

Music Learning System

PURPOSE

The purpose of this application is to assist singers in learning and performing music.

DOWNLOAD and INSTALLATION

You can download this application by using your internet browser. Enter 'MUSIC.ECKLES.US' in the address field. Read the instructions on the download page, then click the word 'Download' at the bottom of the page. Depending on your version of Windows and your security settings, you may have to click 'OK', 'Run', 'Continue', 'Yes', or something similar to convince your browser that it is safe to download and execute the program. The download is large and could take several minutes.

When the download is complete, the install process will ask for a password to extract the files. Enter 'milo' and click 'continue'. Pressing 'Enter' at this point does not work. You will then be asked to confirm the location. The default is 'C:\'. Unless you have a valid reason for changing the location, you should accept the default.

After the files are extracted to your computer, the application will start automatically. The application will check if three free applications are installed on your computer. Those three are Adobe Reader, Anvil Studio and 7-Zip. If any of them are not installed, it will install them. Accept all of the defaults for the installation of these programs. Finally, you will be asked for your name. This application is used by several different singing groups, and your name will ensure that you will only get the information for the group(s) to which you belong. Next, you will be asked for your contact information. This is optional, but I encourage you to provide it (see Privacy and Security). Now you are ready to use this application. This information will not be asked for again ever if you download the application again

USAGE

The following describes each button

SELECT GROUP

You should choose the desired (or only) group. You will then see a list of the songs for this group (musical organization). Before each song you may see several flags on buttons. The red 'New' flag indicates that one of the files associated with this piece of music has been changed since the last time this application was executed. The green 'Listen' button will allow you to listen to a performance of the song if an 'MP3' file has been provided. The green 'Play' button will allow you to have your own personal accompanist. It will solo or mute selected parts to enhance learning. The third green 'Print' button will allow you to print your own copy of the sheet music.

LISTEN

If an '.MP3' file has been provided for the selected song, this button will play it with the Windows Media Player.

PLAY

If a '.MID' file has been provided for the selected song, this button will play it with Anvil Studio. Anvil is the most powerful and complicated part of the music crutch. We will be using just two functions of Anvil. The first is what is displayed. Only the part that is highlighted in the gray table is displayed. You may highlight the desired part by clicking on the part name in the

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second column of the gray table near the top of the page. The second function is what is played. This is determined by toggling the fourth column of the gray table between 'on', 'mute', and 'solo'.

There is a vertical line on the staff. On top of the line is a hand with a pointing finger. You may use the mouse to drag the line to a certain location in the music, then hit the play button to play that portion. At the end of that portion, hit stop and drag the line back to replay over and over the memorize a troublesome portion of the song.

PRINT

If a '.PDF' file has been provided for the selected song, this button will start Adobe Reader to allow you to print the sheet music. You may choose either all parts or just one part. I call all parts 'practice' mode when you may wish to see the other parts and just one part 'performance' mode where page turns are minimized. In either case the music is printed one part per staff with no repeats.

Even if you have a basic printer that does not support two-sided printing, you can print two-sided pages by selecting 'Odd pages only' in the subset drop-down box. After printing the odd pages, you can print individual even pages on the back of the corresponding odd page, (IE. 2 on the back of 1 etc).

INFO

This button allows you view information about the songs or members of the selected group.

MEMBER LIST

This button will display an alphabetical list of the members and their provided contact information.

MAP

If the selected member has provided a postal address, this button will display a Google map this members address.

PHOTO

This button will display a photograph of the member, if the member provided one to me.

QR

This button will display a Quick Response code containing the members contact information. If your smart phone has an app that supports this function, snapping this code will enter the members contact info into your phones contacts list.

UPDATE

Selecting this button will allow to enter/edit your information. The update will not be instant but instead send a request to me to update the master copy. After the master copy has been updated, you may download a new version of the application the see the changes.

PROGRAMS

This function has not yet been implemented.

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SONG LIST

This button will display an alphabetical list of the songs for this group using Internet Explorer. The date is when it was entered on last updated. You may print the list using the facilities of Internet Explorer.

UPDATE

Clicking this button will download updates to the content of this application since it was downloaded. It is much faster than performing a new download.

PRIVACY and SECURITY

The application uses your name to determine membership in the multiple musical groups supported by this application. That way a member from one group does not see the names or contact information for members in a different group and vice versa.

The downside of using your name to determine membership is that if I misspelled your name, you will not be found in any group and therefore not be able to use this application. You will have to contact me to correct the spelling error.

If you are comfortable in sharing your contact information with the other members of your group, you should feel comfortable in having it in this application. Although the application is downloaded from the web, it is not an online application. You need to provide a password to extract the information to your PC.