

# Scanning for Music Education

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## Why Scan?

- To convert paper music to digital sheet music, most likely in the PDF format
- To convert paper music to digital notation

## What is needed?

- Device (to digital)
- Or a scanning service
- Application(s) (Music OCR)
- Or a scanning service

## Which Devices?

- Institutional photocopier
- Flatbed scanner
- Phone
- Duplex scanner
- Scanning service

## Best practices when scanning

- Cut choral octavos
- Decide on a naming process
- 300 dpi black and white (not greyscale)
- Organize files as you save them. Only move them once (or twice for a backup)
- If using an auto document feeder, make sure all the pages scanned!
- Remove covers of music (e.g. choral octavos)
- Save work in two places, one in the “cloud”
- PDF is a good format
- Have scores in the “cloud” so they are accessible anywhere, anytime

## Paper to Digital Notation

- Scanning sheet music to a notation application
- Two methods
  - Obtain PDF and convert PDF
  - Take photos and convert
- Generally, MusicXML is the inter-app format

## Current(?) Music OCR Options

- Most are subscription based
- Options
  - PlayScore 2
  - Sheet Music Scanner
  - Newzik
  - Scan Score
  - SmartScore Pro 64 NE
  - PhotoScore/NotateMe Now
- If the PDF came from a music notation application, try PDF to Music Pro (Myriad)
- There is ALWAYS cleanup
- The worse the original, the worse the scan
- Complicated scores have more issues
- Percussion doesn't scan correctly
- Lyrics can be problematic
- Try another app if one doesn't scan correctly

## Other Thoughts:

- Don't forget about public domain websites!
  - CPDL
  - IMSLP
  - PDF Band Music Library
  - MusOpen
  - Art Song Central
  - Italian Madrigal Resource Center
- Be aware of copyright
- Scan what you need now, and add when you have time
- If you legally own music, don't hesitate to search for an existing scan

## What Tablet Apps Exist (for display)?

- forScore (iPad)
- unrealBook (iPad)
- Mobile Sheets (Android, iPad, and Windows)
- Newzik App (iOS Only) or Newzik Web (Browser)

These applications all have special tools for musicians to use while reading PDF files.