ToneBook v11.3.2 - User Guide

Complete Guide for Worship Leaders and Musicians

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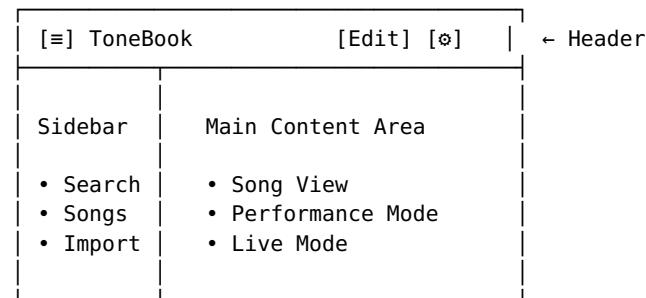
Getting Started

ToneBook is a web-based application for managing worship songs, transposing chords, and enhancing live performances.

First Time Setup

1. **Open the App**
   - If deployed on GitHub Pages: Visit your URL
   - If local: Open `index.html` in your browser
2. **Bookmark It**
   - Add to your home screen (mobile)
   - Bookmark in your browser (desktop)
3. **Your Data**
   - Everything stored locally in your browser
   - Export regularly for backups

Interface Overview

```
┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│ [≡] ToneBook        [Edit] [⚙]  │  ← Header
├─────────┬───────────────────────┤
│         │                       │
│ Sidebar │   Main Content Area   │
│         │                       │
│ • Search│   • Song View         │
│ • Songs │   • Performance Mode  │
│ • Import│   • Live Mode         │
│         │                       │
└─────────┴───────────────────────┘
```

Creating Songs

Basic Song Structure

```
Title: Amazing Grace
Artist: John Newton
Key: C
BPM: 80
Time Signature: 3/4

[Intro]
//4 measures

[Verse 1]
[C]Amazing [G]grace
-- Piano here, soft and gentle
[Am]How [F]sweet the [C]sound
-- Build dynamics gradually

[Chorus]
//8 measures
[C]That saved a [G]wretch like [Am]me
[F]I once was [C]lost but [G]now am [C]found
```

Song Elements

1. Metadata

- **Title**: Required - song name
- **Artist**: Optional - composer/artist name
- **Key**: Original key (C, D, Am, etc.)
- **BPM**: Tempo (beats per minute)
- **Time Signature**: Rhythm (4/4, 3/4, 6/8, etc.)

2. Chords

Format: `[ChordName]`

Examples: - Major: `[C]`, `[G]`, `[D]` - Minor: `[Am]`, `[Em]`, `[Dm]` - Seventh: `[G7]`, `[Cmaj7]`, `[Am7]` - Suspended: `[Csus4]`, `[Dsus2]` - Extended: `[Cadd9]`, `[G/B]`

3. Sections

Format: `[SectionName]`

Common sections: - `[Intro]` - Introduction - `[Verse 1]`, `[Verse 2]` - Verses - `[Pre-Chorus]` - Before chorus - `[Chorus]` - Main hook - `[Bridge]` - Contrasting section - `[Outro]` - Ending - `[Instrumental]` - No lyrics

4. Comments

Format: `-- Your comment here`

Use for: - Performance notes: `-- Piano only here` - Dynamics: `-- Crescendo to chorus` - Cues: `-- Guitar enters` - Timing: `-- Hold for 2 bars`

Comments appear in **gray, smaller, *italic*** text in all views.

5. Measure Counts

Format: `//N measures`

Example:

```
[Instrumental]
//8 measures
```

Used in Live Mode for automatic timing.

