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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is Rosegarden?

Rosegarden-4, hereafter referred to as simply Rosegarden, is a versatile application that seeks to be a useful tool for those wanting to create music. It combines aspects of a MIDI sequencer, an audio sequencer, and a notation editor into one convenient, easy to use package that provides users with a consistent and mostly intuitive interface.

Rosegarden is a native KDE application that can run on any system that has the KDE and QT libraries installed, and currently requires a minimum of KDE/QT 3.0 in order to run. Many of its features may only work Linux systems, but it is designed to compile and run on any Unix-like platform capable of running KDE.

## 1.2 This Guide's *Raison d'être*

My goal in writing this guide is to help you explore Rosegarden, and to discover ways to use its features to solve real problems that you might encounter when creating your own music. Rosegarden is easy to use, once you come to understand its framework, but it's not quite like anything you are likely to have used in the past. As such, I wish to take you on a guided tour through Rosegarden, to demonstrate many of its capabilities, and on offer you a foundation from which your own creative projects can spring.

My intention here is not to write an exhaustive technical manual that covers every single possibility in dry detail. This is a meandering journey through Rosegarden, taking you through real-world projects, and showing you things of interest along the way. I hope that by sharing my experiences and explaining how I've used Rosegarden to accomplish various and specific goals, we'll both be able to get more out of time spent with this application.

## 1.3 Requirements

I assume that you have at least Rosegarden 4 version 0.8.5, and that it's working properly. I leave it to you to surf to the Rosegarden download page at <http://www.all-day-breakfast.com/download.html> and work outward from there if you don't already have a copy. Several distros already have a rosegarden4 or rosegarden-4 package available through mainstream or third-party channels, and if it isn't already, yours will probably be among them soon.

*NOTE: Rosegarden is under constant development. As such, some details or screenshots described here may not exactly match the software in front of you. I intend to keep this guide useful, but I don't have the energy to re-write it and create new images from the top down every time someone adds a new icon somewhere. I'm attempting to keep this guide useful to those who are conservative enough to stay away from CVS, but I may slip. If something I'm writing about doesn't seem to exist, chances are that it was added since the last official release.*

## 1.4 Intended Audience

The demonstration projects featured in this guide are all based on problems that I have solved for myself in the time since I began using Rosegarden. They are strongly influenced by my own musical interest as an amateur, untrained composer, arranger, and musician.

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## 1.6 History

### Date Notes

12/10/02 Initial public draft

12/15/02 Merged into CVS tree

12/16/02 First re-write begins...

12/19/02 Continues...

01/01/03 Conversion from "tutorial" to "guide" and shift of development model

01/12/03 Added Studio, re-structured to introduce segments in a logical place

01/19/03 Greatly improved Studio chapter, multiple edits and tweaks

## 1.7 Getting This Document

The latest version of the *Using Rosegarden* is always available from  
<http://rosegarden.sourceforge.net/tutorial/using-rosegarden/using-rosegarden.html>

You'll also want to snag [toc.html](#) to get the Table of Contents. If you intend to print this, you can grab [using-rosegarden.pdf](#) from the same site. (The PDF version includes the Table of Contents.)

You can also get it from CVS in the same way you get Rosegarden. It's part of the moddle called **tutorial**. I'm too lazy to go dig out and prettily format the instructions for this at the moment, but I've given you enough of a hint to get there if you dig for it a bit. :)

## 1.8 Copyright and License

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*Using Rosegarden*

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*NOTE: This facility was only recently added to Rosegarden. If you're not running at least version 0.8.5, you'll need to upgrade to 0.8.5 or CVS before you can make use of these features. If this chapter is completely baffling to you, check your version.*

## 2.5 Instruments, Banks and Devices

Before you can accomplish anything with the **Studio**, you need to understand what a **device** is. A **device**, simply stated, is a data structure that contains up to numerous **banks** of instrument definitions.

A **device** is a Rosegarden construct, a storage container, that has absolutely no correlation to the term "device" as you might apply it in a context like "MIDI device," referring to something like your Aunt Matilda's MIDI piano, or "MIDI device" referring to your MPU-401 card or your soundcard's on-board synthesizer. It's best if you treat **device** in Rosegarden's context as though it were a false cognate (*les faux amis*) in a foreign language. It looks like English, and sounds like English, but no English language dictionary definition of this term will help you to understand the language of Rosegarden.

