

Fall 2009

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## Music Production at a Glance

With the computer as the hub of a music-production system, it's never been easier or more fun to compose music and create professional-sounding recordings; burn a CD; share music over the Internet; compose podcast soundtracks; or print scores and lead sheets. You'll find music-production systems to suit every budget and style; however, it's best to understand a few basic concepts and requirements to make the right choices.

Most recording software supports MIDI tracks alongside audio, so you can edit and hear both types of tracks. Audio is converted into a digital stream, processed inside your computer, and then converted back into sound waves on output. MIDI stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, and produces no sound on its own; it is a digital language that can trigger synthesizer performances, automate mixing chores, and more.

### Tools of the Trade

**Audio Interfaces** capture and digitize audio from microphone, mixer, and instrument inputs. Connected to computers with USB or Firewire, interfaces range from simple stereo input and output to sophisticated, multi-channel systems.

If you record live bands, you may have more musicians than inputs, so you'll probably need a *mixer* to blend and balance all of the signals.

You'll need at least a *microphone* or two. Some mics connect with a quarter-inch jack, and others connect with an XLR cable, and draw power from the mixer or interface. High-quality mics are relatively inexpensive.

Apart from audio, you will need a *MIDI interface* to route MIDI information to the recording software, where you can edit and play back the performance data to the synthesizer. These usually connect via USB, and are sometimes included in audio interfaces.

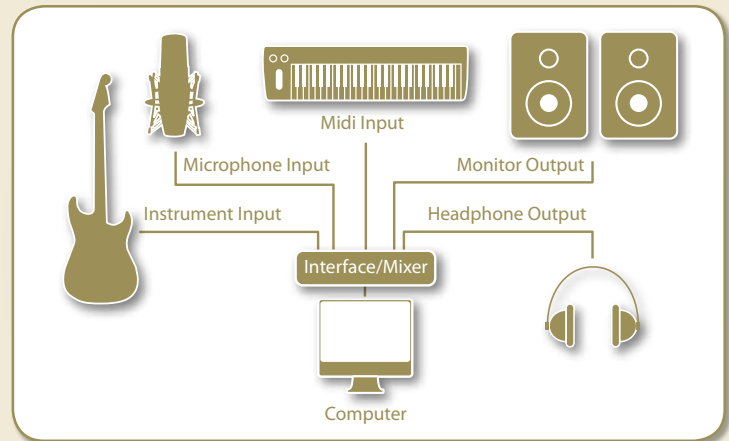
Keyboards are the most common *MIDI instruments*, but MIDI-equipped guitars, wind instruments, and drum pads are common. Some have built-in synthesizers, and others are strictly *MIDI controllers*, which produce no sound on their own, but generate MIDI notes and control messages.

*Software instruments* can be samplers, classic synthesizers, or imaginative hybrid instruments. They are the perfect companions to MIDI controllers, which let you tweak sounds while playing for dramatic, animated effects.

*Digital-audio workstation (DAW) software* is the core of computer-based music production. Here, you can record MIDI and audio tracks, cut and paste sections of music, and polish and mix your audio with reverb and other effects. You can overdub and record multiple tracks and takes as needed.

DAW programs often include music-notation capability, but to publish professional music copy, choose a dedicated music-notation program. Most *notation software* supports MIDI functionality, so you can enter your music note-by-note, or record in real time.

A modest investment will purchase a pair of *active monitors* so you can hear and mix your music. Active monitors provide their own amplification and power, eliminating a separate amplifier. Likewise, *headphones* are a necessity for private listening in the home studio.



### A Labtec® Elite 825B Headphones

The Elite headphones deliver high-performance audio for home or portable use. These lightweight phones feature large, padded ear cups for a snug fit, along with outstanding audio properties for superb listening quality.

**\$13.95**

#LA738589

### B Sennheiser Electronics RS 120 Wireless Stereo Headphones

The RS 120 is an open, supra-aural wireless RF headphone system. Its transparent and well-balanced sound with great bass response makes this system an ideal choice for all types of music and TV applications.

MSRP \$119.95 | You Save \$40 | **\$79.95**

#LA727057

### C Skullcandy iPhone Full Metal Jacket Earbud Headphones

Think Full Metal Jacket audio superiority with a new tightly-wrapped, coiled metal cable, plus the addition of a sleek in-line mic. That's right, Skullcandy's iPhone FMJ lets you and your iPhone rock together AND talk together.

