Homework: Sibelius Basics Part 1

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Read this first

I hope you enjoyed the first online session! Because it’s best to “learn by doing”, here are the instructions for recreating the score that I created during the first session. Take your time, and remember that you can refer to the video recording of the session if you need to refresh your memory.

If you have any major dramas, send me an email: katie@midnightmusic.com.au

It would be ideal if you can complete this homework before the next session runs. That way, you will cement what you’ve learnt in this session before we tackle new information.

Good luck!
Katie

How to use these notes

You should have downloaded the following from the website:

- Sibelius Shortcuts list
- Score: Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- Notes – Sibelius Basics Online Part 1 & 2
- Homework – Sibelius Basics Online Part 1 (this document)

It’s probably best if you print everything out, so you can refer to the notes while you have Sibelius open on your computer. If you have an iPad, you could save a few trees and view the documents on there instead of printing them.

Score

First, make sure you have the score in front of you in a prominent position while you work. You’ll need to refer to it often.

Homework instructions (this document)

This will tell you the step-by-step instructions to re-create the score. The steps tell you what to do, but do not give detailed “how-to” instructions.

The how-to instructions are in a separate document titled Notes – Sibelius Basics Online Part 1 & 2 (referred to as “Notes”) and they are non score-specific. Arranging the information this way will make the notes more useful when you go ahead and create your own scores during the year.

These Homework instructions include references to the relevant sections in the Notes document that look like this:

Notes: see page 3, Score set-up

Notes

These are arranged in a vaguely sequential way (ie. starting with score set up and then note entry etc). The contents page should help you find what you need quickly.

Shortcuts list

This is for quick reference. I am definitely not expecting you to learn all the shortcuts off-by-heart, but if you manage to pick up even a few, they will speed up your Sibelius use immensely.
Getting started: score setup

- Open Sibelius
- Set up a new score that contains the instruments in the provided Row, Row, Row Your Boat score.
- While you work through the score setup process, add the other score elements: key signature, time signature and so on. Don’t forget the anacrusis!

[See Notes page 4, Score set-up]

Add bars

Add some empty bars to the end of your score (so you end up with at least 16). Don’t worry if you add too many – you can delete them later.

[See Notes page 5, Adding or deleting bars]

Moving around your score

Test out some of the navigation techniques I showed you:

- Zoom in and out of your score
- Move the page up and down
- Move forwards and backwards through your score

Lastly, change to Panorama view (Sibelius version 5, 6 and 7) by pressing Shift+P. Stay in Panorama view while you work on your score – it’s much easier to navigate around your score and you won’t think about formatting and layout (that comes last).

[See Notes page 5, Navigation]

Edit clarinet part names

First, we’ll edit the full part names for the two clarinet parts:

- Double-click on the text “Clarinet in B flat” next to the top clarinet part and add the number 1 at the end. Press Escape when you’ve finished
- Double-click on the text “Clarinet in B flat” next to the bottom clarinet part and add the number 2 at the end. Press Escape when you’ve finished

Next you’ll need to edit the abbreviated names (the short names) which appear on the subsequent staves. You only need to edit one of the short names – Sibelius will update all the others as soon as you press Escape.

[See Notes page 6, Editing part names]
A reminder: the importance of Escape

The Escape key (located at the top left of your computer’s keyboard) deselects or cancels any action that you’ve started in Sibelius, whether you’ve opened a dialog box you don’t need, or are recording music from your MIDI keyboard, or need to stop inputting notes and edit them.

Try to get into the habit of pressing Escape when you’ve finished doing any action in Sibelius.

Transposing instruments

You can work with your score showing all instruments in concert pitch, or in transposing pitch (for the relevant instruments in your score). To switch transposing score view on/off, use the transposing score button.

Note entry using the computer keyboard

We’re going to enter the notes for the first four bars (plus the anacrusis) of the Clarinet 2 part. Make sure your score is in transposing view.

- Select the first dotted crotchet rest (the anacrusis). It should be blue
- Press the letter N (for note entry mode). A cursor will appear just before the rest

- Select the rhythmic value of the first note in your score on Sibelius’s Keypad (a dotted crotchet). It may already be selected, but if it isn’t press the number 4 on your numeric keypad and then press the dot at the bottom (the one at the top is a staccato)
  
  *Note: use your hand on the computer keyboard, rather than using the mouse to click on the rhythmic values on the screen (start good habits early!)*

- Now press the letter name of the first note on your computer keyboard – a B (Sibelius will enter a B above middle C)

- To move the B down an octave, press Ctrl + the down arrow (Command + down arrow on Mac)
- The next note is E, so press the letter E to enter the note into your score. Press B and then E again for the next two notes
• Entering the rest: rests should be “written in” to your score just like notes. Make sure you still have the crotchet and dot selected on Sibelius’s Keypad, then press the rest button at the bottom.