In Rosegarden parlance, a **device** is a construct that contains up to numerous **banks** of **instrument definitions** that are attached to a particular set of ports. If you have only one MIDI device, and it doesn't support anything more than the basic General MIDI instrument set, then the **device** need only contain one **bank** with a single set of instrument definitions attached to your only port, and you're in luck, because that's how Rosegarden headache.

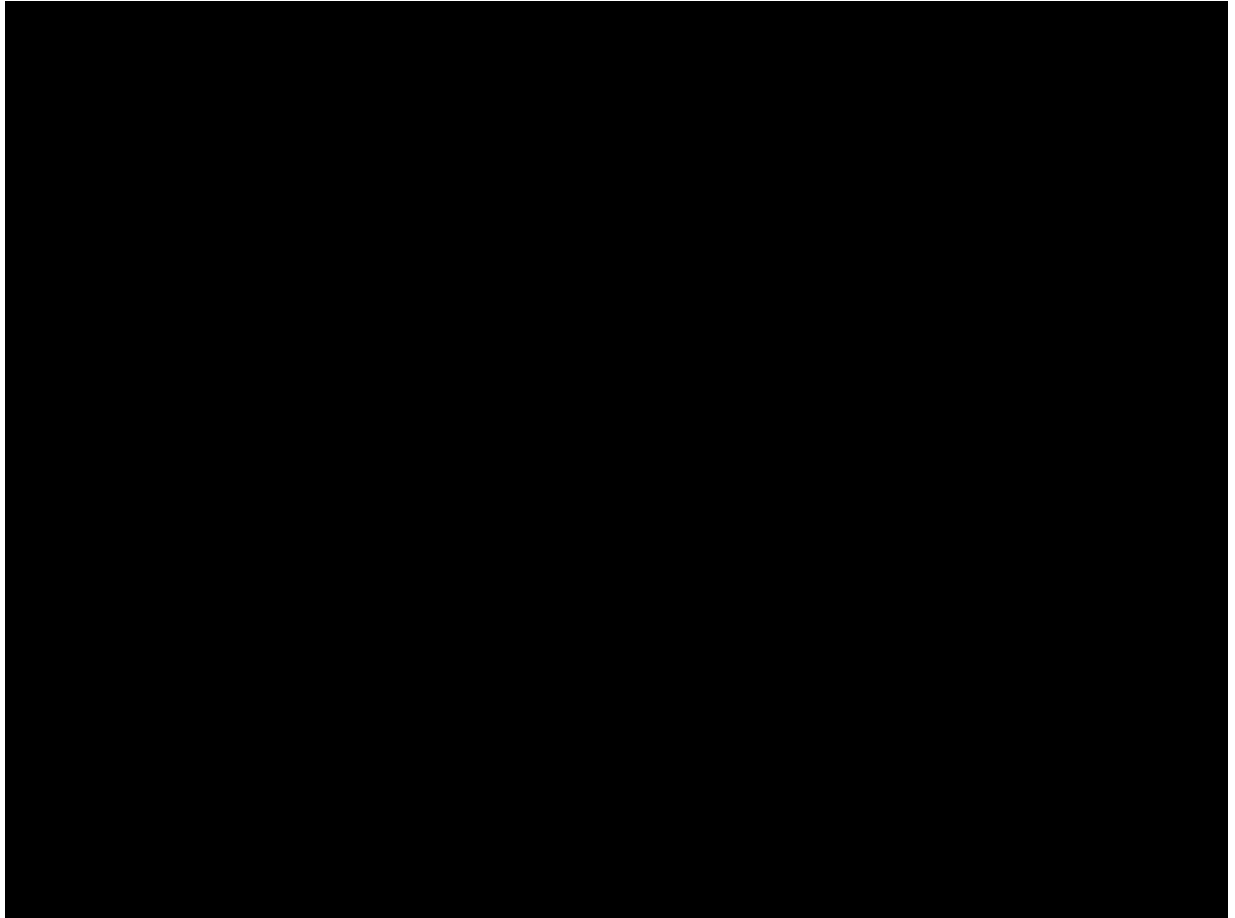
If, on the other hand, you have two soundcards with a MIDI port each, and you're also using an IIWU Soft Synth, your **device** might contain several

device might contain several connected remote numbers of /F you might divide up into multiple of the same, a less savable piece into a certain number of /