MSRP \$79.99 | You Save \$30 | **\$49.95**

**Black** #LA877523 | **Chrome** #LA877525





M-Audio®  
**Oxygen 8 v2 USB Keyboard**

The Oxygen 8 v2 is an updated version of the mobile MIDI controller that started the mobile studio revolution. You get a fully-functional MIDI keyboard with great action, plus eight MIDI-assignable knobs to control any MIDI parameters you desire in your hardware or software. It's perfect for composing on-the-go or performing live bass lines and pads, firing samples, or triggering audio and/or visual effects.

MSRP \$149.95 | You Save \$30 | **\$119.95**  
#LA750144

Native Instruments  
**GUITAR RIG 3 KONTROL Edition**

GUITAR RIG 3 is the ultimate all-in-one guitar and bass solution. Simply connect your guitar with your computer via the enhanced Rig Kontrol 3 foot pedal and you are ready to go. The on-board studio-quality soundcard routes the signal to your speakers, while the software grants you access to an incredible number of classic amps, cabinets, mics and effects.

MSRP \$559.00 | You Save \$184 | **\$375.00**  
#LA858351

+ #LA929925 Guitar Rig Software Edition..... \$299.00



M-Audio  
**MobilePre® USB Interface and PreAmp**

MobilePre USB is the preamp with a built-in audio interface that's designed for laptop recording. In fact, it's one of the only completely bus-powered preamps available. A total of three kinds of audio inputs and outputs provide maximum flexibility for any application – including two on-board microphone/instrument preamps and high-impedance instrument inputs ideal for connecting guitars and basses.

MSRP \$179.95 | You Save \$40 | **\$139.95**  
#LA715206



Digidesign®  
**MBox® 2**

- 100% USB-powered for maximum portability
- 2 analog inputs, 2 analog outputs
- 2 channels of S/PDIF digital I/O
- 1 MIDI input and 1 MIDI output

Mbox 2, Digidesign's Pro Tools LE-based portable studio, offers novices and pros alike command of any project and full session compatibility with other Pro Tools systems. The included Pro Tools LE software shares many of the same features as the award-winning software used by professionals worldwide.

MSRP \$495.00 | You Save \$146 | **\$349.00**  
#LA741837



Digidesign®  
**MBox® 2 Mini**

- Professional sound quality (up to 24-bit/48 kHz)
- Two simultaneous analog inputs and outputs
- Zero-latency monitoring

Meet Mbox® 2 Mini – the world's smallest, most affordable Pro Tools LE™ recording, editing, and mixing system ever. Whether you're a singer/songwriter who's new to recording or a seasoned pro on the go, Mbox 2 Mini packs professional features into a robust, ultra compact, easy-to-use audio workstation to record and mix music.

MSRP \$329.00 | You Save \$100 | **\$229.00**  
#LA811661



Digidesign®  
**MBox® 2 Pro**

- Professional sound quality
- Powered by FireWire or power supply
- Supports up to 24-bit/96 kHz resolution
- 6 simultaneous inputs, 8 simultaneous outputs

The Mbox® 2 Pro is a portable, high-definition audio/MIDI production system that delivers truly professional sound quality. Packing an impressive variety of connection options into a compact interface, Mbox 2 Pro puts powerful multitrack recording and mixing capabilities into your hands.

MSRP \$799.00 | You Save \$239 | **\$559.95**  
#LA823817

# Music Production at a Glance

Choosing the right music production tools just got easier. Use our Fast Facts Chart to compare, select, and save!

Title	Multi-Track Recording	Live Audio Recording	Audio Editing & Processing	MIDI Recording & Sequencing	Mastering & Post Production	Loop-Based Sequencing	Can Be Used Live	5.1 Surround Mixing
ACID Pro 7	•	•		•		•		•
Sound Forge 9		•	•		•			•
Sound Forge Audio		•	•		•			
Sound Booth	•	•	•		•	•		
Ableton Live 8	•	•		•		•	•	
Komplete 5							•	
Sonar 8	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Pro Tools M-Powered	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Cubase 5	•	•	•	•	•			•
Reason 4				•		•	•	
Bias Peak		•	•		•	•		
Audition	•	•	•	•	•	•		

## Production



**BEST SELLER!**

Sony® Creative Software

### ACID™ Pro 7

#### Professional Digital Audio Workstation

- Ideal for composing, recording, mixing, and arranging audio and MIDI
- Professional multitrack recording and production
- Innovative loop-based music creation

Sony ACID Pro 7 software is a DAW (digital audio workstation) powerhouse that combines full multitrack recording and mixing, complete MIDI sequencing, and legendary loop manipulation for seamless music creation and post production. Get up and running quickly with new interactive tutorials. Other new features include a dedicated mixing console, MIDI track freeze, input busses, tempo curves, and enhanced format support.

