

Learning the notes with Noteworthy Composer

Although Hailsham Choral Society rehearses every week, we can't afford to spend all of our practice time learning the notes. Members are also asked to look at the music between rehearsals.

If you have access to a Windows PC there's a really useful program called Noteworthy Composer (NWC) which can help you with this. Thanks to one of our members, most of the music we sing is available for download in NWC format. Using the free **NWC Viewer** program you can play the music whilst following the score on screen, slow it down for tricky sections, and even listen to your own part in isolation.

A Quick Tour of NWC Viewer

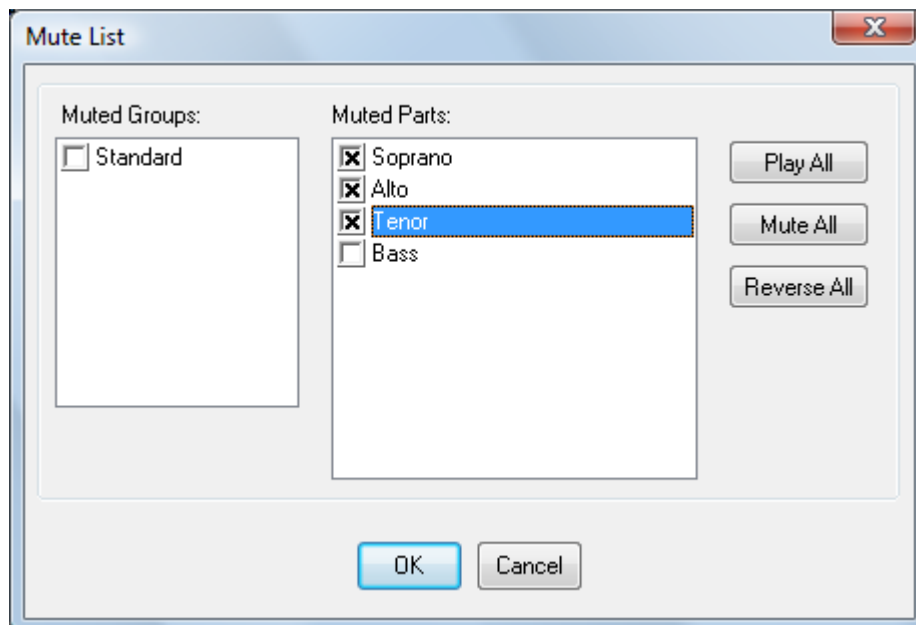
Here's a screenshot of the NWC Viewer playing a four-part spiritual to give you the idea. You can see that the current playback position is indicated in red. At the same time the music is coming out of the computer's speakers, played on simulated instruments.

The screenshot displays the NWC Viewer application window titled "HCS259 - Noteworthy Composer Viewer". The interface includes a menu bar (File, View, Play, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with icons for file operations, playback, and settings. The main area shows a musical score for "Little David, play on yo' harp" by Malcolm Sargent, arranged in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are: "Lit - tle Dav-id, play on yo' harp, Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu, Lit - tle Dav-id, play on yo' harp, Hal - le - lu, Play on, Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu, Play on, Hal - le - lu,". The playback position is indicated by a red vertical line on the Soprano staff, currently positioned on the second measure of the first line. The status bar at the bottom shows "Ready", a playback speed of "0.9x", the current bar "Bar 2", and a time of "0:01 / 1:22".

You can slow down playback using the *Play* menu:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Play	F5,Space
	Pause	Space
	Stop	F6,Esc
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Play Slower	-
	Play Faster	+
	Play Speed...	=
	Repeat Play	R
	Transpose...	T

If you just want to listen to (say) the Bass part you can mute the other parts through the *Tools* -> *Mute List* menu option:



Now you will still see all four parts highlighted on screen, but only the Bass part will be played through the speakers.

Downloading the NWC Viewer

You can download the free Viewer from the Noteworthy Composer web site:

<https://noteworthycomposer.com/nwc2/viewer.htm>

The NWC Viewer works on any recent version of Microsoft Windows. Unfortunately it's not supported on other platforms like the Macintosh, although you can still listen to MIDI versions of the files where available on Brian's site (see below).

Downloading the Music

To download the music you will need access to the following web site maintained by choir member Brian Maskell:

<http://rushmoor.org.uk/hcs/>

Access to the site is restricted to HCS members and you will need to obtain login details by contacting Brian. See the above web page for details.

Once logged on you will find the music arranged by concert date, e.g.

Concert date

<u>7 November 2015</u>	Rossini - Petite Messe Solennelle
<u>28 June 2015</u>	Tippett, Rutter
<u>3 April 2015</u>	J. H. Maunder - Olivet to Calvary
<u>21 March 2015</u>	Purcell - Te Deum & Jubilate Deo, Haydn - Nelson Mass

...and then into categories so you can just download the pieces you want, e.g.

... from the bag

- 50 Shenandoah
- 61 Blow the wind southerly
- 212 Down by the riverside
- 259 Little David, play on yo' harp

Brian Maskell

For example, clicking on “259 Little David, play on yo’ harp” should open the file HCS259.nwc in NWC Viewer.

On Brian’s website you will also find a lot more detail on how to get the most from Noteworthy Composer. For example Brian explains how to use a program called MIDI-OX to boost the relative volume of a part, useful if you want to hear the Bass part clearly whilst the other parts play quietly in the background.