Creating a New Song

1. Click **+ Create Song** in sidebar
2. Fill in metadata:
   ◦ Title (required)
   ◦ Artist (helps with organization)
   ◦ Key, BPM, Time Signature
3. Add content with chords and sections
4. Use `--` for performance comments
5. Click **Save Song**

Organizing Your Library

Three Ways to Organize

1. All Songs

- Shows every song alphabetically
- Quick access to your entire library
- No organization needed

2. By Artist

- **Automatic** - songs grouped when you add artist name
- Artist folders created dynamically
- Alphabetically sorted within each artist

To use: - Add artist name when creating songs - Artists appear automatically in sidebar - Click artist to view their songs

3. Custom Folders

- **Manual** - you create and organize
- Perfect for setlists and themed services

To create: - Songs section → Create Folder - Name it (e.g., "Sunday Service", "Christmas 2025") - Add songs by clicking ⇗ icon - Or drag & drop (desktop)

Pinning Songs (Setlists)

Pin songs to create ordered setlists:

1. Click ⚲ icon on any song
2. Pinned songs appear at bottom of sidebar

3. Reorder by:
   - **Desktop**: Drag and drop
   - **Mobile**: Use ↑↓ arrows

Pro Tip: Pin all songs for Sunday service in order, then use Performance Mode to step through them.

Search

How to Search

Type in the search box at the top of the sidebar.

Search finds songs by: - **Song title** - "Amazing Grace" - **Artist name** - "Hillsong" - **Key** - "C", "Am"

Search Behavior

- Searches **ALL songs** (ignores folder selection)
- Shows results instantly
- Results include both pinned and unpinned songs
- Each result shows:
  - Title
  - Artist & key
  - Pin icon (📌) - click to pin/unpin
  - Folder icon (🗁) - click to add to folder

Quick Actions from Search

1. **Load Song**: Click song title
2. **Pin Song**: Click 📌 icon
3. **Add to Folder**: Click 🗁 icon
4. **Clear Search**: Delete search text

Performance Mode

Clean, distraction-free view for live performance.

Activating Performance Mode

1. Load a song
2. Click **Performance** button

Performance Mode Features

Display Options

View Modes: - **Chords**: Full chords and lyrics - **Lyrics**: Lyrics only (no chords) - **Numbers**: Nashville Number System

Switch between modes with buttons at top.

Transpose

Use +/- buttons to change key: - **+**: Move up one semitone - **-**: Move down one semitone - **Reset**: Return to original key

Current key shown in header.

Font Size

Adjust for screen distance: - Range: 50% - 200% - Use slider or +/- buttons - Perfect for stage visibility

Column Layout

1 Column: All content in single column **2 Columns**: Split content for less scrolling

Automatically balances content across columns.

Metronome

Visual and audio timing guide:

1. Click ☉ Metronome button
2. Uses song's BPM
3. **Visual**: Blue circle pulses on beats
4. **Audio**: Click sound on beats
5. **Mute**: Toggle speaker icon for visual-only

Navigation

- ◀ **Prev**: Previous pinned song
- **Next** ▶: Next pinned song
- Works through your setlist in order

Performance Mode Tips

1. Set font size before service
2. Use 2-column layout for songs > 20 lines
3. Transpose during practice, not during service
4. Enable metronome for timing practice
5. Use Prev/Next to move through setlist
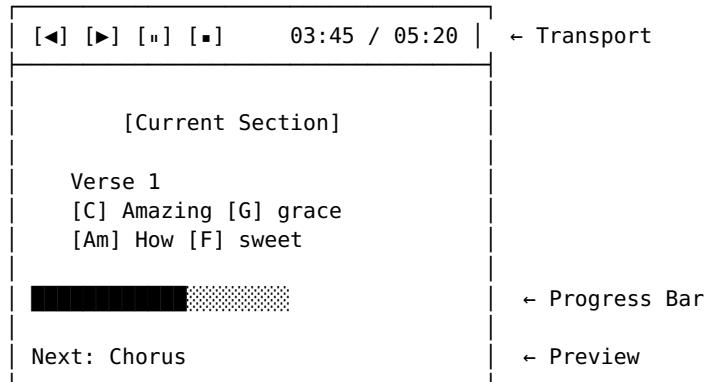
Live Mode

Automatic section advancement with timing.