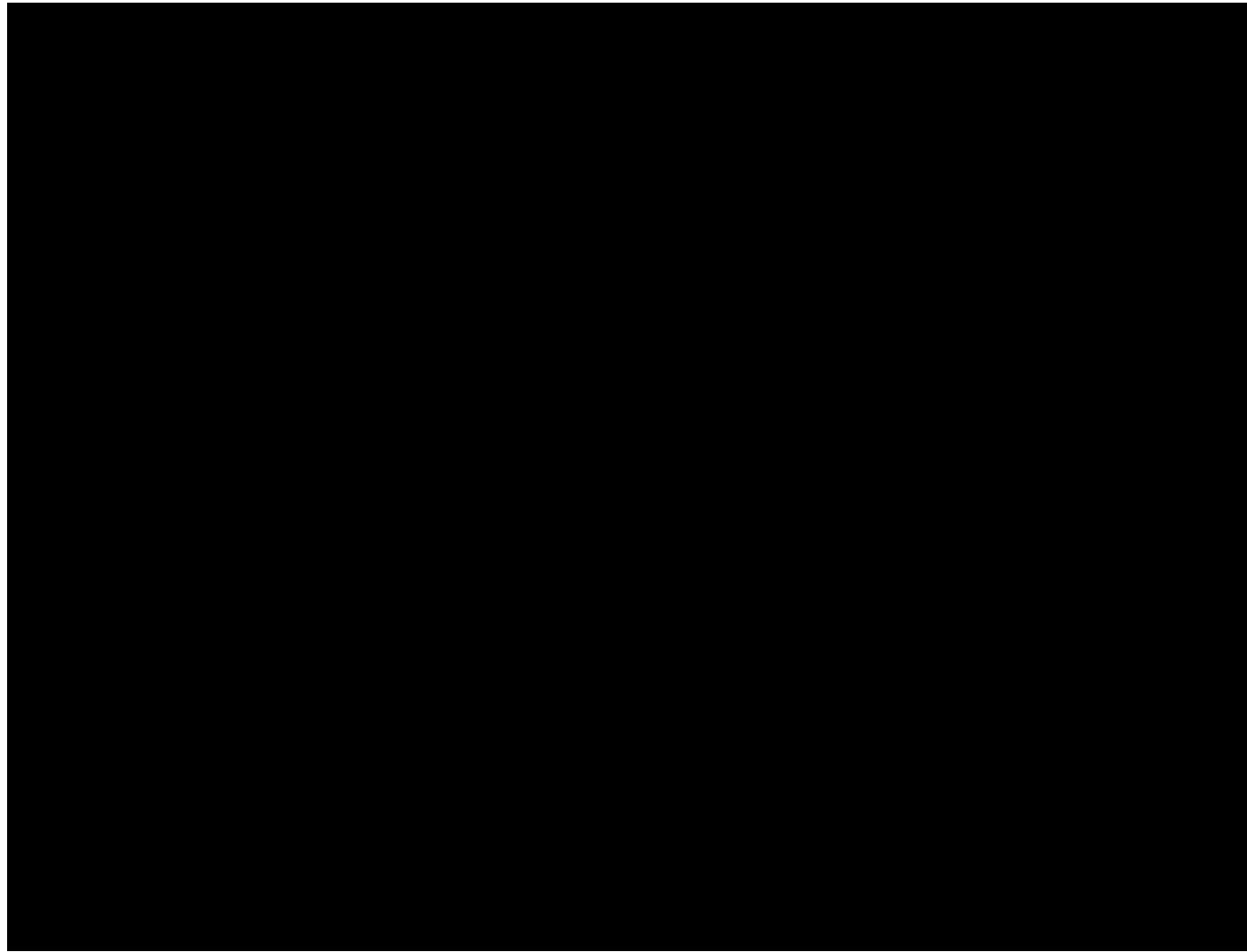
*Yoh0 I'll most likely need root access in order to accomplish this.)*