ACID Pro 7 software includes over 3,000 loops and 1,000 MIDI files for music creation, as well as the Garritan™ ARIA for ACID Pro player, the ACID Pro Effects Rack powered by iZotope™, Native Instruments™ Guitar Combos, and Submersible Music KitCore™.

MSRP \$314.95 | You Save \$115 | **\$199.95**

Win #LA949439

**Featured Item**

#### Comprehensive MIDI Support

- Record and edit note and controller data on the timeline
- Real-time MIDI quantization, filtering, and processing
- Freeze MIDI tracks that are routed to soft synths to save CPU processing power

#### Mixing and Editing

- Real-time pitch and tempo matching
- Groove Mapping and Groove Cloning quantization tools
- Chopper tool to create impressive drum fills, stutters, and DJ-style effects



#### Sony Loops and Samples

- #LA729205 Drums from the Big Room ..... \$129.95
- #LA736634 Songwriter's Acoustic Guitar Companion ..... \$49.95
- #LA728579 ArhythmiA: Drums & Drones, Volume One ..... \$49.95
- #LA405758 Siggi Baldursson: Zero-Gravity Beats..... \$29.95

Production 



Sony® Creative Software  
**Sound Forge® 9**  
 Professional Digital Audio Production Suite

- Precise stereo and multichannel audio editing
- Professional stereo and multichannel recording and powerful effects processing

Sound Forge software is the industry standard for media professionals who want to create and edit stereo and multichannel audio files with speed and precision, whether in the studio or out in the field. Acclaimed for its power, stability, and intuitive interface, it's the fastest way to get from raw audio to finished master.

Efficiently analyze, record, and edit audio. Produce music loops, digitize and restore old recordings. Model acoustic environments, design sound for multimedia, and master replication-ready CDs. With new multichannel audio editing and recording, phase scope meters, effects enhancements, noise reduction tools, and Dolby Digital AC-3 export, version 9 provides a complete set of tools designed to make you more productive.

MSRP \$319.95 | You Save \$120 | **\$199.95**  
 Win #LA798567



Sony Creative Software  
**Sound Forge Audio Studio 9**  
 Audio Editing and Production Software

Sound Forge® Audio Studio software is the easiest way to record, edit, encode, and master audio on your home computer. Record live instruments, vocals, and more at the touch of a button. Expertly edit recordings to balance sound levels, trim unwanted sections, and synchronize audio with video. Customize your creations with built-in audio effects, then burn your own CDs or format for web streaming or portable music players.

MSRP \$69.95 | You Save \$20 | **\$49.95**  
 Win #LA821187



Adobe®  
**Soundbooth® CS4**  
 Create and Edit Audio with Ease

- Enhance, edit, and clean up audio rapidly with wide variety of new features
- Includes access to royalty-free Soundbooth Scores and sound effects
- Clean up, arrange, and edit multiple audio clips on any number of tracks
- Improved integration with other Creative Suite 4 software

Sound inspired. Take command of audio for your film, video, and rich media projects with Soundbooth CS4 software. Convenient, task-based tools and tight integration with other Adobe Creative Suite 4 software provide the power to tackle everyday audio tasks without sacrificing high-quality results or creative control.

MSRP \$199.00 | You Save \$120 | **\$78.95**  
 Mac #LA933481 | Win #LA933483




Acoustica®  
**Mixcraft™ 4.1b**  
 From Creation to Production to Performance

**Featured Item**

- Clear, colorful, and intelligently-designed interface to streamline your work
- Custom loop library includes hundreds of royalty-free sounds in dozens of musical styles
- Works with Acid™ and Apple Garage Band™ loops
- Record multiple MIDI and audio tracks simultaneously

Mixcraft is a great multi-track audio recorder that enables you to record your band, create a podcast, create mash-ups, or remix a song. Mixcraft functions as two programs in one! Use it as a multi-track recorder or as a music loop remix program. As a multi-track audio recording program, Mixcraft allows you to record and play multiple tracks at one time. With Mixcraft, you can always be on the beat!

MSRP \$79.95 | You Save \$30 | **\$49.95**  
 Win #LA877231

 Includes a General MIDI library, two sampled grand pianos, Hammond B-3™ emulator, MiniMoog™ emulator, and a polyphonic synthesizer.

