

# What's New in Finale 2008a for Windows®

Finale 2008a is a free maintenance update available to Finale 2008 Windows registered users.

Full Read Me documentation with more information on fixes in the initial release of Finale 2008 is included in the updater download.

## New Features in Finale 2008a

- **In files using VST/AU instruments, audio files are no longer saved in real-time.**  
The process is now quicker on fast machines, and slower machines will now produce better-sounding results.
- **Time Signatures can now be excluded when copying stacks.**
- **Human Playback Improvements** to performance, instrument techniques, and more.
- **Measure settings can now be copied when either the source or target constitutes a stack.**

## Fixes in Finale 2008a

### Audio

- Adding a new staff to the top of a score no longer removes the existing audio track without warning.
- Recording/Importing of audio now takes pickup measures into account for the start point.
- The audio track no longer disappears if a measure is inserted before a repeat where an audio track is set to play on the nth pass.
- The audio hyperscribe block is no longer temporarily erased by the cursor during repeats of the passage.

### Chord Tool

- The plus sign now works properly in chord suffix creation.
- Chord Suffix IDs are no longer corrupted in some files when copying chord symbols.

### Clef Tool

- If a pickup measure is included in the selected region, changing the clef no longer results in a mid-measure clef.

### Copy/Paste

- Extra notes are no longer added to the target region when drag copying in certain documents.
- Drag-copying MIDI Tempo data in the MIDI Tool now works properly.
- Manual changes to measure numbers in the target region are no longer improperly overwritten on paste.

- Whenever barlines are copied, the states of the following Measure Attributes are now also copied: "Break a Multimeasure Rest," "Break Smart Word Extensions," and "Override Group Barlines."
- When inserting a non-stack selection with "Notes and Rests" unchecked in the Edit Filter dialog box, rests that are inserted are considered and the music is rebarred accordingly preventing overfilled measures.
- Expressions in staff lists no longer occasionally disappear from the source region after copying.
- Copying and pasting no longer causes redundant accidentals or naturals to appear in the target region.
- The custom Arrowhead for Smart Shapes is no longer left off when Smart Shapes that use custom arrowheads are copied.
- Redundant accidentals or naturals (that are already part of the key signature) no longer appear in the target region while pasting
- When a partial measure is selected in all staves, pressing Shift-up/down arrow no longer subtracts from the selection in only one direction.
- If a measure plus an eighth note in the previous measure is highlighted, it can now be drag-pasted to all possible beats of an empty measure.
- When copying with a filter only checked items are overwritten in the target region.
- Tablature string alterations are now retained when copying and pasting.
- Performance of paste operations with attachments such as measure expressions has been improved.
- Note attached items like Slurs, lyrics, note expressions and chords are now properly copied when you use a filter.
- Copying passages without stack selection is no longer slower than copying in previous Finale versions.
- It is no longer difficult or impossible to paste music into a region that starts with a pickup measure.
- Tie alterations now copy correctly even without Dot Alterations checked in the Edit Filter dialog box.
- Copying with a Filter no longer causes "Slur" to become improperly unchecked in Edit Frame dialog.

### **File Menu**

- When multiple files are open, Finale no longer crashes after closing the 1st open document in the list and then changing layers in one of the remaining open documents.
- The presence of tempo data in some files saved in Finale 2008 no longer cause silent notes. (Finale 2008a automatically checks and resolves this when a Finale 2008 file is opened).
- Finale no longer crashes when importing some MIDI files.
- Tempo data is now accurate in saved MIDI files.
- Inserting measures in front of a measure containing an expression assigned to a Staff List with Top Staff checked no longer duplicates the expression.
- Copying notes that contain articulations no longer duplicates the articulation in the Articulation Selection dialog box in the default music font.

- There is no longer an unsightly line break in Save/Print disabled warning message on Windows Vista.

### **Edit Menu**

- The switch between Play Through MIDI and Play Through AU can now be undone under the Edit Menu.
- The Edit Menu no longer displays incorrect keyboard shortcuts for Clip Files (Cut, Copy, Insert and Paste).
- The Undo list no longer refers to the Audio Track as a Staff.

### **Expression Tool**

- Note-attached Expressions no longer draw at incorrect sizes when added at percentages other than 100% in Scroll and Studio view.

### **FinaleScript**

- Help buttons have been added to the FinaleScript dialog boxes.
- Batch processing open documents is no longer erratic.
- Calling plug-ins from a script now functions properly
- Menu item commands with hierarchy (e.g. menu item "document/page format/score") now works with a slash '/' and semicolon ':'
- Save as MIDI now functions properly.
- The Swap font/font search and replace results are not visible immediately on-screen.
- Search/Replace File Info now functions properly.
- Search and Replace now supports the following additional attributes: articulations, group names, subtitle, composer, arranger, and lyricist.
- The 'staff height' and 'system size [x]%' commands no longer hang Finale.