*2.7 A Device Dissected*

*Let's take a look at what an .rgd file (or the device port*





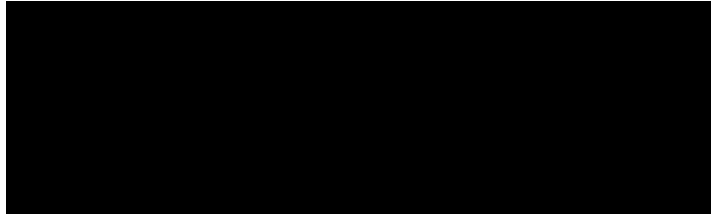


**GM is a device**



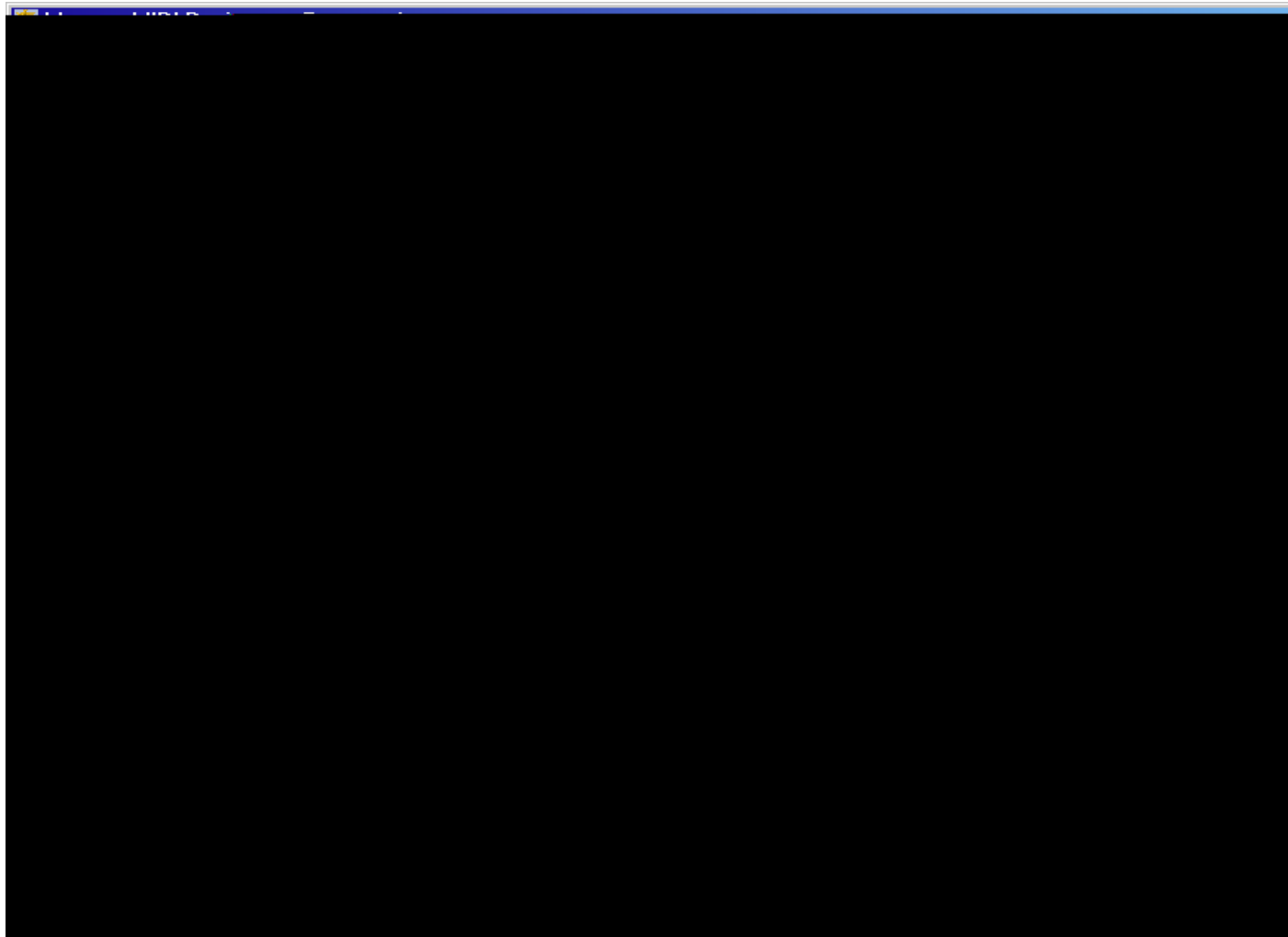
The stock **device** files included with Rosegarden are only supposed to contain one set of