• Continue entering the notes for the next two bars. Make sure you change the rhythmic value when you reach the crotchet B in bar 3.

See Notes page 6 Note entry

How to fix mistakes

If make a mistake while you’re still in Note Entry mode, you can simply type Ctrl+Z or ⌘Z to undo it.

Alternatively, you can fix the mistakes all in one go. Press Escape twice first to exit note entry mode and deselect the last note. Then select the note you need to fix and correct the rhythm or pitch.

See Notes page 8 Fixing note-entry mistakes

Selecting music and copying the clarinet 2 part

Because the clarinet 2 part is an ostinato, we’ll copy and paste it throughout the rest of the score.

• First, select the 4-bar ostinato: click in the first full bar in the clarinet 2 part (ignore the anacrusis). You will have a blue box around the bar

• Hold Shift down and click in the 4th bar. The blue box will extend around bars 1-4

Version 5 & 6:

Version 7:

• Press the letter R for repeat. Keep pressing R to fill up the bars in the rest of the score

See Notes page 9 Selecting music and great ways to copy and paste music

Playback #1

Let’s listen to your hard work. Play back the score so far using the playback controls, or by using the Spacebar to start or pause playback.

See Notes page 10 Playback of your score
More copy and paste and re-input pitches

Next we’ll input the notes for the first 4 bars of clarinet part 1. Because the rhythm of the clarinet 1 part is the same as the clarinet 2 part, we can use a feature called “Re-input pitches” to save a little time.

Copy and paste #2

We’ll copy the clarinet 2 part into clarinet 1 and then just overwrite the pitches, whilst retaining the rhythm.

- First, select the 4-bar ostinato in the clarinet 2 part: click in the first full bar (ignore the anacrusis again) and then hold Shift down and click in the 4th bar. Like before, the blue box will extend around bars 1-4
- This time we’ll copy the selected bars into the clarinet 1 part by holding down Alt (Option on Mac) and clicking at the beginning of bar 1 in the clarinet 1 part (the “Alt-click” method)

Re-input pitches

Overwrite the pitches of the clarinet 1 part:

- Select the first note in the clarinet 1 part
- Sibelius 5 & 6: go to Notes > Reinput pitches. A dotted blue cursor will appear before the note
- Sibelius 7: go to Note Input > Reinput pitches. A dotted blue cursor will appear before the note
- Type the new note names using the letters on your computer keyboard (ignore the rest when you get to it – just press the letter name of the next note)
- Press Escape twice when you’ve finished

See Notes page 9 Great ways to copy and paste, and Re-input pitches

Add a harmony part

Let’s add a harmony part to the clarinet 1 part.

- Double-click anywhere in the clarinet 1 part. The entire part will be highlighted with a blue box
- Press Shift+3 to add a third below all of the notes in the part

See Notes page 10 Creating chords

Playback #2

Try these techniques:

- Select a note and press P to start playback at a specific place
- Select a bar and press P to playback a single stave using the selected bar as the starting point
Enter the melody

Here’s your chance to practise note entry a little more:

- Select bar 5 in the voice part and press N
- Using the computer keyboard, enter all of the Row, Row melody. Don’t worry about the lyrics yet – we’ll cover those in the next session

Remember: after you’ve selected the bar to get started, try not to use the mouse to enter notes. Select the rhythmic values and notes on the computer keyboard.

Change playback sound

Personally, I’m not a fan of the “ah” or “ooh” sounds produced by the vocal staves in Sibelius. If you want to change the playback sound of an instrument, you can do so in the Mixer

- Open the Mixer by pressing M
- See the instructions for changing instrument playback sound for your version of Sibelius (in the Notes)

Dynamics

Add some dynamics in, as shown in the score. Feel free to add extra dynamics.

Once you’ve added some dynamics in, try playing back your score again. Sibelius will “play” the dynamics as written.

Congratulations!

Well done – you’ve completed the first part of our score. We’ll cover some new techniques in the next session. See you then.

All the best,

Katie
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