

# How to start with Songscribe

This is a short tutorial. It is not complete but should assist you in the beginning.

Usually there are a few different ways to arrive at the same destination.

Here we try to show you the quickest ways.

If you have a question, please check also the questions and answers section at the end of this tutorial.

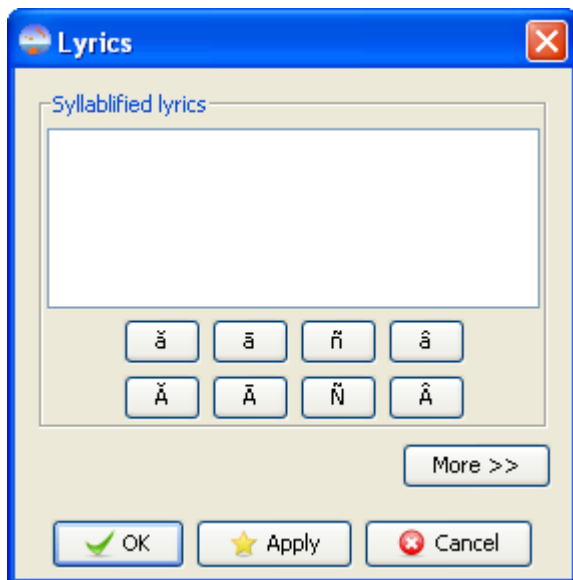
Have a good start,  
The Songscribe Team

## 1. Start with the Lyrics

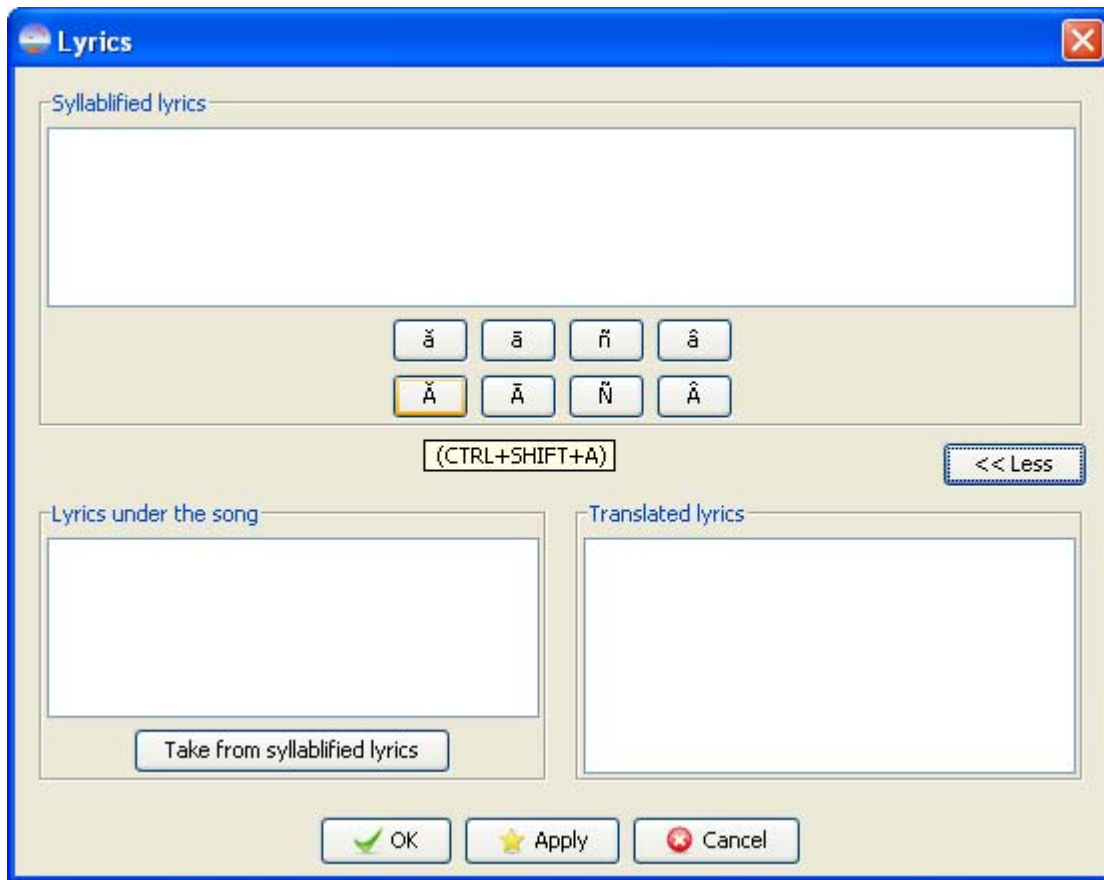
Once you have entered the lyrics correctly everything else will work out quite fast.

