



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
-dbackend=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	-dpixmap-format=pngalpha	Transparent PNG
-V	Verbose output	-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>% ...</code>	Comment
<code>%{ ... }%</code>	Block comment
<code>c\...</code>	Postfix-notation (notes)
<code>#'(..), ##t, #'sym</code>	Scheme list, true, symb.

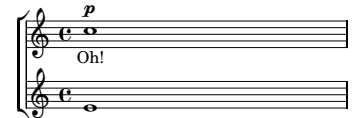
Basic Notation

	<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_8"</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 {f} {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 5/4 {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 }

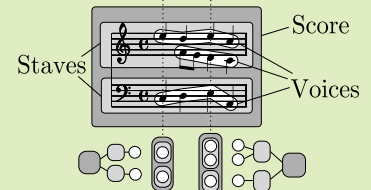
\score {
  \new ChoirStaff <<
    \new Staff {
      \new Voice = "Sop" {
        \dynamicUp \SMusic
      }
    }
  \new Lyrics = "SLyrics"
    \lyricsto "Sop" \SLyrics
  \new Staff {
    \new Voice = "Alto" {
      \dynamicUp \AMusic
    }
  }
}
>>
```



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

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