

MusicBook Pro

5.5 User Guide

English

Capture the idea Write the song Prepare the performance

A practical guide for iPad and Mac, with information about iPhone, Apple Watch and Apple TV.

Save this PDF for offline reading. Start with chapter 2 for quick recording and chapter 9 for SmartScroll.

Keep in mind

Written specifically for version 5.5. Editors use explicit Save. SmartScroll provides timed scrolling after you start it.

MusicBook Pro is developed by Music by Lars.

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Quick answers

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CHAPTER 01

Getting started on iPad and Mac

Start here

MusicBook Pro keeps your songwriting, personal songbook and live setlists together. It works with original songs and cover material that you enter yourself.

Find your way around

1. Open Dash for New Song, New Idea and shortcuts to recent work.
2. On iPad, use the system sidebar button to show or hide navigation. The sidebar starts collapsed. On Mac, use the sidebar to switch between libraries and Settings.
3. Use Songs for finished material, Drafts for work in progress and Ideas for early text, audio or video. Projects group related work. Setlists hold your running order.
4. Open Settings for appearance, SmartFunctions, Performance defaults, backup, iCloud and Help.

Free and Full Version

Every feature is available in the free app. The free library holds 6 Songs, 2 Drafts, 2 Ideas, 2 Projects and 2 Setlists. Sessions are unlimited. One Full Version purchase removes these library limits. There are no subscriptions or ads.

Keep in mind

In 5.5, saving is explicit. Choose Save to keep editor changes. See chapter 3 before leaving work in progress.

How to use this guide

The contents page links to each chapter. PDF bookmarks provide the same navigation. This file can be saved in Files on iPad or opened in Preview on Mac, even when an in-app help link will not open.

CHAPTER 02

Capture ideas quickly

Dash > New Idea, or an Idea's + menu

Use Ideas for a lyric line, melody, riff or short recording. To keep audio or video, record an Idea. Transcribe is a separate temporary recording workflow.

Record and keep an audio idea

1. From Dash, choose New Idea and select audio capture. On Mac, the Audio Idea shortcut also opens recording.
2. Allow microphone access when asked, then start recording. Choose Stop Recording when you have captured the idea.
3. Listen to the preview. Edit the title and choose a Project if you want to group the idea, or leave it in Loose Ideas.
4. Choose Save. Check that the saved Idea and its clip appear in Ideas before leaving.

Add to an existing idea

Open the Idea and use the fixed + menu for Write Text, Record Audio or Record Video. Review a new clip and choose Add. Adding a clip does not save unrelated text edits; save those separately.

Return to your work

Continue Latest Idea opens the most recently changed active saved Idea. Viewing an Idea alone does not make it the latest one. A new quick text Idea stays untitled unless you enter a title. Blank recorded-Idea titles may receive a SmartNaming suggestion or a dated fallback.

Keep in mind

If recording is unavailable, check the app's microphone permission in system settings. Video also needs camera permission. An unsaved recording must be saved or explicitly discarded.

CHAPTER 03

Write songs, drafts and save your work

Songs or Drafts > New or Edit

Songs are your finished songbook. Drafts keep unfinished writing separate. Choose the library that matches the stage of the work, then open an item or create one.

Write lyrics and chords

1. Enter the title, artist and useful setup details such as BPM, duration, capo and tuning.
2. Tap or click the lyrics and chords area to write in fullscreen. Use clear section headings such as Verse: and Chorus:.
3. Place ChordPro chords in square brackets where they belong, for example [Am]Hold on to [F]morning light. Performance displays chords above the lyrics.
4. Choose Save after editing. A Draft remains in Drafts until you explicitly move it to Songs.

Save, Discard and Cancel in 5.5

Editors work on draft copies and do not autosave. Back or Cancel does not silently save. If a leave confirmation appears, Save keeps the changes, Discard leaves without those changes, and Cancel keeps you in the editor.

If a save fails, your input remains open. Read the error and use Retry when available. Keep the editor open until the save succeeds; you can also copy important text to a safe local document.

More song tools

Use transpose and notation controls when needed, then review the result before Save. Manual Song Versions can keep deliberate snapshots. Stage Notes and Performance Notes hold live reminders. Rights & Reporting records details you confirm yourself; the app does not verify registration.

Keep in mind

A Transcribe result opens as an unsaved Idea. If you leave it, choose Continue Editing, Save Idea or Discard Idea. Review the generated work before saving.

CHAPTER 04

Organize projects and use Ideas Studio

Projects and Ideas Studio

A Project groups related Songs, Drafts and Ideas without merging their contents. Use it for a song in development, a writing session or a larger collection of work.