I don't think you'll have any trouble figuring out what to do. Just fill in the blanks, or delete existing names as needed. To change the name of the bank, click on it to highlight it, then click on it again, and you should get an edit cursor.

*TIP: The **banks** are sorted alphabetically by name, not by **LSB/MSB** number. You may want to bear that in mind when choosing your*

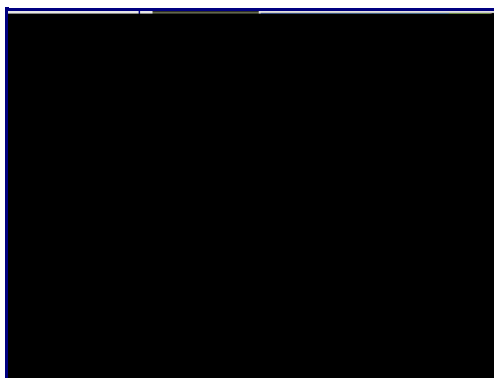




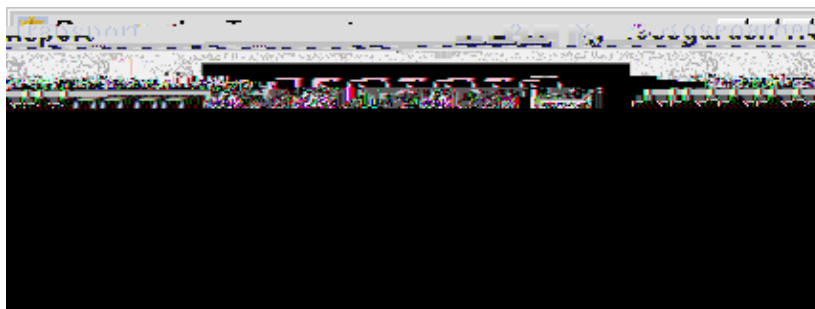
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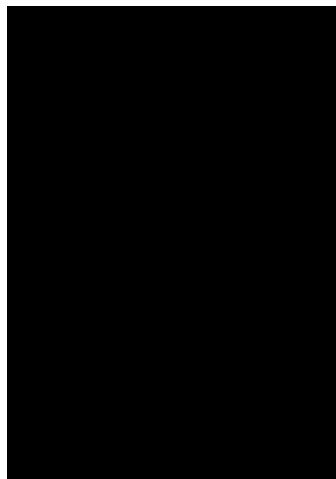
Now that we've imported the file, let's see how it fared. Rosegarden is not purely a MIDI sequencer, and a certain amount of translation takes place when importing MIDI files into Rosegarden's internal format. Configuring your **device** definition in the **Studio** beforehand goes a long way toward eliminating trouble, but sometimes the import process introduces minor problems that need to be corrected, which wayT will address Tj 0 –13.2 7