## Production



Cakewalk®  
**SONAR 8 Studio Edition**  
 Don't Sacrifice Features  
 for Affordability

- Start to finish – all the tools you need to make and produce music
- 11 world-class virtual instruments
- Polish your tracks with 31 audio effects and tools
- Unlimited tracks and track templates

SONAR 8 Studio offers the best creative tools and the most power of any digital audio workstation in its price range.

SONAR 8 Studio gives you the edge in your productions – from recording audio and MIDI, composing with virtual instruments, remixing with loops, mixing with professional effects, to delivery of a polished final track – with the recognized best audio quality in the industry.

This music production and music creation powerhouse software suite gives you all the professional tools you need to see inspiration through to radio-ready, final projects.

MSRP \$299.00 | You Save \$99 | **\$199.95**  
 Win #LA933807

 #LA933805 SONAR 8 Producer Edition . . . . \$399.95



Native Instruments®  
**KOMPLETE® 5 Educational**  
 11 Award-Winning Products in One Bundle

KOMPLETE 5 is a high-end collection of 11 ground-breaking synthesizers, samplers, emulations, and a virtual guitar studio. KOMPLETE 5 is *the* industry-standard bundle for serious musicians, producers, and sound designers.

Includes: **KONTAKT 3** sampler with a 33 GB library, **GUITAR RIG 3** Software Edition, **MASSIVE** fat bass sound monster, **REAKTOR 5** modular instrument studio, **AKOUSTIK PIANO**, **ELEKTRIK PIANO**, **ABSYNTH 4** synthesizer, **BATTERY 3** dedicated drum sampler, **B4 II** legendary organ recreation, **FM8** FM synth, and **PRO-53** – a faithful reproduction of a synth legend.

MSRP \$1,149.00 | You Save \$460 | **\$689.00**  
 Mac and Win #LA858343



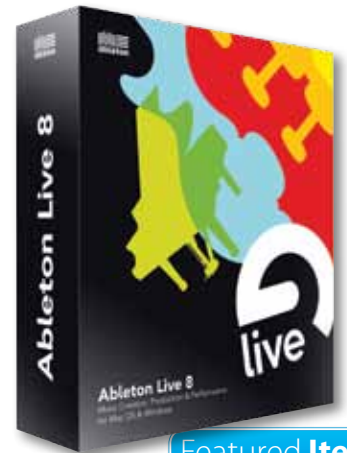
M-Audio®  
**Pro Tools®**  
**M-Powered 8 Academic**  
 M-Audio-Compatible  
 World Class Production Software

- Powerful, real-time tempo manipulation
- Easily create loops from any audio file
- Fine-tune regions with precision control over each individual beat
- Beautiful, redesigned interface with new enhancements and customizability

Pro Tools 8 is the most advanced audio creation and production software, featuring a gorgeous new interface, dozens of new plug-ins and virtual instruments, exciting new scoring and MIDI features, expanded editing and mixing capabilities, enhanced performance, and more. With Pro Tools 8, customers get the most comprehensive music and sound creation features and functionality, and the proven, dedicated platform for world-class audio production, all in a single application.

Sporting a sleek new look, Pro Tools is as easy on the eyes as it is to use. All of the Pro Tools functionality customers know and love is still in place but with some exciting enhancements, double the inserts per channel, more customizability, and easier access to editing options than ever before. All versions of Pro Tools also come packed with a huge collection of over 70 virtual instruments, effects, and sound-processing plug-ins, plus a high-quality sound library of nearly 8 GB of loops to get customers started with creating music. Requires a compatible M-Audio interface.