Group your material

1. Open Projects and create or edit a Project. Give it a useful name and add notes or a type if needed.
2. Add existing Songs, Drafts and Ideas. An item can belong to several Projects.
3. Arrange the links in the order you want and mark selected work where useful.
4. Choose Save to keep Project changes. You can also link an item to Projects from its editor.

Develop ideas into a draft

Open Ideas Studio and choose a grouped Project or Loose Ideas. Review the source Ideas, then use Create Draft or Create Song. The created item is independent; the original Ideas and their recordings stay in place. Open the result, edit it and save your changes.

Build a setlist from a project

Review the available finished Songs and their order before creating a Setlist. Drafts, Ideas, Project notes and media are not silently turned into performance songs.

Keep in mind

Deleting a Project removes the grouping, not its linked Songs, Drafts, Ideas or media. Delete individual items only when you intend to remove that work.

CHAPTER 05

Use optional SmartFunctions

Settings > SmartSettings on iPad; SmartFunctions on Mac

SmartFunctions provide optional help while you keep control of your words, chords and song order. Use the master switch and individual controls to choose which tools are available.

Writing and organization tools

Smart Layout offers a formatting preview. Review and apply it to the editor draft, then Save. It preserves written chords and intentional spellings such as oooh and heeeey.

SmartRhymes and **Chord Inspiration** provide ideas for your own choices. **SmartFeedback** offers feedback; **SmartWriter** offers writing suggestions. Review any result before using it.

SmartImport helps with supported import review. **SmartSetlist** suggests a running order; it changes the draft only after you accept the order. Save the Setlist separately.

SmartNaming can help name an audio or video Idea when the title is left blank. An authored title wins, and you can save without waiting for a suggested title.

Practice and performance

Smart Coach on Dash points to concrete practice work, including sections you mark with Practice Focus. **SmartScroll** moves through lyrics in Performance after you start it. See chapters 9 and 11.

If a tool is missing

Check both the master switch and the tool's own switch in Settings. Some actions depend on the current editor, selected material or device support. Smart results remain reviewable; a suggestion is not a saved edit.

Keep in mind

In 5.5, current Smart execution is local. Availability and quality vary with the device, installed Apple support and the material you provide.

CHAPTER 06

Transcribe your own recordings

Transcribe

Transcribe turns your own recording into editable Draft Lyrics. The normal recording limit is 10 minutes. It is intended for your own ideas, not commercial streaming audio.

Record and review

1. Choose the language you are singing or speaking. Use Prepare Language if the app asks you to prepare Apple's language support.
2. Choose Voice First for text, or Voice+Instrument when you also want reviewable Estimated Chords where evidence allows.
3. Start recording and stop when finished. Keep Transcribe open while the whole recording is processed; a long recording can take a few minutes.
4. When processing finishes, the generated Draft Lyrics open in an unsaved Idea editor. Read the complete text, including repeated lines and any uncertain wording.
5. Correct the lyrics and review any Estimated Chords. Choose Save to keep the Idea. Moving this work into another library is a separate choice.

Audio and retries

Transcribe audio is temporary and local. It is removed after a successful editor handoff. If processing fails, you can choose Keep for Retry or Delete Audio. Retry Inbox keeps only the recordings you choose to retain, until you retry successfully or delete them.

If transcription cannot start

Check microphone and speech permissions, the selected language and its preparation status. Preparation may need a connection. A missing Retry Inbox audio file cannot be recovered from a transcript alone.

Keep in mind

Voice First does not create Estimated Chords. Transcription and chord estimates need your review. For a permanent recording, use an Audio Idea instead.

CHAPTER 07

Build and edit setlists

Setlists > New or Edit

Use Setlists to prepare a running order for a rehearsal or show. A Setlist references library material rather than copying all song text into a new document.

Prepare the running order

1. Create a Setlist and give it a name. Add the material you want to use.
2. Reorder entries with the available drag or move controls. Add named breaks and a duration when useful.
3. Review Music, Breaks and Total timing. Missing song durations make the total less informative.
4. If you use SmartSetlist, review the suggested order and explicitly accept it. Choose Save to keep the Setlist draft.

Start and export

Open the saved Setlist and choose Play or Start Performance. Starting from a Song inside the Setlist keeps the full running order and begins at that Song. Rehearsal Mode is available from the Setlist's More menu.

Use the PDF action to export a large-print Setlist document. In 5.5, the Setlist PDF contains Songs only; named break entries are not included.

Keep rehearsal and concert records

When ending Performance, review the Session save choices. Saved Sessions provide a private history of your runs. See chapter 11 for practice and reporting.

