

# SheetMusicViewer – User Guide (2025 Edition)

A cross-platform PDF sheet music viewer by Calvin Hsia

ChooseMusic

Books Favorites Query Playlists Total #Books = 184 # Songs = 13,247 # Pages = 31,456 #Fav=1,921 Music Folder Path: C:\Users\calvinh\OneDrive\SheetMusic Cancel OK

ByDate ByFolder ByNumPages Filter

The screenshot shows a window titled "ChooseMusic" displaying a grid of sheet music book covers. The interface includes a top bar with tabs for Books, Favorites, Query, Playlists, and Music Folder Path (set to C:\Users\calvinh\OneDrive\SheetMusic). Below the tabs are buttons for ByDate, ByFolder, ByNumPages, and Filter. A large "OK" button is at the bottom right. The main area contains a 6x6 grid of book covers, each with a thumbnail, title, and some descriptive text below it. The books represent various genres and eras, including Ragtime, Jazz, Classical, and Pop.

Category	Title	Description	Details
Ragtime	A BLACK SMOKE	Sheet music for piano solo.	#Sngs=97 Pg=542 Fav=93
FakeBooks	THE BEST FAKE BOOK EVER	Fake book for piano.	#Sngs=1000 Pg=769 Fav=4
Classical	EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE PIANO PIECES	Collection of piano pieces.	#Sngs=61 Pg=196 Fav=4
Classical	59 PIANO SOLOS YOU LIKE TO PLAY	59 piano solos.	#Sngs=59 Pg=157 Fav=1
Pop	Pop Singles	Pop singles collection.	#Sngs=61 Pg=228 Fav=15
Ragtime	SCOTT JOPLIN Complete Piano Works	Complete piano works by Scott Joplin.	#Sngs=54 Pg=374 Fav=15
Pop	CHARLIE BROWN'S GREATEST HITS	Sheet music from the TV show.	#Sngs=18 Pg=57 Fav=5
Ragtime	Classic Ragtime Piano	Sheet music for classic ragtime.	#Sngs=436 Pg=1855 Fav=0
Ragtime	THE BEST CHILDREN'S SONGS EVER	Collection of children's songs.	#Sngs=40 Pg=202 Fav=10
Pop	Pop's Best Childrens So	Pop's best childrens songs.	#Sngs=102 Pg=305 Fav=3
FakeBooks	This Is The ULTIMATE FAKE BOOK Volume 2	Ultimate fake book volume 2.	#Sngs=885 Pg=625 Fav=1
FakeBooks	CLASSICAL FAKE BOOK	Classical fake book.	#Sngs=891 Pg=649 Fav=4
Classical	Selection of Piano Favorites	Selection of piano favorites.	#Sngs=1 Pg=12 Fav=0
Instruction	How To Play From A Fake Book	Instructional book on playing from a fake book.	#Sngs=1 Pg=151 Fav=0
Ragtime	THE BADASS BOOGIE BUNDLE VOLUME 1	Badass boogie bundle volume 1.	#Sngs=1 Pg=141 Fav=0
Jazz	Claude Bolling Concerto	Claude Bolling Concerto.	#Sngs=1 Pg=81 Fav=1
Jazz	The Entertainer (Jazz)	The Entertainer (Jazz) arrangement.	#Sngs=1 Pg=11 Fav=0
Pop	DAS GROSSE EVERGREEN	Das Grosse Evergreen.	#Sngs=1 Pg=161 Fav=1
Instruction	The Do-It-Yourself Handbook For Keyboard Playing	Do-it-yourself handbook for keyboard playing.	#Sngs=1 Pg=276 Fav=0
Instruction	The Jazz Piano Book	The Jazz Piano Book by Mark Levine.	#Sngs=1 Pg=322 Fav=0
Instruction	Stride Piano Tricks	Stride piano tricks by Ari Kast.	#Sngs=1 Pg=159 Fav=1
Instruction	Jazz Hanon	Jazz Hanon by James P. Johnson.	#Sngs=1 Pg=81 Fav=0
Instruction	How To Play From A FAKE BOOK	How to play from a fake book.	#Sngs=1 Pg=89 Fav=0
Instruction	Claude Bolling JAZZ PIANO COURSE	Claude Bolling jazz piano course.	#Sngs=1 Pg=77 Fav=0
FakeBooks	ALL NEW Volume III	All new volume III.	#Sngs=1 Pg=366 Fav=0
FakeBooks	Fake Book 6.2	Fake book 6.2.	#Sngs=1 Pg=99 Fav=0
Classical	The Symphony	The Symphony by Mark Levine.	#Sngs=1 Pg=233 Fav=0
Classical	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATINA ALBUM	Schirmer's library of musical classics sonatina album.	#Sngs=1 Pg=138 Fav=6
Classical	SONATEN ALBUM	Schirmer's library of musical classics sonaten album.	#Sngs=1 Pg=124 Fav=0
Classical	SONATEN ALBUM	Schirmer's library of musical classics sonaten album.	#Sngs=1 Pg=118 Fav=0
Classical	RACHMANINOFF Second Concerto	Rachmaninoff second concerto.	#Sngs=1 Pg=64 Fav=0
Classical	Mozart Selection	Mozart selection.	#Sngs=1 Pg=49 Fav=0
Classical	MOZART Nineteen Sonatas	Mozart nineteen sonatas.	#Sngs=1 Pg=176 Fav=0
Classical	MOZART Nineteen Sonatas	Mozart nineteen sonatas.	#Sngs=1 Pg=154 Fav=1
J.S. BACH	TWO-PART INVENTIONS	J.S. Bach two-part inventions.	#Sngs=1 Pg=138 Fav=6
Chopin	ALTEZIS (Complete)	Chopin altezis complete.	#Sngs=1 Pg=124 Fav=0
Beethoven	BEETHOVEN	Beethoven.	#Sngs=1 Pg=118 Fav=0
J.S. Bach	THE SIX	J.S. Bach the six.	#Sngs=1 Pg=100 Fav=0

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## Welcome

SheetMusicViewer helps musicians browse, annotate, and navigate PDF music collections with speed and ease.