MSRP \$299.95 | You Save \$151 | **\$149.00**  
 Mac and Win #LA972081



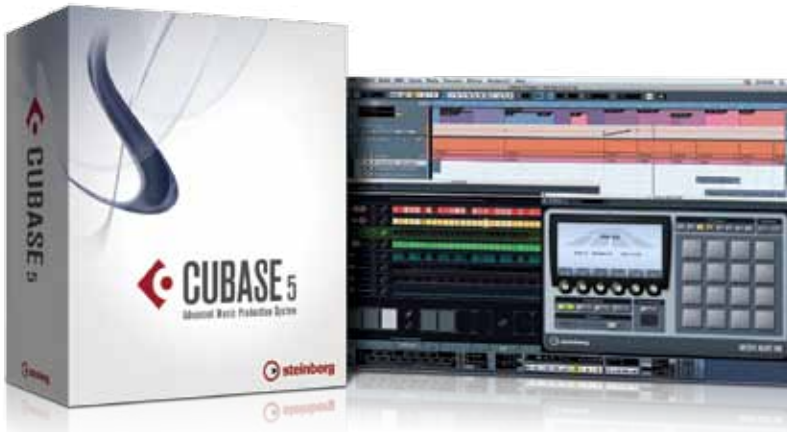
**Featured Item**

Ableton  
**Ableton Live 8**  
 Powerful Real-Time Editing

Ableton Live is about making music – for composition, songwriting, recording, production, remixing, and live performance. Live's nonlinear, intuitive flow, alongside powerful real-time editing and flexible performance options, make it a unique studio tool and a favorite with live performers. Live 8, the latest version, includes a wealth of new techniques and improvements with a new groove engine, revamped warping, live looping, new effects, crossfades in the Arrangement View, and a reworked MIDI editor.

MSRP \$499.00 | You Save \$170 | **\$329.00**  
 Mac and Win #LA986191

Production 



Steinberg®  
**Cubase 5**  
Advanced Music Production System

- State-of-the-art audio and MIDI recording, editing, and mixing
- Complete new set of VST3 virtual instruments and effects
- Real multi-channel 5.1 surround sound

Cubase 5 adds more creative possibilities and new technologies to one of the most popular music production software suites out there – providing the finest tools to artists in any musical genre. With PitchCorrect, Cubase 5 provides an automatic intonation control and scale correction of vocal and monophonic recordings, whereas Groove Agent ONE and Beat Designer change the game for beat creation. VST Expression tools for composers combine with the first VST3 convolution reverb and improved automation for more dynamic mixes. And an array of additional enhancements and 64-bit technologies boost performance – all designed to inspire further musical creativity and productivity.

MSRP \$599.99 | You Save \$300 | **\$299.99**  
Mac and Win #LA974289

- + #LA974287 Cubase Studio 5 ..... \$199.99
- #LA894927 Cubase Studio 5 + Oxygen 8 v.2 Bundle ..... \$269.95



Propellerheads®  
**Reason® 4 Academic Edition**  
Everything You Need to Turn Your Ideas Into Music



- An infinitely-expandable all-in-one music production environment
- Features a realtime, 32-channel timing and groove handling mixer
- Features a multi-synthesis synthesizer with six oscillator types and four unique filters
- Stronger, swifter, and smoother

Reason 4 is a virtual studio rack with all the tools and instruments you need to turn your ideas into music. And it's more than just a set of excellent synths and effects. It's a complete music system. Synthesizers, samplers, drum machine, REX file loop player, professional mastering tools, mixer, vocoder, world class effects, pattern sequencer and more – as many of each as your computer can handle. Reason is an infinitely expandable all-in-one music production environment, complete with its own realtime sequencer.

MSRP \$499.00 | You Save \$260 | **\$239.00**  
Mac and Win #LA859053



Bias®  
**Peak Pro™ 6**  
The Evolution Of An Award-Winning Standard

- Sleek new user interface
- Ultra-fast RAM-based editing
- Hundreds of top-quality audio loops
- Author and upload audio podcasts directly

From serious sound design for film, video, or multimedia, to rapid-fire broadcast editing, to music production and mastering limited only by your imagination, Peak Pro 6 does it better.

Whether you're a musician, composer, sound designer, audio editor, podcast/multimedia producer, or mastering engineer, Peak Pro offers more creative potential than ever before. Feature-rich, yet flexible and friendly. Peak Pro streamlines your workflow with industry-renowned sonic quality and precision.

MSRP \$599.00 | You Save \$209 | **\$389.95**  
Mac #LA892339



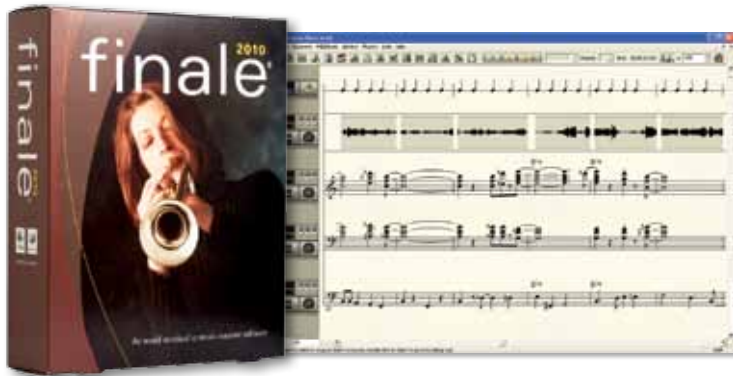
Adobe®  
**Audition® 3**  
Professional Audio Recording, Mixing, Editing, and Mastering

