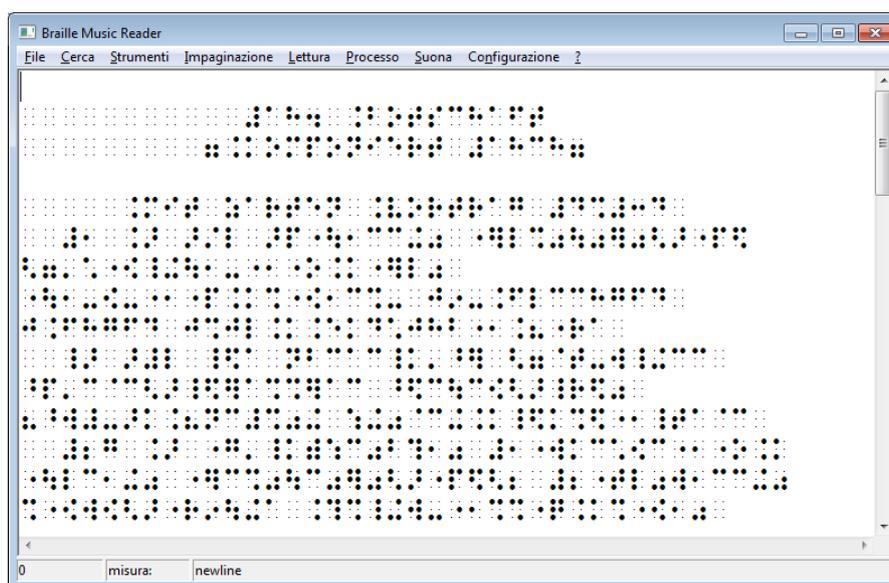


Short presentation

BME2, Braille Music Editor 2, is a new tool allowing blind musicians (amateurs or professionals) to write music scores, to check, to correct, to print or to emboss them all by themselves. Music writing follows the rules of the New International Manual of Braille Music Notation. The music score can be checked in various ways, through the screen-reader speech output pronouncing musical elements, through the MIDI sound or on the Braille display. Once the score is complete, it can be exported in MusicXML and visualised with Finale, Sibelius or lots of other programs, that are able to support this format and finally it can be exported in a ready-to-print text format or directly printed.

Longer presentation



Braille Music Editor is a special editor for music scores, intended for the use by blind persons, who have some familiarity with Braille music notation.

BME is based on the “BMML” format, that assures precise conversions from and to different kinds of material (Braille, inkprint, MIDI, spoken music).

BME behaves like a normal editor, but it draws benefit both from Braille music literacy and from multisensory approach to music.

In particular, BME's functions are based on following characteristics, which can be combined in any desired form:

- input via normal keyboard using Braille music notation (NIM). Symbols must be entered in 6 dots modality, either using the normal alphanumeric keyboard (simultaneous writing), or the numeric keypad (sequential writing), according to preferences and to hardware characteristics.
- Editing is performed like any typical word editor;
- Output is one of the most innovative features, along with
- Real-time checking – This function is particularly important for visually impaired users. Normally, a sighted person is constantly in the position to review his text at different levels, such as overview, spelling, structure, reviewing a given passage, etc. BME relies on 3 different modalities, in any possible combination:
 - a) real-time midi output, so that each note is echoed and/or repeated using cursor keys in review mode;
 - b) Braille through refreshable Braille display, for detail revision;
 - c) vocal description (using names of single symbols, or Braille dot combination), a very flexible type of the so-called “spoken music”. This solution optimises combined use of hands, hearing and haptic exploration;
- structure related functions – BME allows the blind user to handle cross relationship and to master even difficult situations (choral passages with different strophes / languages, notes and chords, etc.).

- printing & embossing – The majority of applications devoted to visually impaired persons are centred on accessibility and Braille restitution. BME takes into consideration the need and the aspiration of the visually impaired for integration, that is for bi-directional communication with their sighted peers, in school, at work and in their spare time. BME is capable of printing the music score, and / or embossing it in Braille. This feature opens new job perspectives, and certainly overcomes one of the most frequent problems encountered by blind music students, when they are asked to produce homework for harmony, composition, or simply for musical dictation. In order to obtain a very high quality inkprint version of the score, BME provides a set of specific features, that allow the blind user to regulate and to adjust the most important graphical elements, such as stem length and orientation, ties, cross staffing, position of accidentals, type and position of text passages, lyrics, etc.
- Structure functions – BME acts as a powerful learning tool, because it incorporates important facilities such as part extraction, chord splitting, transport, etc.

Advantages and benefits

- 1) cost and time reduction in transcription, distribution and material exchange;
- 2) greater chance for interaction between individuals and special centres (online interactive library of music score);
- 3) drastic reduction of need for external help in school and at work (BME gives the blind musician full independence in tasks like musical dictation, music analysis, composition, authoring, printout in common notation)
- 4) faster and more transparent bidirectional communication between blind and sighted peer (sighted teacher – blind student; blind teacher and sighted student /s).
- 5) new perspective in distance learning and in general for E-Learning, using for example a web camera for tutoring purposes.

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International price list

The cost of a single license is Euro 350. You can purchase a second activation for an additional of Euro 200. This means that the owner can install a second copy of the software in a different PC of it's own number of licenses Bme2. The additional activation may be purchased only in conjunction with the first purchase of Bme2 and the cost is included on the same bill.

Web site for purchase Lambda: www.veia.it