

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 menu bar with "Books", "Favorites", "Query", "Playlists", and "File". Below the menu is a search bar with placeholder text "Total #Books = 184 # Songs = 13,247 # Pages = 31,456 #Fav=1,921". A "Music Folder Path" dropdown shows "C:\Users\calvinh\OneDrive\SheetMusic". Buttons for "Cancel" and "OK" are at the top right. Below the path are filter options: "ByDate", "ByFolder", "ByNumPages", and "Filter". The main area displays a 6x6 grid of book covers, each with its title, genre, and some statistics. The books include various styles like Ragtime, Jazz, Classical, and Pop, with titles such as "A BLACK SMOKE", "THE BEST FAKE BOOK EVER", "EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE PIANO PIECES", "59 PIANO SOLOS YOU LIKE TO PLAY", "SCOTT JOPLIN Complete Piano Works", "CHARLIE BROWN'S GREATEST HITS", "CLASSICAL FAKE BOOK", "How To Play From A Fake Book", "The Jazz Piano Book", and "MOZART Nineteen Sonatas". Each book cover includes a thumbnail image and a brief description below it.

Category	Title	Genre	#Songs	Page Count	Favorites
Ragtime\Collections\Charl	A BLACK SMOKE	Ragtime	97	542	Fav=93
FakeBooks\The Best Fake E	THE BEST FAKE BOOK EVER	FakeBooks	1000	769	Fav=4
Classical\Everybody's Favor	EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE PIANO PIECES	Classical	61	196	Fav=4
Classical\59 Piano Solos Yc	59 PIANO SOLOS YOU LIKE TO PLAY	Classical	59	157	Fav=1
Pop\PopSingles\0Title	Pop Singles	Pop\PopSingles	61	228	Fav=15
Ragtime\Collections\Scott	Complete Piano Works	Ragtime	54	374	Fav=15
Pop\Charlie Brown Greates	CHARLIE BROWN'S GREATEST HITS	Pop	18	57	Fav=5
Ragtime\Singles\0Title	Classic Ragtime Piano	Ragtime	436	1855	Fav=0
Ragtime\Collections\The N	THE MUSIC OF JAMES SCOTT	Ragtime	40	202	Fav=10
Pop\The Best Childrens So	THE BEST CHILDREN'S SONGS EVER	Pop	102	305	Fav=3
FakeBooks\Ultimate Fake E	This Is The ULTIMATE FAKE BOOK Volume 2	FakeBooks	885	625	Fav=1
FakeBooks\Classical Fake B	CLASSICAL FAKE BOOK	FakeBooks	891	649	Fav=4
Classical\Carl Maria von W	Selection of Piano Favorites	Classical	1	12	Fav=0
Instruction\How To Play Fr	How To Play From A Fake Book	Instruction	1	151	Fav=0
Ragtime\Collections\All-Ar	THE BADASS BOOGIE BUNDLE VOLUME 1 LEARN BOOGIE BOOGIE PIANO FAST!	Jazz\Badass-Boogie-Bundl	1	141	Fav=0
Jazz\Claude Bolling Conce	Claude Bolling Concerto	Jazz	1	81	Fav=1
Jazz\The_Entertainer_Jazz_	The Entertainer (Jazz Arrangement)	Jazz\The_Entertainer_Jazz_	1	11	Fav=0
Pop\Das Grosse Evergreen	DAS GROSSE EVERGREEN CONCERT	Pop\Das Grosse Evergreen	1	161	Fav=1
Instruction\The Do-It-Your	The Do-It-Yourself Handbook For Keyboard Playing	Instruction\The Do-It-Your	1	276	Fav=0
Instruction\The Jazz Piano	The Jazz Piano Book	Instruction\The Jazz Piano	1	322	Fav=0
Instruction\Stride Piano Tri	STRIDE PIANO TRICKS	Instruction\Stride Piano Tri	1	162	Fav=0
Instruction\Jazz Hanon	Jazz Hanon	Instruction\Jazz Hanon	1	81	Fav=0
Instruction\How To Play Fr	HOW TO PLAY FROM A FAKE BOOK	Instruction\How To Play Fr	1	89	Fav=0
Instruction\Claude Bolling	CLAUDE BOllING JAZZ PIANO COURSE	Instruction\Claude Bolling	1	77	Fav=0
FakeBooks\The Real Book '	ALL NEW Volume III THE REAL BOOK	FakeBooks\The Real Book '	1	366	Fav=0
FakeBooks\Legit Fake Boo	Fake Book 6.2	FakeBooks\Legit Fake Boo	1	99	Fav=0
Classical\The Symphony	THE SYMPHONY	Classical\The Symphony	1	233	Fav=0
Classical\Sonatina Album F	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATINA ALBUM For the Piano	Classical\Sonatina Album F	1	138	Fav=6
Classical\Sonaten Album II	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATEN ALBUM BAND II	Classical\Sonaten Album II	1	124	Fav=0
Classical\Sonaten Album I	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATEN ALBUM I	Classical\Sonaten Album I	1	118	Fav=0
Classical\Rachmaninoff Ser	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS RACHMANINOFF Second Concerto Two Pianos, Four Hands	Classical\Rachmaninoff Ser	1	64	Fav=0
Classical\Mozart Selection:	Mozart SELECTIONS FROM THE PIANO CONCERTOS	Classical\Mozart Selection:	1	49	Fav=0
Classical\Mozart Nineteen	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS MOZART Nineteen Sonatas For the Piano	Classical\Mozart Nineteen	1	176	Fav=0
Classical\Mozart Nineteen	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS MOZART Nineteen Sonatas For the Piano	Classical\Mozart Nineteen	1	154	Fav=1
J.S.BACH TWO-PART INVENTIONS	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS J.S.BACH TWO-PART INVENTIONS FOR TWO PIANOS	J.S.BACH TWO-PART INVENTIONS	1	100	Fav=0
CHOPIN ALTEZIS (Complete)	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS CHOPIN ALTEZIS (Complete) FOR TWO PIANOS	CHOPIN ALTEZIS (Complete)	1	100	Fav=0
Beethoven	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS BEETHOVEN	Beethoven	1	100	Fav=0
Bach	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS J.S.BACH THE SIX	Bach	1	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

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