How Live Mode Works

1. Load a song with sections and measure counts
2. Click **Live Mode** button
3. Sections advance automatically based on:
    - BPM (tempo)
    - Measure counts (`//8 measures`)
    - Time signature

Live Mode Interface

```
┌────────────────────────────┐
│ [◄] [►] [ıı] [▪]   03:45 / 05:20 │   ← Transport
├────────────────────────────┤
│                            │
│        [Current Section]   │
│                            │
│    Verse 1                 │
│    [C] Amazing [G] grace   │
│    [Am] How [F] sweet      │
│                            │
│  ███████████░░░░░░░░░░      │   ← Progress Bar
│                            │
│  Next: Chorus              │   ← Preview
└────────────────────────────┘
```

Transport Controls

- ◄ **Prev**: Go to previous section
- ► **Next**: Skip to next section
- ıı **Pause**: Pause/resume timer
- ▪ **Stop**: Exit Live Mode

Preparing Songs for Live Mode

Add measure counts to sections:

```
[Intro]
//4 measures

[Verse 1]
[C]Amazing [G]grace
//8 measures

[Chorus]
[C]That saved a wretch like me
//8 measures
```

Live Mode calculates duration: - Duration = (Measures × Beats per Measure) / (BPM / 60) - Example: 8 measures × 4 beats = 32 beats - At 120 BPM: 32 ÷ 2 = 16 seconds

Live Mode Tips

1. Practice with Live Mode during rehearsals
2. Adjust BPM if timing feels off
3. Use Pause if you need to wait
4. Use Prev/Next for quick navigation
5. Add measure counts to all sections

Import & Export

Export

Export All Songs - Complete library backup - Use weekly for safety - File format: `.tone` (JSON)

Export by Artist - Export all songs by specific artist - Share with band members - Organized by artist name

Export by Custom Folder - Export specific setlists - Share Sunday service songs - Perfect for team collaboration

To Export: 1. Click Import/Export in sidebar 2. Click Export 3. Choose what to export 4. File downloads automatically 5. Save somewhere safe (cloud storage recommended)

Import

Import Songs - Merge new songs with existing library - Auto-creates folders from imported songs - Smart duplicate handling

To Import: 1. Click Import/Export in sidebar 2. Click Import Songs 3. Select `.tone` file 4. Choose folder (optional) 5. If duplicates found: - **Keep Both**: Import as separate song - **Replace**: Overwrite existing song - **Skip**: Don't import duplicate

Import Behavior

When you import: - Folder names in imported songs → create folders automatically - Songs added to appropriate folders - Artist names preserved - Pinned status preserved

Backup Strategy

Daily (before service): - Export current setlist folder

Weekly: - Export All Songs - Store in cloud (Google Drive, Dropbox)

Before Updates: - Export All Songs - Save with date in filename

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Mobile Usage

Mobile Optimizations

ToneBook works great on phones and tablets:

- Touch-friendly buttons
- Responsive layout
- Optimized for portrait and landscape
- Swipe-friendly scrolling

Mobile-Specific Features

Hamburger Menu (☰) - Appears on small screens - Access full sidebar - Tap to open/close

Reordering Pinned Songs - Use ↑↓ arrow buttons - Tap arrows to move up/down - Works on touch devices

Folder Expansion - Tap folder name or arrow - Large touch targets - Easy navigation

Mobile Tips

1. **Landscape Mode**: Best for tablets during services
2. **Home Screen**: Add to home screen for app-like experience
3. **Font Size**: Increase for stage visibility
4. **Pinning**: Use pinned songs as setlist
5. **Search**: Use search for quick song access

Adding to Home Screen

iOS (iPhone/iPad): 1. Open ToneBook in Safari 2. Tap Share button 3. Tap "Add to Home Screen" 4. Name it "ToneBook" 5. Tap "Add"

Android: 1. Open ToneBook in Chrome 2. Tap menu (⋮) 3. Tap "Add to Home screen" 4. Name it "ToneBook" 5. Tap "Add"

Tips & Best Practices

Song Creation

✓ **DO:** - Add artist name for better organization - Use consistent section names - Add - - comments for performance notes - Include BPM and time signature - Add measure counts for Live Mode

✗ **DON'T:** - Mix chord formats (stick to brackets) - Forget to save changes - Leave songs without titles

Organization

✓ **DO:** - Use artist folders for permanent organization - Use custom folders for weekly setlists - Pin songs in performance order - Export setlists before services - Use descriptive folder names ("Easter 2026")