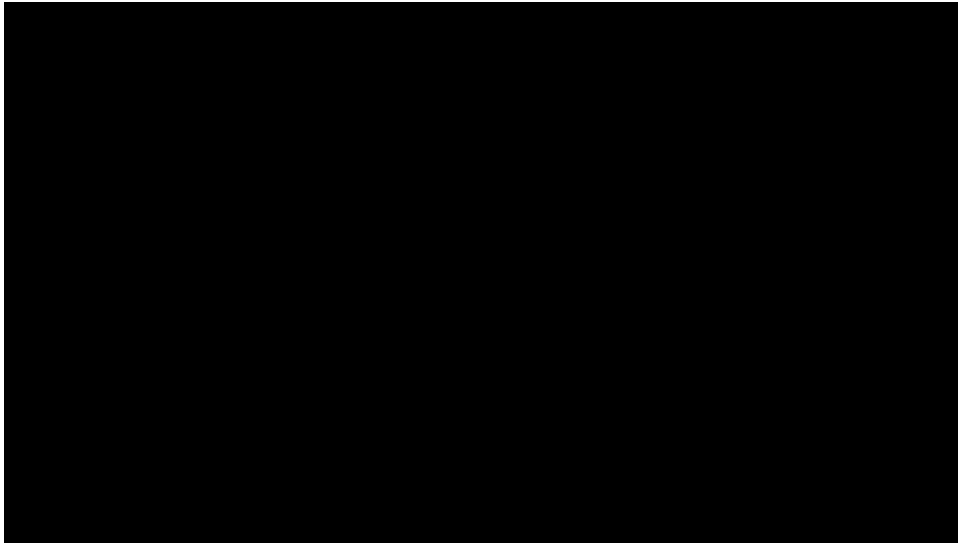
Now, we really need to change the drum kit. As I mentioned in the **Studio** chapter, Rosegarden can't yet cope with having GS-style named drumkits on channel 10. It's on the taba on but no decisonehavsyet cben cmade vsyt





Depending on your synth's implementation, some of these knobs may not actually be useful to you. If any of these knobs don't seem to have any effect, blame it on your synth.

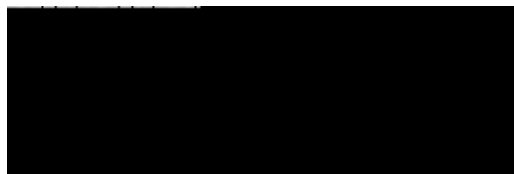
## 3.5 More About Segments



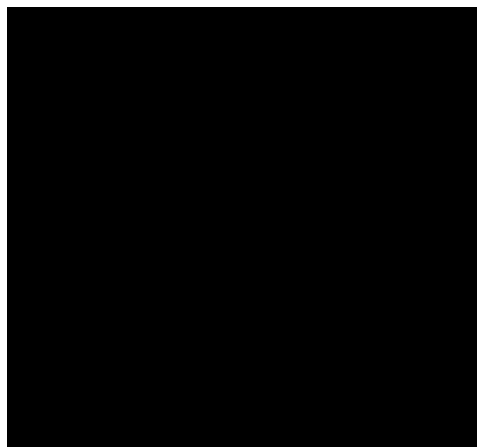
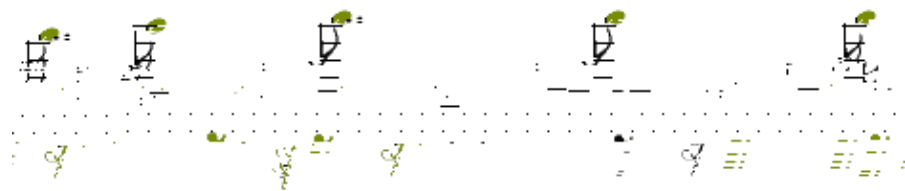


*The autosave interval defaults to 60 seconds. Configure it via the **Settings** menu.*

*This feature alone is probabl, worth dipping your toe into the waters of CVS if you're not already building it, because, let's face it folks, this is pre-release software, and it crashes from time to time.*











