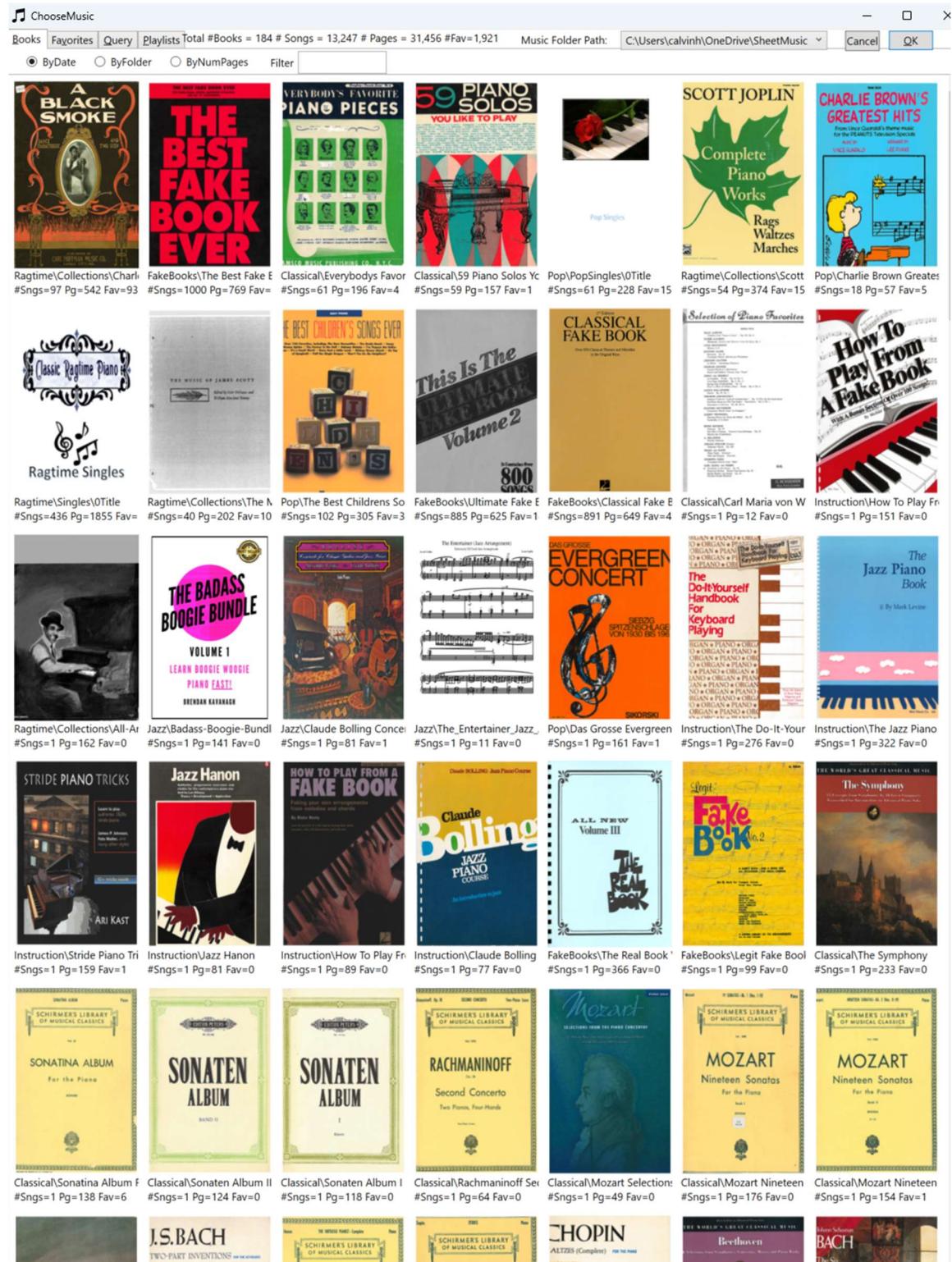


# SheetMusicViewer – User Guide (2025 Edition)

A cross-platform PDF sheet music viewer by Calvin Hsia

A screenshot of the SheetMusicViewer application window. The title bar reads "ChooseMusic". The menu bar includes Books, Favorites, Query, Playlists, Total #Books = 184 # Songs = 13,247 # Pages = 31,456 #Fav=1,921. The folder path is set to C:\Users\calvinh\OneDrive\SheetMusic. The interface shows a grid of sheet music book covers with their titles, genres, and statistics.

