Can't see? Zoom in with the shortcut *Ctrl* + (Mac: *Cmd* +).

Getting Started

An introduction to note entry in MuseScore.

MuseScore Team

Double-click to edit title, -->
subtitle, and composer.

Want to save this score for future reference? Go to
the *File* menu and choose *Save a Copy…* right now.

General hints are green.
Score editing hints are red.

The step-by-step guide
to note entry is blue.

(Example measure)   (Practice measure)

Want to get started writing music?
Press *N* or click the *N* at the left of
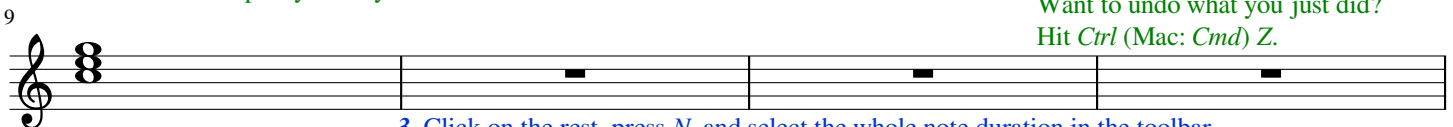the toolbar to enter note input mode.

1. Let's learn to enter notes. Look at the first measure on the left. To produce that result,
^ click on the measure above ^, press *N* to enter note input mode, and type *C, D, E, F.*
Congratulations—you just entered your first melody!
Press the *Escape* key to leave note input mode.
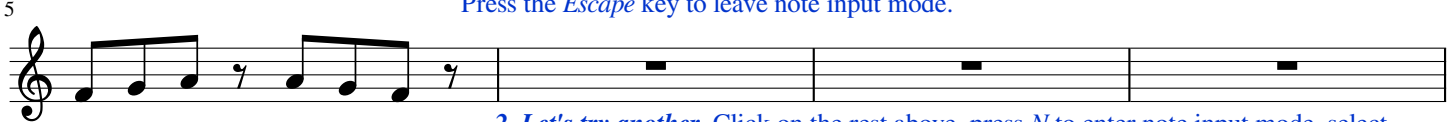
The note values in the toolbar, starting with
the 64th note, are assigned to the row of
numbers *1 – 9* at the top of your keyboard.

2. Let's try another. Click on the rest above, press *N* to enter note input mode, select
the 8th note duration in the toolbar OR press *4,* and type *F, G, A, 0* (meaning *rest*),
*A, G, F.* *Always remember!* Press *Escape* to leave note input mode.

Want to undo what you just did?
Hit *Ctrl* (Mac: *Cmd*) *Z.*

3. Click on the rest, press *N,* and select the whole note duration in the toolbar
OR press *7.* Type *C.* Then hold down the *Shift* key to add notes to the chord,
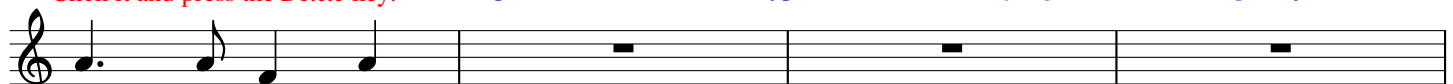and type *E, G.* Press *Escape* to leave note input mode.

Want to play back what you've written? Click where you want to start
and press the *Space* bar, or click the triangular *Play* button in the toolbar.

This is a line break. -->
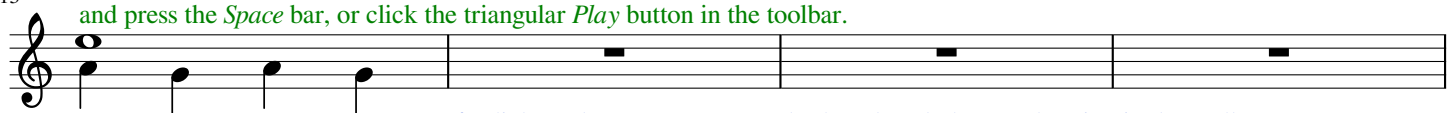
4. Click on the rest, press *N,* and select the whole note duration in the toolbar or press *7.*
Type *E.* Go back with the left arrow key and select 2 instead of 1 in the voice selector at
the right of the toolbar (where the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are in a row). In voice 2, select
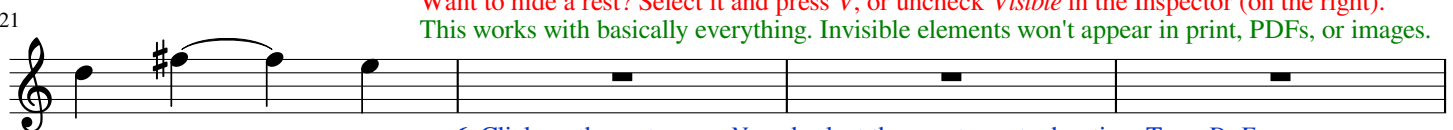the quarter note duration and type *A, G, A, G.* *Don't forget:* Press the *Escape* key.

