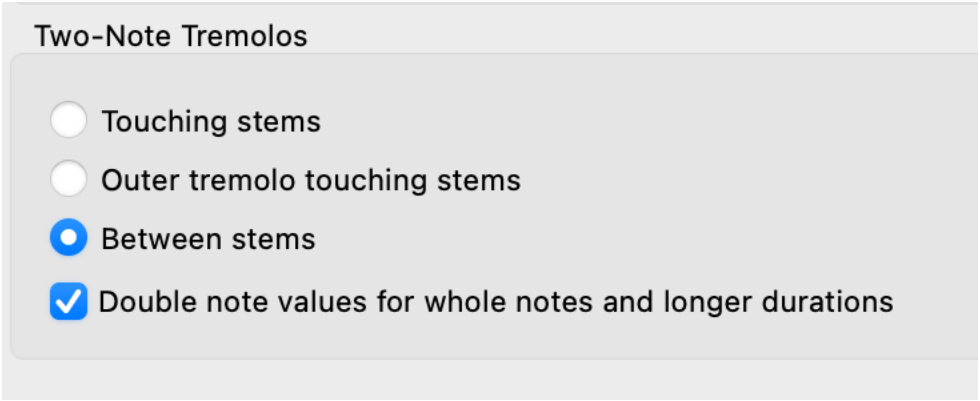


Avoid cross-staff beam corners by placing primary beam on the side of the first note and **Hide bar rests** options enabled

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**.



3. Click **OK**.



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www.avid.com/support