- Display 1 or 2 pages at a time
- Mark pages as Favorites
- Add ink annotations with stylus/finger
- Table of Contents support
- Supports multi-volume PDF sets
- In Show2Pages mode, allows a right hand page to be on the left, minimizing page turning

*This guide will help you learn how to use the application.*

## Getting Started

- Run the program and choose a path to a root folder containing PDF music files.
  - PDFs can contain any number of pages.
  - The PDFs are never altered by the program. All auxiliary data (TOC, Favorites, Inking, LastPageNumberViewed) is stored in JSON files (automatically created).
  - You can use the JSON files to store Composer name, Date, Notes, etc.  
*Tip: Click the Image Icon in the toolbar above to view/edit the JSON for the current PDF.*
  - The program needs write permission to write the JSON metadata files alongside your PDFs.
  - Press **Alt+C** or use the Menu to open the Music Chooser dialog. Choose “New...” Music Folder from the dropdown.
1. Run the program and choose a path to a root folder containing PDF music files.
  2. PDFs can contain any number of pages.
  3. The PDFs are never altered by the program. All auxiliary data (TOC, Favorites, Inking, LastPageNumberViewed) is stored in JSON files (automatically created).
  4. You can use the JSON files to store Composer name, Date, Notes, etc.  
*Tip: Click the Image Icon in the toolbar to view/edit the JSON for the current PDF.*
  5. The program needs write permission to write the JSON metadata files alongside your PDFs.
  6. Press **Alt+C** or use the Menu to open the Music Chooser dialog.
-

## Multi-Volume PDF Support

Large works can be split into multiple PDFs. All PDFs sharing the same root name are treated as one continuous book.

The icon for the volume is the first page as a thumbnail.

### Naming Convention

File Name	Description
book.pdf (or book0.pdf)	First volume
book1.pdf	Second volume
book1a.pdf	Insert after book1
book2.pdf	Third volume

**Example:** SonatenI.pdf and SonatenI1.pdf form one book, while SonatenII.pdf is separate. This allows rescanning or inserting pages without renumbering later volumes.

## Singles Folders

A subfolder ending with “**Singles**” (e.g., *GershwinSingles*) treats each PDF as an individual song.

- Alphabetical ordering
- First page of the first song becomes the **thumbnail**
- Automatically updates when items change
- TOC adjusts dynamically

A subfolder called “**Hidden**” is not searched.

*Tip: Add a custom PDF title page that alphabetically sorts first.*

# Display Modes & Navigation

## Display Modes

- Single Page Mode – one page per screen
- Two-Page Mode – two pages side by side

## Navigation

- Thumb arrows: move by screenful or jump to next/previous favorite
- Arrow keys: move by screenful
- Bottom quarter of screen: tap to turn pages

### *In Two-Page Mode:*

- Bottom outer quarters: advance **2 pages**
- Bottom inner quarters: advance **1 page**
- Top  $\frac{3}{4}$ : zoom/pan with two fingers

You can rotate the screen; auto-rotation adjusts the layout.

You can mark any page as a Favorite.

## *Playlists*

You can make many playlists of songs, which will show up in the ChooseMusic view. You can sort/filter the left list, double click or multiselect to add to the playlist. The playlist is stored in .sheetmusicviewer\userdata.json, so will live with your music and sync automatically if on OneDrive.

## Instant Page Turns (Predictive Caching)

PDFs use a lot of memory.

PDF rendering normally takes 100–500 ms — too slow for live performance.

SheetMusicViewer solves this with **predictive caching**.

Cache management is automatic.

**Result:** Page turns feel like real sheet music.

You can choose from many Bluetooth Page turning pedals to advance pages with your foot.

## Inking & Annotations

Inking is off by default.

- Check the **Ink** box (each page has its own in two-page mode)
- Draw with mouse, stylus, or finger
- Right-click menu to change color (black, red, yellow)
- Uncheck Ink to save

*Tip: Zoom in for precise marking.*

*All ink data is stored in the PDF's accompanying JSON.*

## PDF Table of Contents (TOC)

A PDF might contain hundreds of pages

Open TOC editor:

- Click the thumbnail beside the slider
- or press **Alt+E**

*Features:*

- Import/export TOC in Excel format
- Add composer, date, and notes
- OCR support for scanned TOCs

## *Page Number Offset*

Compensates for mismatches between physical pages and PDF pages (covers, intros, etc.).

## About SheetMusicViewer

Created by **Calvin Hsia**

Email: [calvin\\_hsia@alum.mit.edu](mailto:calvin_hsia@alum.mit.edu)

Source code: <https://github.com/calvinhsia/SheetMusicViewer>

Website: <http://calvinhsia.com>

Licensed under MIT License

## About the Author

I have hundreds of piano music books collected over decades, kept on OneDrive. I digitized 30,000+ pages of my music using a Xerox WorkCentre scanner. I really love Ragtime!

There's something so binary about it: powers of 2, 16 measures per verse, 2/4 time, syncopation.

I started this project in 2019 using Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF)

**Enjoy your music!**

– Calvin