Want to delete this text?
Click it and press the *Delete* key.

5. Click on the rest, press *N,* and select the quarter note duration or press *5.*
Type *A, A, F, A.* Press the *Escape* key to leave note input mode. Click once
on the first note in the measure and press *.* or select the dot in the toolbar.

Want a new perspective? Go to the
View menu and choose *Full Screen.*

Want to hide a rest? Select it and press *V,* or uncheck *Visible* in the Inspector (on the right).
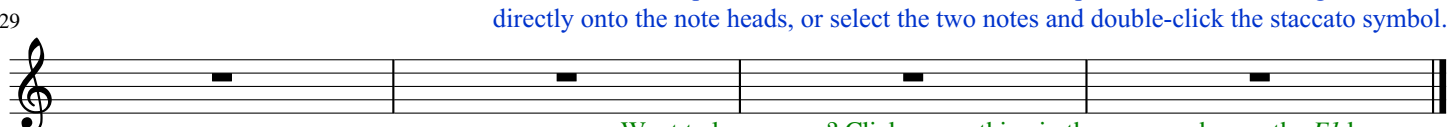This works with basically everything. Invisible elements won't appear in print, PDFs, or images.

6. Click on the rest, press *N,* and select the quarter note duration. Type *D, F,*
and press the up arrow key to raise the pitch to an F-sharp. Continue typing
F, E. Press the *Escape* key. Click once on the second note in the measure and
type *+,* which is *Shift=,* or click on the tie near the middle of the toolbar.

v (This is a big one! Follow the v
V instructions below carefully.) V
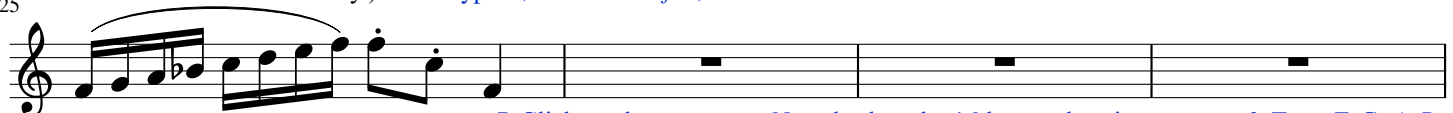
7. Click on the rest, press *N,* and select the 16th note duration or press *3.* Type *F, G, A, B,* and
press the *Down* arrow key to move a half-step down. Type *C, D, E, F.* Press *Escape,* select all
eight notes, and press *S* to slur them. Click the rest. Press *N,* select 8th note duration, type *F,*
C. Select the quarter note duration, type *F,* and press *Ctrl+Down* (Mac: *Cmd+Down*) to move
an octave down. Open the *Articulations & Ornaments* palette on the left. Drag the stacattos
directly onto the note heads, or select the two notes and double-click the staccato symbol.

<-- This is a spacer. It adds more room
between two lines. Find it in the palettes!

Want to learn more? Click on anything in the score and press the *F1* key
(Mac: *Fn+F1*). Or, go up to the *Help* menu and choose *Online Handbook.*

Want to edit the footer text below? From the *Style* menu,
choose *General…* and find *Header, Footer, Numbers* in the sidebar.

These instructions have focused on keyboard entry. If you find it easier, you can also point-and-click while in note input mode.
It is also possible to use a MIDI keyboard, or you can go the *View* menu and choose *Piano Keyboard* or press *P.*