



LilyPond - Music Typesetting

Basic usage - LilyPond Version 2.14 and above

Cheatsheet by R. Kainhofer, Edition Kainhofer, <http://www.edition-kainhofer.com/>



Command-line usage

```
lilypond [-l LOGLEVEL] [-dSCMOPTIONS] [-o OUTPUT] [-V] FILE.ly [FILE2.ly]
```

Common options:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| --pdf, --png, --ps | Output file format | -dpreview | Cropped "preview" image |
| -backend=eps | Use different backend | -dlog-file=FILE | Create .log file |
| -l LOGLEVEL | ERR/WARN/PROG/DEBUG | -dno-point-and-click | No Point & Click info |
| -o OUTDIR | Name of output dir/file | -djob-count=NR | Process files in parallel |
| -V | Verbose output | -dpixmap-format=pngalpha | Transparent PNG |
| -dhelp | Help on options | -dno-delete-intermediate-files | Keep .ps files |

General Syntax

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <code>\xxxx</code> | function or variable |
| <code>{ ... }</code> | Code grouping |
| <code>var = {...}</code> | Variable assignment |
| <code>\version "2.14.0"</code> | LilyPond version |
| <code>% dots</code> | Comment |
| <code>{% ... %}</code> | Block comment |
| <code>c\...</code> | Postfix-notation (notes) |
| <code>#'(...), ##t, #'sym</code> | Scheme list, true, symb. |
| <code>x-..., x^..., x_...</code> | Directions |

Basic Notation

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <code>c d e f g a b</code> | Note names (Dutch) |
| | <code>cis bes as cisis beses b b! b?</code> | Alterations: -is/-es for sharp/flat, -isis/-eses for double, ! forces, ? shows cautionary accidental |
| | <code>\relative c' {c f d' c,}</code> | Relative mode (change less than a fifth), raise/lower one octave |
| | <code>g1 g2 g4 g8 g16 g4. g4..</code> | durations (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, ...); append "." for dotted note |
| | <code>g8 g8 g8[g g] g8[g16 g16]</code> | Automatic and manual beaming |
| | <code>r2 r4 r4. r16 s4 r4</code> | rests: r (like a note name) s for invisible rests |
| | <code>\clef "treble" \clef "bass" \clef "tenor" \clef "treble_3"</code> | Clefs |
| | <code>\time 4/4 \time 2/2 \time 3/4 \time 3/8</code> | Time signature |
| | <code>\key c \minor \key b \dorian \key c \major</code> | Key |
| | <code><c e g>4 <f c'> q2</code> | Chords, repeated chord |
| | <code>c4~ c c2~ c4 <c a f>~ c</code> | Tie |
| | <code>c(a) c\((b(a) g f\)</code> | Slur / Phrasing slur |
| | <code>g\p< a b c\f\cresc d e\!</code> | Dynamics, hairpins, text crescendo |
| | <code>c4-> c-. c~ c^-_+ c\trill c\marcato c~"Text"</code> | Articulations and text markup |
| | <code>\partial 8 c8 c1 c \bar" " c \bar" "."</code> | Partial measure, bar line check, bar lines |
| | <code>R1 R1*3 \time 3/4 R2.*4</code> | Full-/Multimeasure rests: R (with exact duration) |
| | <code>c1 \repeat volta 2 { d } \alternative {{e} {f}} g</code> | Repeats (with alternative endings; can be left out) |
| | <code>\tempo "Adagio" 4=60 c1 c c \mark \default c \mark "X"</code> | Tempo indications, text marks |
| | <code>\grace d8 c4\appoggiatura d8 c4\acciaccatura d8 c4</code> | Grace notes |
| | <code>\times 2/3 {c8 d e} \times 4/5 {c d e d c}</code> | Triplet, tuplets |
| | <code><<{a2 c4 a}\{f4 g4 f2}>></code> | Parallel music |

Creating Staves, Voices and Groups

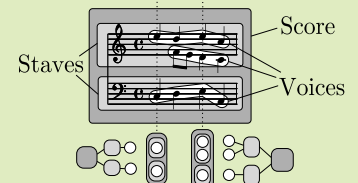
```
\version "2.15.0"
SMusic = \relative c' { c1\p }
Slyrics = \lyricmode { Oh! }
AMusic = \relative c' { e1 }

\score {
  \new ChoirStaff <<
    \new Staff {
      \new Voice = "Sop" {
        \dynamicUp \SMusic
      }
    }
  \new Lyrics = "Slyrics"
  \lyricsto "Sop" \Slyrics
  \new Staff {
    \new Voice = "Alto" {
      \dynamicUp \AMusic
    }
  }
} >>
```

Useful Contexts

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Score | The whole score |
| << ... >> | Staves in parallel |
| StaffGroup | Staffgroup with bracket |
| GrandStaff | Staffgroup with brace |
| ChoirStaff | Staffgroup with bracket |
| PianoStaff | Staffgroup with brace |
| Staff | One single staff |
| Voice | A voice inside a staff |
| CueVoice | Smaller voice for cues |
| Lyrics | Lyrics inside staff/voice |
| ChordNames | Chords (lead sheet) |
| Devnull | No output |

Also: Dynamics, FiguredBass, Tab (Staff|Voice), Drum (Staff|Voice), RhythmicStaff, FretBoards, ...



Adding Lyrics

```
<<
  \new Voice = "m" {
    c4 c8[( b)] a8[( b)] | c4 c4~ c4 |
  }
  \new Lyrics \lyricsto "m" {
    Sim -- ple e -- xam -- ple --
  }
>>
```

Writing text and markup

```
\markup {
  \justify {
    A \underline justified \bold paragraph,
    \fontsize #-2 automatically line-broken.
    Some symbols: \dynamic ff \eyeglasses
    \rounded-box text, \with-color #red Text
  }
}
```

A justified paragraph, automatically line-broken. Some symbols: **ff** text, Text

Links

LilyPond Homepage:
<http://www.lilypond.org/>

LilyPond Snippet Repository (LSR):
<http://lsr.dsi.unimi.it/>

User Mailing list:
lilypond-user@gnu.org