

REPLY 1

- How do Dorico's new chord symbol features measure up with your expectations?

As a first implementation, Dorico provides users a myriad of options for chord symbols in an elegantly simple and effective interface.

The other leading music notation applications have mature tools for inputting and editing chord symbols. However, it's Dorico's clear, graphic-based examples which will allow users to quickly and easily modify their scores to meet their specific needs.

MIDI chord input works well and has several different options for entry.

- Can you give one or two examples of chord symbol use cases which led to frustrations with your previous tools and to which Dorico offers a new or better approach?

Finale is the most confusing. Commands for making simple changes are, as is much of this program's antiquated design, buried in sub-menus within dialog boxes.

Sibelius has some, but not all, of the formatting options available in Dorico. The formatting options in Engraving Rules is not nearly as clear as Dorico's. (Sibelius is the also only program that requires a plug-in for playback of chord symbols.)

Dorico lays out all of the user's options in a clear and concise series of graphic options. Even more useful, the options change when different styles are selected. Altering any of a default style's options changes the layout setting to custom.

- Have you encountered use cases where Dorico wasn't able to supply you with the chord symbol solution of your choice in a simple way, or at all?

The two missing pieces for chord symbols are 1) Guitar frames and 2) a jazz font. The font issue is the simpler of the two to resolve.

- Did you use Dorico's chord symbols in practice yet (apart from your capacity as a beta tester), be it as actual publications or for session preparation? If not, why?

I recently have been writing a series of jazz scale exercises for my private students using chord symbols in Dorico. The examples are relatively simple, but in doing so I have come to realize how simple and logical chord symbol entry in Dorico can be.

- Is there anything else that you would like to add about the new chord symbol features?

YES!

Only Dorico allows the input of chord symbols in one player to automatically appear on other player's parts! The default setting for chords to automatically appear in rhythm section parts will save significant time and effort – not to mention guarantee the accuracy of chords in all parts. A real plus particularly for jazz composer/arrangers!

REPLY 2

- How do Dorico's new chord symbol features measure up with your expectations?

I am amazed by how much the team has covered in a first release of the chord feature especially when you think about the lack of actual convention. There seems to be the ability to cope with every variable in alterations, stacked alterations, chord 'quality' text – there are so many of those so this is very impressive. The other major notation apps have had decades and didn't bring it close to this point.

- Can you give one or two examples of chord symbol use cases which led to frustrations with your previous tools and to which Dorico offers a new or better approach?

Being able to stack chord upon chord or triad upon triad like fractions without a complex workaround whilst handling slash chords and alternate bass notes with a different, backward slash is such a major improvement. I gave up trying to write alternative voicing suggestions because my previous software(s) made it so timeconsuming!

There seems to be a number of options for how to address the oft debated min(Maj7) chord – should work for all tastes now! I never felt I could get what I wanted before and just settled for the closest solution.

- Have you encountered use cases where Dorico wasn't able to supply you with the chord symbol solution of your choice in a simple way, or at all?

Not yet. If I have to complain about anything, the slowness of the scrolling in chord symbol Engraving Options is it.

- Did you use Dorico's chord symbols in practice yet (apart from your capacity as a beta tester), be it as actual publications or for session preparation? If not, why?

I have not used it in a professional situation yet for this very simple reason: I need slash notation, and soon. Beats and rhythm slashes are the staples of the jazz and pop world. I'm hoping to see them soon as I have two big projects in the works and will use Dorico for them.

- Is there anything else that you would like to add about the new chord symbol features?

We all like to think our way of doing things on chord symbols is THE way, especially those of us who have put a lot of time into thinking about why we write somethings the way we do. Dorico seems to be trying to make it fully customizable for the user and the means of editing seem very logical in the UI in Engraving Options. This type of flexibility has raised the bar for all competitors in my opinion.

REPLY 3

- How do Dorico's new chord symbol features measure up with your expectations?

Dorico's chord symbol implementation is the most comprehensive, versatile and thorough offering of any notation scoring package to date. From seasoned arranger/composer types to the most critical of scholarly academics— all should be overjoyed at the monumental accomplishment of Daniel Spreadbury and his talented development team. Other programs claim flexibility, but Dorico faithfully demonstrates the broadest possible representation of chord style dialects available in music scoring programs.

- Can you give one or two examples of chord symbol use cases which led to frustrations with your previous tools and to which Dorico offers a new or better approach?

Under the hood of Engraving Options for Chord Symbols, the user is given a choice of chord symbol defaults. One of the most delightful features is the "Apply" button which globally sets the chord symbol preferences for the entire score with a single click. Say goodbye to fixing Chord Suffix Fonts and Baseline Positioning or resetting Score Design to Fix Baseline Positioning in Finale. And in Sibelius, adieu to Edit Chord Symbols and Reset Score Design after changing chord styles.

- Have you encountered use cases where Dorico wasn't able to supply you with the chord symbol solution of your choice in a simple way, or at all?

No, not at all. It's been complete thus far.

- Did you use Dorico's chord symbols in practice yet (apart from your capacity as a beta tester), be it as actual publications or for session preparation? If not, why?

I haven't fully implemented Dorico into any pro work yet which needs any kind of orchestral MIDI mockups. Also, due to a backlog of projects that need to be completed in Sibelius, I am just now turning the page for lead sheets.

- Is there anything else that you would like to add about the new chord symbol features?

Dorico's Shift + Q shortcut for chord symbols allows you to type in chord symbols word-processor style and still achieve chord recognition through MIDI entry. Playing an F triad over a G in the bass succinctly analyzes the chord as G9sus9 in Dorico. In Finale, the identical chord voicing is spelled Am7(#5)/G. In Sibelius, the Add Chords plugin correctly analyzes F/G, but only if you play it in one staff.

Chord symbols—worth the wait? You bet.