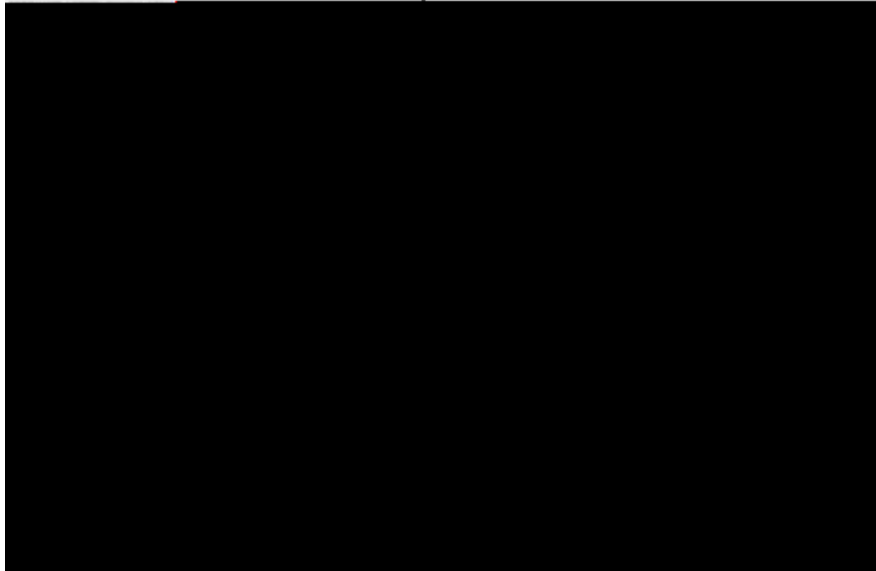








If you have a look at the **File** → **Export...** menu, you'll see that it's possible to export your compositions in both Lilypond and MusicXML formats:



For the moment, I recommend using Lilypond, because that's where useful things are most likely to happen in the near future. If you don't have it already, try to install your distro's version first. If your distro doesn't include a Lilypond package, and/or if you are not already familiar with Lilypond, you should surf over to <http://www.lilypond.org> and have a look around.

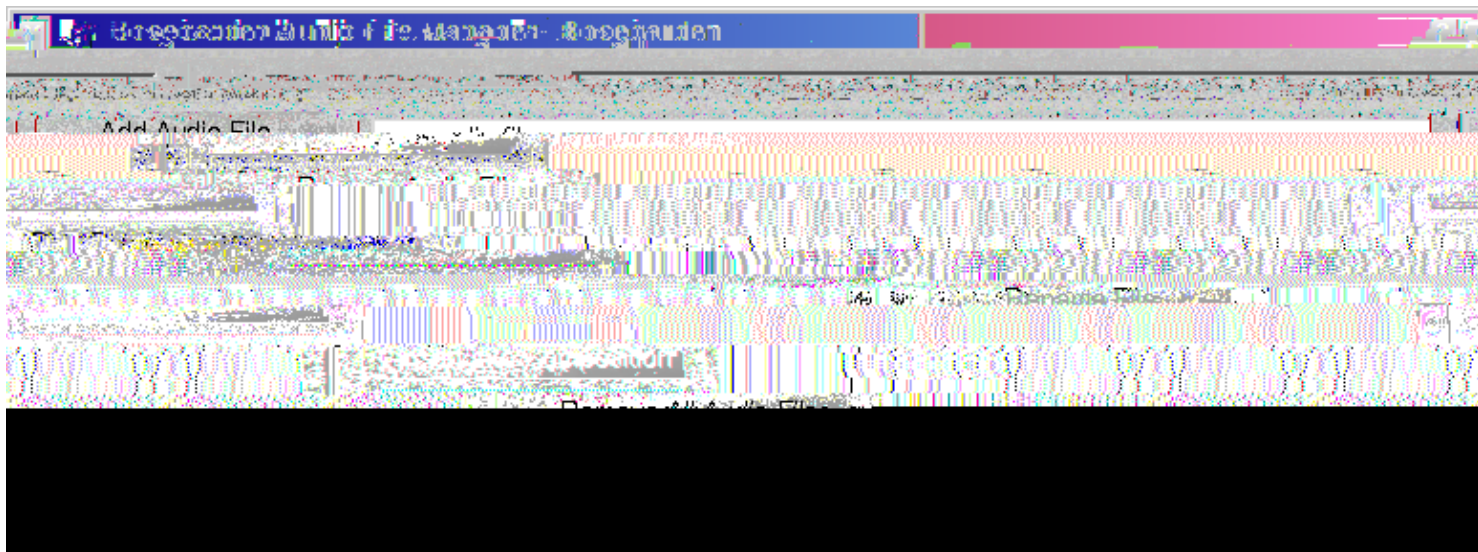
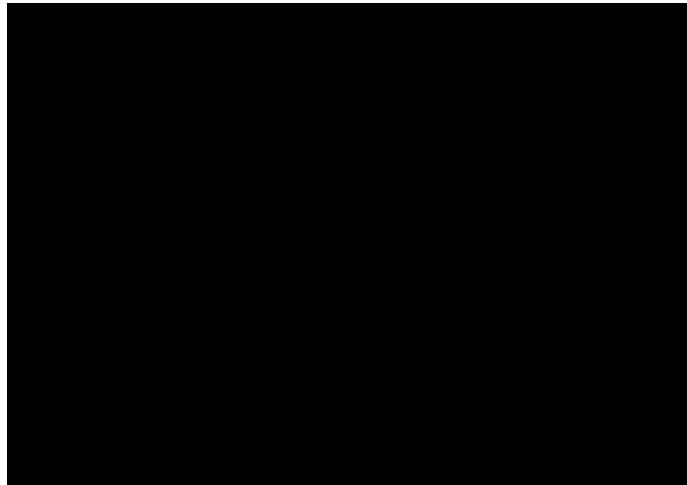
Using Lilypond is way beyond this scope of this guide, so I refer you to Lilypond's own extensive documentation and its numerous online resources toward that end.