### **Graphics Tool**

- Final barlines no longer print out as thick double barlines when exported as an EPS.
- File size no longer increases after adding then deleting embedded graphics.
- EPS graphics exported from Finale under Windows Vista can now be opened in GSview.
- Redo of an embedded graphic placement no longer leads to a crash.

### **Human Playback**

- All Human Playback dialog boxes now include help buttons.
- Performance and stability improvements.
- Playing back with some Staff Set selected no longer cause a hang.

### **Linked Parts**

- Enharmonics are no longer incorrect in certain files when a voiced part is extracted.

### **Lyrics**

- Hyphens are no longer improperly placed over system breaks.

- Missing hyphens in tightly spaced lyrics now display properly. Hyphens that have disappeared in older files (Finale 2006 and earlier) have been restored.

### **Measure Menu**

- Clear Measure Number Positioning & Enclosures no longer function when unchecked.

### **MIDI Menu**

- When a file setup to use Softsynth is opened with no softsynth\_vst.dll available, Finale now reports the error.

### **MIDI Tool**

- Drag-copying MIDI Tempo data in the MIDI Tool is now possible.
- Scaling tempo by percentage in addition to absolute values now works correctly.

### **Mixer**

- The volume control mixer links now work in Vista.

### **MusicXML**

- Exported MusicXML files with font changes in lyrics import correctly.

### **Native Instruments VST/Audio Units**

- When opening files across platform that have the SoftSynth VST/AU plug-in loaded, Finale now automatically loads the equivalent plug-in.

### **Palettes and Backgrounds**

- The icons for the Tuplet and Smart Shape Tools are correct upon selection in the Cool Black palette.

### **Playback**

- When clicking outside a staff to initiate playback Finale no longer freezes.
- During scrolling playback, the playback cursor no longer extends down to include hidden staves.
- Tempos, edited through Tempo Tap, are now more accurate upon playback allowing for better synchronization with imported audio files.
- Adding new SmartMusic SoftSynth staves with the Setup Wizard to a non-VST file no longer silences the previous staves.

### **Repeat Tool**

- Repeat ending staff list settings are now applied to both brackets when creating endings.

### **ScoreMerger**

- Help buttons have been added to the Instrument Junction and Edit Junction dialog boxes.

- The Merge These Files into One File command now provides improved automatic instrument linkage.
- Non-copyable staff styles are now copied.
- Stability improvements.
- The Parts to Score command includes improved layout if the first file has optimized systems.
- Copying from the report dialog box is now possible.

### **Selection Tool**

- Selected measure numbers are now hidden when pressing Delete.
- Measure highlighting now disappears when deleting measures with the context menu.
- Deleting measures on the last page of a document no longer causes the document to jump to page 1. It now jumps to the previous page as expected.

### **Setup Wizard**

- It is now possible to use the up arrow for Ensemble selection.

### **Simple Entry Tool**

- "Note details" no longer remain when notes are deleted.

### **SmartMusic Accompaniment**

- The Create SmartMusic Assessment Wizard no longer sets up incorrect keys for transposing instruments.

### **Speedy Entry**

- Pressing Ctrl-1, Ctrl-2, or Ctrl-3 in Speedy Entry (using the number row above the QWERTY keys) no longer exits the Speedy Frame and accesses the custom view percentages rather than defining tuplets.
- Note IDs for rests are no longer changed by looking at them with the Edit Frame Attributes dialog box.
- Changing the pitch of an existing enharmonically flipped note no longer erroneously flips the enharmonic of the changed pitch.
- Ctrl-L now sets the stem direction back to the default automatic direction.

### **Staff Tool**

- After double clicking a Staff Style bar in scroll view, a staff is no longer added after exiting the Staff Style dialog.

### **Text Search and Replace**

- Help buttons have been added to the Text Search and Replace dialog box.
- File Info support now functions properly.
- Articulations and group name characters can now be searched and replaced

### **Text Tool**

- Upper ASCII characters in the Score Name text insert are now converted correctly when opened across platforms.

- Upper ASCII for Description and Score Name text inserts are now converted correctly when opened across platform.
- Text Blocks using a custom frame no longer have a bounding box that is too big.

### **Time Signature Tool**

- Context-menu time signature changes are now applied correctly to measures with independent time signature staff styles.
- Time Signatures can now be changed when Independent Key Signatures is turned on.

### **Utilities Menu**

- Rebar Music now breaks whole notes into smaller durations when the time signature is too large for whole notes.
- File Maintenance now cleans up out of order tempo data.
- Chords with flipped enharmonics are no longer improperly transcribed using Explode Music.

### **View Menu**

- Programming a Staff Set is now possible in Studio View.
- Bookmarks that include staff list settings now switch to the staff list when called.

### **Window Menu**

- The File menu toolbar no longer displays the scanning icon as "1" In the Customize Toolbars box instead of "Import Scanned Music File."