- Complete audio mastering and restoration toolset for unprecedented flexibility and control
- Powerful, flexible, low-latency mixing engine with VSTi support for real-time recording
- Restore recordings from old vinyl and remove hisses and hums

Adobe® Audition® 3 software is the all-in-one solution for audio recording, mixing, editing, and mastering. Whether you are creating your own music, recording and mixing a project, producing a radio spot, cleaning up production audio for a movie, or editing a soundtrack, Audition 3 gives you the tools you need to sound your best.

MSRP \$349.00 | You Save \$200 | **\$148.95**  
Win #LA854105

## Notation



MakeMusic®

### Finale® 2010

The World's Most Powerful Music Notation Software

- Enter your music into Finale using a MIDI keyboard, computer keyboard, mouse, mic, or scanner
- Band-in-a-Box® Auto-Harmonizing – automatically generates up to 6-voice harmonies for your melodies
- Exercise Wizard – instantly generates up to 50,000 practice pieces for your band, orchestra, or choir without entering a single note

The best tools are designed by the people who use them. Introducing Finale 2010 – the world standard in music notation software. Compose, arrange, notate, and print engraver-quality sheet music that plays back with world-class sounds. Finale continues to lead the way, helping you reach perfection faster.

The Set-up Wizard configures your score beautifully in seconds, and you have the ability to enter your music into Finale using a MIDI keyboard, computer keyboard, mouse, mic, or scanner. If you can imagine it, Finale can help you create it.

MSRP \$600.00 | You Save \$360 | **\$239.95**  
Mac and Win #LA1024941



Sibelius®

### Sibelius 6

Perfect Scores Up to Twice as Fast – and More!

- Easy to learn and use – start writing your first piece within minutes
- The world's largest sheet music publishers use Sibelius
- Includes a 2GB collection of sounds selected from top-name libraries

Sibelius 6 is a giant leap forward in notation software – with amazing new features and improvements for composers, arrangers, copyists, educators, students, and musicians of all kinds.

Faster, neater, scores for students: Magnetic Layout positions almost every aspect of students' scores in just the right place – dynamics, lyrics, chord symbols, and more. Students can produce smarter scores more quickly for coursework and examinations – and Magnetic Layout helps teachers prepare scores for class and school performances in up to half the usual time. Teachers and students can now add virtual sticky notes to their scores – to pass on thoughts and suggestions efficiently, and in just the right places on a score.

MSRP \$599.00 | You Save \$350 | **\$249.00**  
Mac and Win #LA1013675

Featured Item



MakeMusic

### Finale PrintMusic 2009

Compose and Hear Your Music

PrintMusic is the fast, easy way to bring your music to life with professional results. At such a low cost, no other music composition software provides the number of features and intuitive interface that PrintMusic does, making this the ideal software for most casual composers. When you don't want to pay for features you don't need, PrintMusic is the product for you.

MSRP \$99.95 | You Save \$30 | **\$69.95**  
Mac and Win #LA935629



MakeMusic

### Finale Allegro®

Easy, Fast, and Powerful Composing

Allegro is a lower cost alternative to Finale giving everyday musicians all the MIDI and notation tools they need to create publisher-quality scores, while leaving out the detailed engraving options found in Allegro's "parent", Finale. Finale Allegro is perfect for educators, performing musicians, composers, arrangers, worship directors, and students.

MSRP \$199.00 | You Save \$49 | **\$149.95**  
Mac and Win #LA785893



Sibelius

### Sibelius Student Edition

Getting Started With Music Notation

Designed for students in grades 3 through 12, Sibelius Student is easy to use and fun to learn. It offers students a tightly-packaged set of features geared directly to their needs, and you won't find a more intuitive user experience anywhere. Best of all, Sibelius Student is priced to suit the student budget.

MSRP \$99.99 | You Save \$18 | **\$82.00**  
Mac and Win #LA875639





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Mac #LA962515 | Win #LA961145

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unrivaled integration that makes  
handling content between  
applications easy.

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WordPerfect Office X4 Home & Student,  
Painter Essentials 4, and Video Studio Pro X2.

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\$99<sup>95</sup>**