Press <Ctrl> (<Strg> on German keyboards) and the <L> key or choose the menu:  
**Composition->Lyrics.**

This will open the following dialog box:

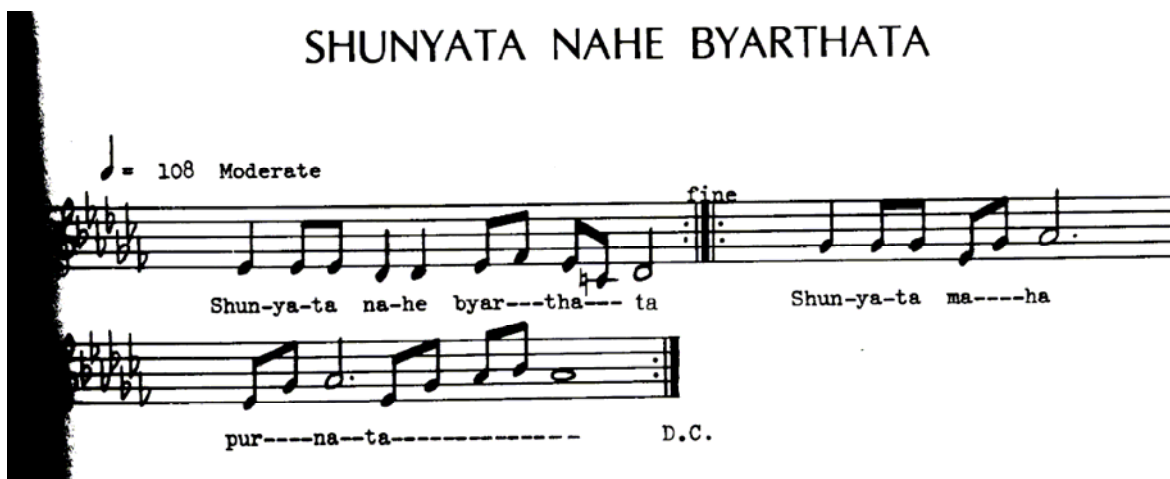


Click on [More >>] and you will see the complete box:



Type in the lyrics in the first box. If you need a special Bengali letter a click on the button will insert them. If you place your mouse over a certain button, it will show you how to get this letter with keyboard strokes for faster typing.

Now comes the important thing:



For this song you would type in:

**Shun-ya-ta na-he byar\_tha\_ta Shun-ya-ta ma\_ha**  
**Pur\_na-ta\_\_\_\_\_**

So here is the rule:

**If a word spans over notes use as many underscores [ \_ ] as there are notes (including grace notes), if the syllables change with the notes use a hyphen [-]!**  
(If you need a hyphen between words like in Compassion-Eye use two hyphen [-][-]).

For example: the last word in the song:

**pur** spans over one note (so we make 1x underscore after **pur**)

**na** does not span over notes (so we make 1x hyphen after **na**)

**ta** spans over 4 notes (so we make 4x underscores after **ta**)

= pur\_na-ta\_\_\_\_\_

That is the most complicated part. The rest is quite easy.

Separate the words like usual with a space and on the end of the line press Enter.

Then on the end press the button [Take from syllabified lyrics] and rearrange if necessary

For example: The first box might have the words:

**Nil nil nil nil nil nil nil nil nil**

**Nil a-ka\_she u-ri a-mi hi-yai sa-the\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pu-ji se-thai\_ a-mi a-mar\_ vi\_shwa na\_\_the**

But in the Lyrics under the song box you want only:

**Nil akashe uri ami hiyai sathe**

**Puji sethai ami amar vishwa nathe**

(so you delete unnecessary repetitions)

(Also sometimes you want to rearrange the lines, so that it looks like the original poem whereas the first box has to follow the notes)

## 2. Make the Settings

Press <Ctrl> (<Strg> on German keyboards) and the <G> key or choose the menu: **Composition->Composition Settings**. This will open the following dialog box:

The screenshot shows the 'Composition settings' dialog box with several sections and annotations:

- Title of song**: Includes a 'Number' field (set to 1), a 'Title' text box (containing 'Nil Akashe Uri Ami'), and a 'Take' button. An annotation points to the 'Number' field: "Fill in the number of the songs (even if there is no number on the score, start with 1)".
- Date and place**: Includes fields for 'Place', 'Month', 'Day', and 'Year'. An annotation points to the 'Take' button: "Click the [Take] button to have the Title of the song inserted."
- Information on right side**: Includes a text box for 'Words and Music by Sri Chinmoy' and two buttons: 'Append date' and 'Append place and date'. An annotation points to the 'Append date' button: "If the title consists of a different number of words change the number before you click [Take]".
- Tempo**: Includes a tempo selector (set to 44), a 'Description' dropdown (set to 'Very Slow'), and a checkbox 'Show only the tempo description'. An annotation points to the 'Append date' button: "If you have a date or place info fill it in an click one of the [Append] buttons Please always put 'Words and Music by Sri Chinmoy' even if the original song does not contain it."
- Key Signature**: Includes a key signature selector (set to 5) and a 'Show only the tempo description' checkbox. An annotation points to the 'Append date' button: "Fill in the Tempo and Key Signature and Click [OK]".