Category	Title	Genre	#Songs	Pages	Favorites
Ragtime	A BLACK SMOKE	Ragtime	97	542	93
FakeBooks	THE BEST FAKE BOOK EVER	FakeBooks	1000	769	Fav=4
Classical	EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE PIANO PIECES	Classical	61	196	Fav=4
Classical	59 PIANO SOLOS YOU LIKE TO PLAY	Classical	59	157	Fav=1
Pop	Pop Singles	Pop\PopSingles\0Title	61	228	Fav=15
Ragtime	SCOTT JOPLIN Complete Piano Works	Ragtime\Collections\Scott	54	374	Fav=15
Pop	CHARLIE BROWN'S GREATEST HITS	Pop\Charlie Brown Greates	18	57	Fav=5
Ragtime	Classic Ragtime Piano	Ragtime\Singles\0Title	436	1855	Fav=0
Ragtime	THE BEST CHILDREN'S SONGS EVER	Ragtime\Collections\The N	40	202	Fav=10
Pop	Pop\The Best Childrens So	Pop\The Best Childrens So	102	305	Fav=3
FakeBooks	This Is The ULTIMATE FAKE BOOK Volume 2	FakeBooks\Ultimate Fake E	885	625	Fav=1
FakeBooks	CLASSICAL FAKE BOOK	FakeBooks\Classical Fake B	891	649	Fav=4
Classical	Selection of Piano Favorites	Classical\Carl Maria von W	1	12	Fav=0
Instruction	How To Play From A Fake Book	Instruction\How To Play Fr	1	151	Fav=0
Ragtime	THE BADASS BOOGIE BUNDLE VOLUME 1	Jazz\Badass-Boogie-Bundl	1	141	Fav=0
Jazz	Claude Bolling Concerto	Jazz\Claude Bolling Conce	1	81	Fav=1
Jazz	The Entertainer (Jazz Arrangement)	Jazz\The_Entertainer_Jazz_	1	11	Fav=0
Pop	DAS GROSSE EVERGREEN CONCERT	Pop\Das Grosse Evergreen	1	161	Fav=1
Instruction	The Do-It-Yourself Handbook For Keyboard Playing	Instruction\The Do-It-Your	1	276	Fav=0
Instruction	The Jazz Piano Book	Instruction\The Jazz Piano	1	322	Fav=0
Instruction	Stride Piano Tricks	Instruction\Stride Piano Tri	1	159	Fav=1
Jazz	Jazz Hanon	Instruction\Jazz Hanon	1	81	Fav=0
Instruction	How To Play From A FAKE BOOK	Instruction\How To Play Fr	1	89	Fav=0
Instruction	Claude Bolling JAZZ PIANO COURSE	Instruction\Claude Bolling	1	77	Fav=0
FakeBooks	ALL NEW Volume III	FakeBooks\The Real Book '	1	366	Fav=0
FakeBooks	Fake Book 6.2	FakeBooks\Legit Fake Boo	1	99	Fav=0
Classical	The Symphony	Classical\The Symphony	1	233	Fav=0
Classical	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATINA ALBUM For the Piano	Classical\Sonatina Album F	1	138	Fav=6
Classical	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATEN ALBUM BAND II	Classical\Sonaten Album II	1	124	Fav=0
Classical	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS SONATEN ALBUM I	Classical\Sonaten Album I	1	118	Fav=0
Classical	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS RACHMANINOFF Second Concerto Two Pianos, Four Hands	Classical\Rachmaninoff Se	1	64	Fav=0
Classical	Mozart SELECTIONS FROM THE PIANO CONCERTOS	Classical\Mozart Selection:	1	49	Fav=0
Classical	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS MOZART Nineteen Sonatas For the Piano	Classical\Mozart Nineteen	1	176	Fav=0
Classical	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				
J.S. Bach	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS ALTEZIS (Complete)				
Chopin	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS Beethoven				
J.S. Bach	SCHIRMER'S LIBRARY OF MUSICAL CLASSICS The Six				

## Table of Contents

### Contents

SheetMusicViewer – User Guide (2025 Edition) .....	1
Table of Contents .....	2
Welcome .....	3
Getting Started .....	4
Multi-Volume PDF Support .....	5
Singles Folders.....	6
Display Modes & Navigation .....	7
Display Modes .....	7
Navigation .....	7
Instant Page Turns (Predictive Caching).....	8
Inking & Annotations.....	9
PDF Table of Contents (TOC) .....	10
About SheetMusicViewer .....	11
About the Author.....	11

---

## 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 normally right hand page (in a physical book) to be on the left, minimizing page turning
- Designed to work on Windows 10+, Mac, Linux

*This guide will help you learn how to use the application. It is multiple pages so you can practice page navigation.*

## 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. The query tab will allow you to query by composer, 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.
- Every time the program starts, it will automatically scan for any PDFs without a JSON and will create any that are missing
- 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
- Full Screen (removes title bar for extra space)
- You can rotate the screen; auto-rotation adjusts the layout.

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

#### *Touch/Click In Two-Page Mode:*

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

You can mark any page as a Favorite.

## 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.

## 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