

Dear Finale NotePad user,

When it was first released in 2000, the initial idea behind NotePad was that it would work like an “Adobe Reader” for music notation, letting anyone open, play, and print any Finale file. Since then over four million educators, students, and other musicians have downloaded and made excellent use of Finale NotePad.

In the intervening years NotePad’s feature set has been greatly expanded. Recent additions include guitar and bass tablature, MIDI file import/export, step-time entry, and MIDI playback. Even so, we continue to receive requests for additional functionality, and this year NotePad has reached a crossroads.

Finale NotePad 2009 includes even more features, including an all-new Expression Tool and the ability to import/export MusicXML files. It continues to include free on-line support. At the same time we now charge \$9.95 for the NotePad 2009 download.

Also new this year is the Finale Reader™. The Finale Reader can open, play, and print (but not edit) any Finale family file – as well as MusicXML files – and it is a free download.

Please note that with the release of the Finale Reader, we no longer offer previous versions of NotePad from our site. Keep in mind that among the many advantages in NotePad 2009 is its ability to import/export MusicXML files: this means that it can save files that can be opened in earlier versions of Finale.

We hope you agree that these changes represent an excellent balance between free reader software and low-cost notation creation software.

Best wishes in your music making,

John Paulson and Ron Raup
co-CEOs