At the bottom of the dialog box are three buttons: 'OK', 'Apply', and 'Cancel'.

### 3. Start typing the notes

First change to Keyboard mode via menu: Edit->Control->Keyboard

You will see a **blue note** which is a pre selection. Once you hit **[Enter]** the note gets permanent and changes to black colour and the next blue note turns up.

*If you have entered the lyrics correctly it will be placed automatically under the correct note.*

*If there is a mistake: change it once you have typed in all the notes.*

Now as long as the note is blue you can:

- adjust its height with the [↑] and [↓] arrow keys
- change its time value with the number keys [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]
- press [F] to add a ♭ (flat), [N] for ♮ (natural), [S] for # (sharp)
- change it to a **grace note** press [G]
- press a dot [.] for adding a dot after the note
- change it to a rest by pressing [Ctrl] + [1] or [2] or [3] or [4] or [5] or [6]
- change it to a repeat left [L] or repeat right sign [R]
- anything else you can do with **menu: Insert**

Once the note is on its proper vertical place and has all its attributes hit **[Enter]**

Now you can adjust a few other things:

- glissando to the next note: [↑] or [↓] adjust the height first, then [Shift] + [G]
- beam or unbeam: press [B]
- tie or untie: press [Ctrl] + [T]
- triplets: press [T]

Now go ahead and see if you can right away make all the adjustments. If there is a special thing like a vertical line or anything else look in the menu and insert it.

**Important: While typing the notes you can not change the horizontal alignment. We will take care of it later.**

To insert a **new line**: press [Ctrl] + [Enter]

To drive the **blue note** to the **next** or **previous line**: press [PAGE UP], [PAGE DOWN]

### 4. Making corrections

- **to delete the last note**: press [BACK SPACE]
- **to insert a note**: drive the blue note with [←], [→], [PAGE UP] or [PAGE DOWN] until it is exactly on the same horizontal position as the wrong black note. Then make all the necessary adjustments like adjusting the height, flats, etc. Then press **[Enter]** and the new note will be inserted
- **to change a wrong note**: drive the blue note with [←], [→], [PAGE UP] or [PAGE DOWN] until it is exactly on the same horizontal position as the wrong black note. Then make all the necessary adjustments like adjusting the height, flats, etc. Then press **[Enter]** and the black note will be change to the new note

## 5. Adjustments

This is an important step to arrange the spacing between the notes and words the way that it is good readable and looks nice.

Menu: **Mode -> Note adjustment**

Words and Music  
by Sri Chinmoy

= 126 Moderate-fast

Kran - dan - (a) ban - dhan - (a) khan - dan - (a) la - - - - - gi

Bhak - tir shak - tir pra - ne ra - hi ja - - - - - gi

D.C. al fine

- drag the **blue squares** to move the note along with the notes on its right
- drag the **white one** to move only one note
- drag the **green one** to adjust the position of the first note of the lines
- drag the **yellow one** to move the notes of one line proportionally

Sometimes it is also necessary to adjust the vertical spacing. For this you go to

Menu: **Mode -> Vertical adjustment**

It works similar, just drag the squares with the mouse.

Words and Music  
by Sri Chinmoy

= 126 Moderate-fast

Kran - dan - (a) ban - dhan - (a) khan - dan - (a) la - - - - - gi

Bhak - tir shak - tir pra - ne ra - hi ja - - - - - gi

D.C. al fine

## Questions and Answers

- Q: Should we make an exact copy of the songs that we get, in all aspects, or would it be possible (for instance) to put a few more notes on one bar if this fits with the text?*
- A: In general most of the original scores are done quite well so I would say it is a good idea to make a copy of the song. This applies to the beamings and other things which can be done differently. Concerning the lines you can definitely put more notes in a line. It does not have to fit the text lines but if it does it is nice.
- Q: Is it important to keep the same line breaks as original lyrics under the song?*
- A: Yes, since the songs are poems and in a poem the line breaks are important the lyrics under the song should have the same line breaks as in the original. If it does not go to Menu: **Composition -> Lyrics...** and change only the field **[lyrics under the song]**.
- Q: Do we want to justify (in terms of alignment) every staff so that the whole staff is filled?*
- A: It might look nicer but what happens is, that if you justify the songs some notes get quite stretched away from each other and the readableness really suffers. So I would advise to keep the original way unless it is any way almost justified and the readableness does not suffer.

