

Welcome to SheetMusicViewer!

A cross-platform PDF sheet music viewer
by Calvin Hsia (2019, updated 2025)

This sample PDF will help you learn
how to use the application.

Features:

- 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

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Getting Started

To use your own PDF sheet music:

1. Run the program and choose a path to a root folder containing PDF music files.
2. PDFs can contain 1-N pages.
3. The PDFs are never altered by the program.
All auxiliary data (TOC, Favorites, Inking, LastPageNumberViewed) is stored in JSON files.
4. The program needs write permission to write the JSON metadata files alongside your PDFs.

Press Alt+C to open the Music Chooser dialog.

Multi-Volume PDF Support

Large books can be scanned to multiple PDFs:

NAMING CONVENTION:

book.pdf (or book0.pdf)	- first volume
book1.pdf	- second volume
book1a.pdf	- insert after book1
book2.pdf	- third volume

All volumes with same root name are treated as one continuous book!

Example: SonatenI.pdf and SonatenI1.pdf form one book, while SonatenII.pdf is separate.

This allows rescanning pages without renumbering subsequent volumes.

Singles Folders

A subfolder ending in 'Singles' (like 'GershwinSingles') treats each PDF as a single song with possibly multiple pages.

SINGLES FOLDER FEATURES:

- Maintained in alphabetical order
- First page of first song is the icon
- Dynamically updates as items are added, removed, or renamed
- TOC entries auto-adjust

A subfolder called 'Hidden' will not be searched.

TIP: Create a custom PDF title page that sorts first alphabetically for the icon.

Display Modes & Navigation

TWO DISPLAY MODES:

- Single page per screen
- Two pages (side by side) per screen

NAVIGATION:

- Thumb arrows: Move by screenful
(or jump to next/prev favorite)
- Arrow keys: Move by 1 screenful
- Bottom quarter: Tap to turn pages

IN 2-PAGE MODE:

Bottom is divided into 4 quarters.
Outer quarters: advance 2 pages
Inner quarters: advance 1 page

Top 3/4: Zoom/pan with two fingers

Inking & Annotations

Inking is off by default.

TO INK A PAGE:

1. Click the Ink checkbox for the page
(in 2-page mode, each page has its own)
2. Draw with mouse, pen, or finger
3. Right-click for color options:
 - Black pen
 - Red pen
 - Yellow highlighter
4. Click Ink checkbox again to save

TIP: Zoom in before inking for accuracy when correcting typos on the musical staff.

All ink is stored in the JSON metadata file.

Performance & Caching

Rendering PDF pages takes time. The app prefetches and caches pages for instant page turns!

SINGLE PAGE MODE (showing page 5):

Prefetched: pages 4, 6, 7

DOUBLE PAGE MODE (showing 5,6):

Prefetched: pages 3, 4, 7, 8

For multi-volume sets, volumes are read asynchronously as needed.

NOTE: Some PDFs consume lots of memory.

If so, print to 'Microsoft Print to PDF'

or use an online PDF resizer tool.

PDF Table of Contents

Edit the TOC by clicking the thumbnail to the right of the slider, or press Alt+E.

TOC FEATURES:

- Import/export to clipboard (Excel format)
- Add composer, date, notes
- OCR a scanned TOC for import

PAGE NUMBER OFFSET:

Physical page numbers in scanned books may not match PDF page numbers (due to cover pages, intros, etc.).

PageNumberOffset maps between them so the imported TOC doesn't need adjustment.

About SheetMusicViewer

Created by Calvin Hsia

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I have hundreds of piano music books
collected over decades, kept on OneDrive.

I digitized 30,000+ pages of 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.

Enjoy your music!

- Calvin