Keep in mind

Editing the Setlist does not silently rewrite its Songs. Save Song text and Setlist ordering in their respective editors.

CHAPTER 08

Perform with readable lyrics and chords

A Song or Setlist > Start Performance or Play

Performance opens fullscreen with chords above lyrics. On Mac it opens a dedicated fullscreen window, so your library workspace can remain available separately.

Before and during a run

1. Open the Song or Setlist you intend to perform. Check the order, capo, tuning, pedals, notes and useful durations.
2. Start Performance. Set the text size and use the normal dark palette or Daylight palette for the environment.
3. Open Live Settings for metronome, chord visibility and other session controls. Live changes apply to the active Performance unless an action explicitly saves a preference.
4. Use manual scrolling, page controls or a configured controller. Start SmartScroll only when you are ready.

Smart Next safety

Page commands first move through the current Song. At its bottom, the first next-song command shows a warning. A repeated command after that warning advances. The host applies the same safety to local, pedal and remote control.

A named break has its own timer. On arrival it starts, and you choose Continue or End when ready. It never automatically advances to another Song.

Setlist View and finishing

Setlist View shows the running order and current Song instead of the lyric sheet. Switch the view in Live Settings. When finishing, review the Session summary and choose whether to save it.

Keep in mind

Rehearse with your chosen font size and controllers before a show. A started Performance does not automatically start SmartScroll or move to the next Song.

CHAPTER 09

Understand and control SmartScroll

Performance controls and Live Settings

SmartScroll in 5.5 is local, timed lyric scrolling. It uses the saved Song duration, BPM, sections and lyric density to estimate pacing. It does not listen to your singing or follow your live voice.

Start, adjust and stop

1. In Settings, enable the SmartFunctions master switch and SmartScroll. Edit the Song's duration and BPM if needed, then Save.
2. Open lyric-sheet Performance and start at the top of the Song sheet. SmartScroll is hidden in Setlist View.
3. Choose SmartScroll in the Performance controls, or Start SmartScroll in Live Settings. It only starts after your action.
4. In Live Settings, use minus to slow down and plus to speed up. Choose the displayed speed to reset it to 1x.
5. Choose the stop control when you want to pause the scrolling. Continue with manual scrolling or page controls.

When the pacing feels wrong

Check the saved duration, BPM and section headings. Rehearse once at the text size you will use on stage, then adjust the speed. Timing is an estimate, so manual control is useful for repeats, pauses or a different arrangement.

When it will not start

Check the master and individual switches, switch out of Setlist View, and make sure you are displaying a Song. No Scroll Needed means there is no useful downward scrolling, for example when all the text fits or the sheet is already at the bottom.

Keep in mind

SmartScroll stops at the end of the sheet. It never automatically advances to another Song. Next-song commands still use the warning-first safety described in chapter 8.

CHAPTER 10

Use pedals, remotes and external displays

Settings > Performance; Performance > Live Settings

MusicBook Pro can keep the iPad or Mac as the Performance host while a controller turns pages or another display shows the song sheet.

Foot pedal and iPhone Remote

Configure your page-turning pedal in Settings and test the assigned commands in rehearsal. A keyboard-style pedal must be connected to the host device. Repeated held input is guarded, and next-song advance follows Smart Next safety.

For a nearby iPhone Remote, use the pairing controls in Performance Live Settings or the relevant Gig Profile. Test the connection before the show. The host remains in control of the current Song and safety warnings.

External display and Apple TV

Use Performance > Live Settings > External Display with a compatible AirPlay or HDMI route. The external sheet is read-only and excludes private notes, source links and library metadata.

Apple TV provides a free, read-only library and Performance companion. It does not edit, import, record or run the tuner. Enable the Apple TV library option in iCloud settings when you want that library route.

Optional MIDI preset cues

MIDI is off and hidden by default. Turn on its master setting, select the local endpoint and configure Song defaults or Setlist overrides. Arm the Performance session before sending preset cues. These are outgoing device-preset commands.

Keep in mind

MIDI in 5.5 sends preset commands to external equipment. It does not play audio or MIDI files. Keep MIDI off when you do not use it.

CHAPTER 11

Practice and save session history

[Dash > Smart Coach](#); [Song > Arrangement Map](#); [Sessions](#)

Use your saved song structure and rehearsal history to choose what to practice. Smart Coach offers a concrete starting point; you decide what to work on.

Mark a section for practice

1. Open a Song and its Arrangement Map.
2. On iPad, touch and hold a section. On Mac, double-click the section or use its context action. Toggle Practice Focus.
3. Look for the target and state text that confirm the focus. Changes made in the editor stay in that draft until Save.
4. Open Smart Coach on Dash or the Song, review the suggestion and choose its practice action when useful.

