

NAA 2023 – Introduction into forScore

Preparation prior to session

If you want to follow along with your iPad, please

- Bring your iPad with the app forScore installed
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/forscore/id363738376?ign-mpt=uo%3D4> The fee is \$19.99, no need to sign up for the subscription service!
- If you don't have any sheet music within forScore download the file "NAA 2023 - forScore Examples.pdf" from the NAA WEB Page to your iPad.
 - After installation you will see a few introductions screens
 - The final pop-up screen will ask you to import files
 - Select import | Files |
 - Navigate to the location of the files you just downloaded and import the files.

If you just want to see what is possible, join us without an iPad to learn how forScore could help you with your sheet music.

Introduction

What is forScore?

ForScore is a and iOS app allowing users to import and manager their sheet music. For those who haul sheet music to their gigs, forScore could simplify your job. The current price (one-time fee is \$ 19.99), there is also an additional PRO version with additional subscriptions fees. ForScore is not available for any other platforms. If you use a Windows or Android device, you have to look for alternatives like mobile sheets.

ForScore can be used for every aspect of your musical activities, for practice, reference or performance.

Highlighted features

ForScore has many features, here are some highlights:

- **Annotations:** draw with your finger, Apple Pencil or Keyboard and annotate your sheet music. Fingering, additional notations, orchestrations, notes.
- **Bookmarks:** As you cannot only import individual sheets, but also complete book you can create bookmarks, like a TOC (Table of Content) to quickly find your song. Just think about importing the "Best fake book ever" with about a thousand songs.
- **Scan:** Take photos from your sheet music and import them directly into forScore.
- **Dashboard:** shows some statistics about your practice, most songs played and such.
- **Import / Export:** Import / export via email or cloud services for photos or PDFs.
- **Libraries:** Organize your sheet music in Libraries, allowing you to have your music separated by instrument, or when you are playing solo, or on a group.
- **Metadata:** You can store additional information like genre, tags, labels, difficult levels, duration and such for each individual song. You can easily search based on the meta data.
- **Metronome:** A built in metronome (visual, audio and audio-visual) will help you practice and perform.

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- **MIDI:** You can send MIDI commands to your instrument to select a performance or orchestration.
- **Page turner:** ForScore works with most Bluetooth page turner.
- **Rearranger:** Split a musical piece and rearrange pages, which makes it easier for repeats, instead of going 3 pages back, just go one forward.
- **Setlists:** Organize your library in setlists, by genres, gig. Order your titles as you would like to play them on a gig or shuffle them. You can share your setlists with others. Either you share the “raw” sheet music or the annotated version.

For a full list of features go to <https://forscore.co/>

The “ideal” iPad

ForScore requires Apples iOS and works on iPhones and iPads. I believe the ideal size is the 12.9” iPad pro. It has almost the size of regular sheet music and is easy to read. It supports the Apple Pencil, which is a bonus. Any other iPad will work as well, test and see which size makes the most sense for you but remember that is an investment which stays for years to come.

Basic functions

Import sheet music

- From the iPad directly with files loaded to the iPad
- With a cloud service like Dropbox or others, more about this in my next session
- Taking photos directly with forScore
- Connect with a paid service like Musicnotes, Noteflight or others.

Settings

- You can leave most of the settings to the default values.
- Look at these Settings:
 - Auto-Lock – prevents device from going to sleep.
 - Devices – AirPods Pro – moving your head turns pages.
 - Midi to enable MIDI messaging, e.g., selecting a song changes a patch on your instrument.
 - Gestures – I left them with default values.
 - Page transitions – I have it set to slide.
 - Flip between scores – All
 - Appearance section – your preference how forScore should look like
- Backup – does not backup PDFs, but content like annotations. I rely on full iOS backup / restore features.
- You can share (aka export PDF, annotated PDF of forScore data)

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Working with forScore (30 min)

Meta data

- Tap in the middle of the screen and select the title.
 - Be aware when make changes.
 - Bookmarks – only the selected title
 - File – everything in that file (including all Bookmarks)
- Explain Meta data in general.
 - Rename labels, by long press on label.
- The more info you enter, the better your search results.
- I changed.
 - Tags-> Tags / Country
 - Label -> Label / Source
- Explain which Meta data I use.
 - Title, genre, Country, source, time

Search

- Search by title
- Search by Genre
- Search by composer
- Filter by: I don't use here, but in Libraries.

Library / Bookmarks / Setlists

- Show Library – all songs, you can filter by defined categories, e.g., Composer, Genres, Tags, Label
- Show Bookmarks – all bookmarks songs of current selected songs
- Show set lists – your own sheet music song books
 - Organize them the way you want and how you play

Crop sheet music

- You can crop sheet music, so it fits better on your screen
 - Remove unwanted borders
 - Straighten pages
- It does not change the actual PDF, but only how it is viewed in forScore
- Detailed examples on this in my next session when I talk about loading sheet music to forScore

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Annotations

- Press and hold in the middle of the screen until annotation bar pops up
 - Move up and down with “Hamburger” on the left and right
 - Move to next or previous page
 - Highlights / free form
 - Select from existing palette and draw / highlight what you want
 - Touch second time to change properties like color, thickness etc.
 - Move left / right
 - Make it work for you!
 - I use different reds, blacks and a yellow highlighter
 - Text annotations
 - Enter text move it around
 - Touch “Aa” to open text properties
 - Change font, size and color to your liking
 - Corrections
 - Free form -> eraser
 - Text -> open annotations bar and then select text
 - Correct using keyboard
 - Select trashcan to delete current text
 - Select “X” to clear all annotations
 - Select “undo” / “redo” buttons
 - Layers
 - I have not used them
 - Stamps / Shapes
 - Predefined
 - User defined
- Annotations with Apple Pencil
 - Much easier to use and more precise for “free form” drawing
 - I prefer this when writing down fingering

Rearrange

- Ability to duplicate sheet music or merge different songs together
- It does not duplicate the PDF, it will only create references
- Why?
 - Simplify turn pages – examples Flick Flack – multi-page turns
 - Updated songs – examples: Amapola – refrain + verse

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Other functions

- Play audio backing tracks – probably better off using your V-Accordion
- Midi Commands – can send Midi information to a device to select your patches / orchestrations.
- Metronome – helpful for practicing
- Buttons – no use for them for me, but you could send MIDI commands or use other predefined command
- Statistics