For example: This original score is better (readable)



April 20, 1993

Pră - chār - - - i - - - te to - mār - - - bā - ni

Kār - - - bo pu - - tă hi - - yā khā - - - - - ni - - -

The image shows a musical score snippet with two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three flats. The melody consists of several eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Pră - chār - - - i - - - te to - mār - - - bā - ni' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics 'Kār - - - bo pu - - tă hi - - yā khā - - - - - ni - - -' are written below the second staff. The text 'April 20, 1993' is in the top right corner.

Then this justified one.



Pră - - - chār - - - - i - - - - te to - - - mār - - - bā - - - ni

Kār - - - - - bo pu - - tă hi - - yā khā - - - - - - - ni - - -

The image shows a musical score snippet with two staves, similar to the one above but with justified lyrics. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three flats. The melody consists of several eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Pră - - - chār - - - - i - - - - te to - - - mār - - - bā - - - ni' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics 'Kār - - - - - bo pu - - tă hi - - yā khā - - - - - - - ni - - -' are written below the second staff. The text is justified, meaning the lyrics are aligned to the right margin of the staff.

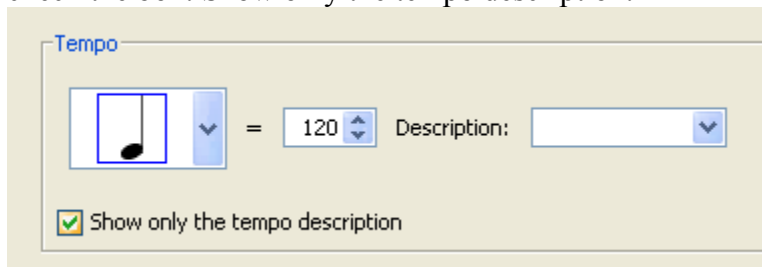
- Q: I got some songs and they only have [ā]'s when it comes to pronunciation (no [ă]'s for that matter). It's my guess that all the [a]'s that are not an [ā] are [ă]'s. Is that right?*
- A: I would say, we don't know. So let's make it simple and just do what is in the original score. There are also many songs which do not have any long and short a's marked. So what can we do? I am sure someone will take care of it later.

Q: *If original song does not have lyrics under the song. How do I use capitals?*

A: When the lyrics and the poem are broken in a different way, the general rule is that you should start each lyrics line with a capital letter. If you combine lines, still just start the line with a capital.

Q: *If a song does not have a tempo set, what do I do?*

A: In the composition settings delete the tempo description in the drop down box and check the box: Show only the tempo description.



Then it will not show any tempo information.

Q: How to enter a grace note between two beamed eighth notes.



A:

- insert the first eighth note
- then insert the grace note.
- Now, before inserting the second eighth note, press B. A beam will show from the first eighth over the grace note
- Finally insert the second eighth note and press B again. Now the eighth notes are properly beamed. (Submitted by Mark from Amsterdam)



## Keymap

This keymap you will find also in the Menu: **Help->Keymap**

Key	Description
Left, right arrows	Moves the editing note left or right
Up, down arrows	Changes the editing note's pitch
Page up, Page down	Moves the editing note between the lines.
6	Select whole note
5	Select half note
4	Select quarter note
3	Select eighth note
2	Select sixteenth note
1	Select thirty-second note
ENTER	If the editing note is on an existing note, it modifies that note, otherwise, if the editing note is at the end or between two notes, then the editing note will be added or inserted.
CTRL+6 (or 5, 4, 3, 2, 1) On Mac Apple+6 (...)	Select whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, thirty-second rest.
CTRL+ENTER On Mac Apple+ENTER	Line break
Backspace	Delete the last note in the editing note's line.
B	Beam or unbeam the last two notes (only eighth, sixteenth or thirtysecond notes can be beamed, however unlimited number of these notes can be beamed in any variation).
T	Triplet or untriplet the last three notes. (You can triplet two or three notes. Two notes can be tripleted by selecting the notes with the selection tool on the left and pressing the corresponding button on the left toolbar)
CTRL+T On Mac Apple+T	Tie or untie the last two notes. (Notes can be tied of the same pitch. Unlimited number of notes can be tied with each other.)
G	Select grace quaver.
SHIFT+G	Select glissando.
L	Left repeat.
R	Right repeat
>	Accent
.	Dot
N	Natural
F	Flat
S	Sharp