✗ **DON'T:** - Create too many folders (keeps it simple) - Forget to unpin old setlist songs - Duplicate songs across folders unnecessarily

Performance

✓ **DO:** - Test Performance Mode before service - Set font size during sound check - Use metronome during practice - Navigate with Prev/Next buttons - Keep device charged

✗ **DON'T:** - Transpose during live performance - Use Live Mode without rehearsal - Rely on wifi (app works offline) - Forget to turn up screen brightness

Backup

✓ **DO:** - Export weekly - Store in multiple locations - Test imports occasionally - Export before browser updates - Use dated filenames

✖ **DON'T:** - Rely only on browser storage - Delete old backups too quickly - Forget to export after adding many songs

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Troubleshooting

Songs Not Appearing

Problem: Created song but can't find it

Solutions: 1. Check "All Songs" folder 2. Use search to find by title 3. Check if artist folder collapsed 4. Verify song was saved (green checkmark)

Chords Not Transposing

Problem: Chords stay same when transposing

Solutions: 1. Check chord format: Must be `[C]` not `C` or `(C)` 2. Verify chord is recognized (appears bold) 3. Common chords work best 4. Complex chords may not transpose

Export Not Working

Problem: Export button doesn't download file

Solutions: 1. Check browser pop-up blocker 2. Try different browser 3. Check download folder settings 4. Verify you have songs to export

Import Failed

Problem: Import shows error or doesn't work

Solutions: 1. Verify file is `.tone` format 2. Check file isn't corrupted (open in text editor) 3. Try exporting then re-importing for format test 4. Import smaller batches if file is large

Search Not Finding Songs

Problem: Search returns no results

Solutions: 1. Check spelling 2. Try searching by artist instead of title 3. Try searching by key 4. Clear search and try again 5. Verify song exists in "All Songs"

Live Mode Timing Off

Problem: Sections don't advance at right time

Solutions: 1. Verify BPM is correct 2. Check time signature 3. Verify measure counts (`//8 measures`) 4. Test timing during practice 5. Adjust BPM slightly if needed

Mobile Menu Not Opening

Problem: Hamburger menu doesn't work

Solutions: 1. Refresh the page 2. Try landscape mode 3. Check if sidebar is stuck open 4. Clear browser cache 5. Try different browser

Data Lost After Browser Update

Problem: All songs disappeared

Solutions: 1. **Prevention**: Export regularly! 2. Check if you're using different browser 3. Check if using incognito mode (doesn't save data) 4. Import your last backup 5. Check browser storage settings

Performance Mode Slow

Problem: Lag when scrolling or changing fonts

Solutions: 1. Reduce font size 2. Use fewer columns 3. Close other browser tabs 4. Restart browser 5. Check device performance

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Keyboard Shortcuts

Action	Shortcut
Create New Song	None - use button
Save Song	Ctrl+S (in edit mode)
Search	Click search box
Exit Performance Mode	Esc
Transpose Up	+ (in Performance Mode)
Transpose Down	- (in Performance Mode)

FAQ

Q: Where is my data stored? A: In your browser's LocalStorage. Each browser stores data separately.

Q: Can I use ToneBook offline? A: Yes! After loading once, it works offline.

Q: Can I share songs with my band? A: Yes! Export and share the `.tone` file.

Q: How many songs can I store? A: Thousands. LocalStorage typically allows 5-10MB.

Q: Can I print songs? A: Yes! Use Performance Mode then browser's Print function.

Q: Does ToneBook work on iPad? A: Yes! Works great on all tablets.

Q: Can I use custom fonts? A: Not currently, but font size is adjustable.

Q: Is my data synced across devices? A: No, but export/import allows manual syncing.

Support

Getting Help

- Check this guide first
- Review the CHANGELOG.md for known issues
- Check GitHub Issues for similar problems
- Open a new issue if problem persists

Feature Requests

Have an idea? Open a GitHub issue with: - Clear description of feature - Use case / why it's useful - Examples if applicable

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Credits

ToneBook v11.3.2

Made with ❤ for worship leaders and musicians worldwide.

Special thanks to all users who provided feedback and suggestions.

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