



TEXT INPUT

LilyPond is a text based system; the input is a text file describing the music, as opposed to a ”what you see is what you get” graphical application where you might drag notes from a toolbar onto your on-screen score. In this way, LilyPond shares many similarities with programming and script languages: The text input is interpreted (or ”compiled”) by LilyPond which produces typeset music.

This might seem old-fashioned, or even clumsy, but it is in fact surprisingly easy to start using LilyPond and the results you will get are both predictable and beautiful. People accustomed to graphical user interfaces will need to learn a new way of working, but the results are definitely worth it!

NOTE ENTRY

Note entry is as easy as typing the note name and the duration.

```
{ bes'4 a'4. c''8 b' }
```

Just type the note name c, d, e, f, g, a, b, append `is` for sharp and `es` for flat tones and add the duration with 4 for fourth, 8 for eighth and so on. With one or more dots you create dotted notes.

NOTE ENTRY

It is easy to add a figured bass.

```
<7\+ 4 2>8 <8> <7!>
```

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Excerpt from the Markus Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 247)

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GNU LilyPond

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Excerpt from “All Things Rush On” by Kieren MacMillan

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CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Excerpt from Hermann Keller’s composition for speaking cellist

»Ihr sollt die Wahrheit erben«

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