Run a rehearsal

Open a Song or Setlist and choose Rehearsal Mode where available. Use Performance to work through the material. End the run, review its summary and explicitly save a Session if you want it in your history.

Review sessions and reports

Sessions records your saved runs. Edit the Rehearsal or Concert type, start and end times with Save and Cancel. Concert records can hold performed Songs, venue, territory and reporting details for your own export. Rehearsals do not keep those concert reporting fields.

Smart Coach can use explicit Practice Focus and recent saved activity. A recommendation is guidance; it does not verify how well you played or create a completed practice record.

Keep in mind

Session deletion is permanent. Dismissing a practice recommendation does not delete the Song. Registration and reporting information remain your own confirmed records.

CHAPTER 12

Import, export and print

Settings > Library > Import; Song and Setlist export actions

Import material you own or have permission to use. Imports are review-first and create editable Drafts by default.

Bring material into the library

1. Choose text, ChordPro, PDF, DOCX or a supported backup. You can also use paste or the system Share sheet.
2. Review the recognized title, artist, lyrics and chords. Correct broken line breaks, unreadable text or uncertain chords.
3. For a source URL, store or open the page, then supply the text yourself. The app does not fetch protected lyrics automatically.
4. Choose Create Draft, Save Draft or the explicit import confirmation shown for that workflow.

Images and shared media

On iPad and iPhone, camera OCR can read your own notes or permitted sheets. On Mac, use paste or document import. Shared audio and video use media review and an explicit save or add confirmation.

Export a song or setlist

Song actions offer text, ChordPro and PDF export. Review transpose, notation and layout before sharing. A Setlist PDF is intended for large-print song sheets and contains Songs only. Use backup export when you need the library graph and settings, rather than a printable song sheet.

Keep in mind

A PDF without readable embedded text may need OCR or manually supplied text. Always review imported material. MusicBook Pro does not scrape websites, bypass logins or supply third-party lyrics.

CHAPTER 13

Sync, back up and recover work

Settings > Library > iCloud, Backup or Privacy

Your library saves locally first. iCloud sync is optional and uses your private Apple account. A saved local edit and a completed sync are separate states.

Use iPad and Mac together

1. Sign in to the same iCloud account on both devices and allow MusicBook Pro to use iCloud.
2. Open the app's iCloud settings and enable Sync Song Data on each device.
3. Enable Sync Media separately if you want permanent Idea recordings to transfer. Media stays local by default.
4. Check the sync status before relying on a newly saved item on another device. Use the shown retry action if sync reports a failure.

Make an independent backup

Open Backup and export a MusicBook Pro .mbpbackup file. Choose whether to include permanent Idea media; it is not included by default. Temporary Transcribe audio is excluded. On Mac, you can export to Downloads or choose Save As.

Keep the backup somewhere you can find it and review an import before confirming a restore. Sync transfers changes between devices, while an exported backup preserves a separate copy.

Recover and troubleshoot

Recently Deleted retains supported library content for 30 days. Restore the item there before the retention period expires. Sessions have permanent deletion. A missing media file may need the original device, a media-inclusive backup or enabled private media sync.

Keep in mind

Do not delete or reinstall the app as a first troubleshooting step when work exists only locally. Export a backup and confirm what has actually synced first.

CHAPTER 14

Settings, shortcuts and getting help

Settings

Make the app comfortable

Settings controls typography and appearance, chord notation and colors, Song defaults, personal profile, Performance and SmartFunctions. Tuner uses the shared instrument and tuning choices; check the selected tuning before playing.

Shortcuts, widgets and Apple Watch

Use Quick Ideas widgets, Shortcuts, Siri or Spotlight for supported capture and open actions. System entry points still lead to the app's normal review and explicit Save workflow. On supported iPhones, assign the Action Button yourself through Apple's settings; it is not an iPad or Mac control.

The paired Apple Watch companion can capture a quick audio Idea or provide the Performance metronome. It does not place your full private songbook on the watch.

Optional Mac Agent Collaboration

Mac Settings offers Agent Collaboration for approved agent services. It is off by default, uses pairing and separate permissions, and can expire access. Approved agents may read permitted text and create new Ideas or Setlists. They cannot edit or delete existing items. Disconnect All ends access.

When help will not open

This PDF works independently of Settings. In the app, Help includes Discover MusicBook Pro, Getting Started and Help / FAQ. If a page will not open, return to Settings and use this guide for the relevant feature.

For a support report, include the app version/build shown in Settings, device model, operating system and the exact help entry or action that failed. Use Support or Send Feedback when available. Avoid including private songs or recordings unless you choose to share them.

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