At present, a large number of things do not make it into the export, and you would be surprised at the things that do.

## 5 Using Audio

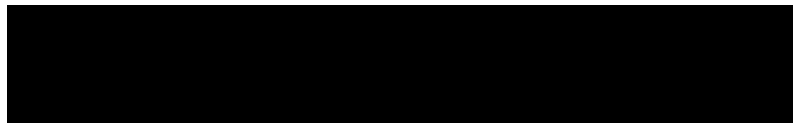


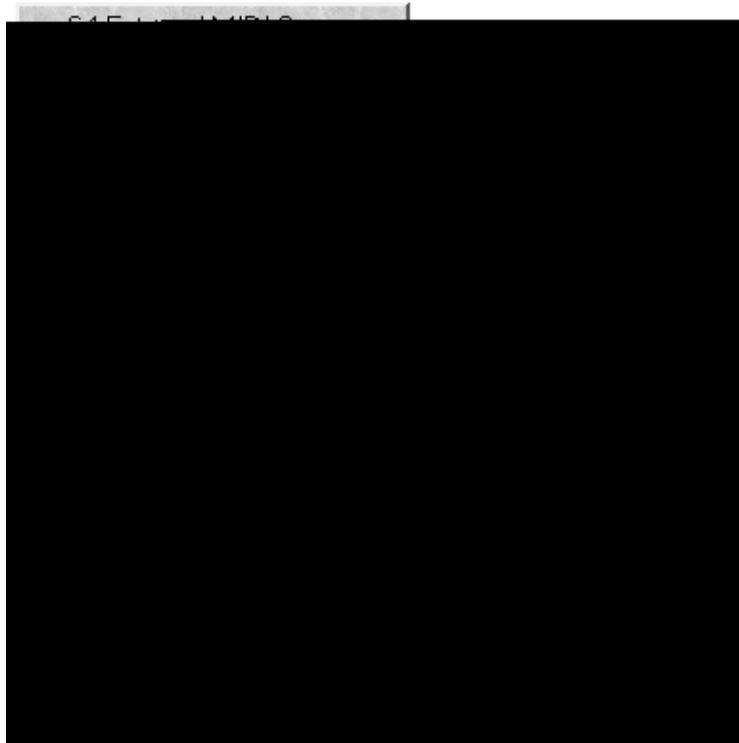
on with some other application, you can import the audio files and insert them into your composition. The heart of this facility is the **Segments -> Manage Audio Segments...**






Once the files are loaded, some statistics are printed, and a brief preview appears. You can use the **Play Preview**





*NOTE: I honestly have no idea what JACK Audio #0 through #15 mean.*

Now if the  button is toggled for the track, making it the destination for record operations, any signal on the mixer channel you've selected as the record source (via KMix or the like) should be recorded, and should wind up in an audio segment.

???

## 6 That's All, Folks...

That's all I've had time to do to date. There are many more topics I wish to treat eventually, but there are so many developments in the works at the time of this writing that I'm just as well off to hold back, to reduce the amount of material I will have to adapt to suit changing future realities. I've already written about far too many features that are only available in CVS as it is.

I hope what you've seen has given you ideas for projects that **you** can do with Rosegarden. If I've left something that's very important to you out, please feel free to send me a note at [dmmcintyr@users.sourceforge.net](mailto:dmmcintyr@users.sourceforge.net) and I will try to accommodate your need and discuss it sooner.

D. Michael McIntyre