

# Sibelius First and Sibelius 5 comparison

In addition to the features of Sibelius First, Sibelius 5 also offers:

- High-quality Sibelius Sounds Essentials sounds
- Ideas hub
- Panorama view
- Compose to video
- VST and Audio Unit support
- Unlimited staves
- Extract instrumental parts as separate files, plus many other features for orchestral/band music
- Features for creating worksheets & exercises
- 'Arrange' feature to help with arranging & orchestration
- Over 110 plug-ins - extra features which do useful things
- Many more notations, e.g. very long & short notes, special symbols, unusual instruments
- Publishing features to make your scores look completely professional.

Here is a comprehensive table of the differences between the two programs. (Features which are the same in both are not listed.)

General features	Sibelius First	Sibelius 5
Types of music	Simple/moderate music of up to 12 staves	Scores & parts of any size or complexity; worksheets & exercises
Available as	Single copy only	Single copy (educational discount available), 5-pack, site license, network license
No. of computers you can install a single copy on	1	2 (for use by same person, e.g. desktop + laptop)
On-screen manual	Short (about 200 pages)	Full (about 650 pages)
Tutorial videos	-	✓
Technical help	Limited	By phone, email, fax & web site

Notation	Sibelius First	Sibelius 5
Accidentals	Normal & double only	Normal, double, quarter-tones, bracketed
Articulations	Common ones only	Full set
Bar numbers	At start of system only; can't restart bar numbering	Range of formats
Barline types	Single, double, repeat only	Single, double, repeat, dotted, early music
Bars, irregular	No, except pick-up bars	✓
Beams, cross-staff (in keyboard music)	-	✓
Beam/rest groupings	Fixed	Customizable
Brackets & braces	Fixed	Customizable
Change transposition of transposing instruments	-	✓
Cue (small) notes	-	✓
Dotted notes	Single dot only	Single / double / triple dotted
Guitar chord diagrams	Limited	✓
Guitar tab	Basic only	Full
Instruments	Common instruments only, with fixed number of staves	Full customizable range

Lines, custom	-	✓
Multi-arc slurs	-	✓
Note values	32nd (demisemi-quaver) to whole note (semibreve)	512th note (7 beams) to "long" (double breve)
Noteheads, custom	-	✓
Ossia staves	-	✓
Page numbers	Automatic	Customizable
Special symbols	-	✓
Split multi-measures (in parts)	-	✓
Staves	Up to 12 per system	Unlimited number
Tuplets	Duplets (2:3) to nontuplets (9:8)	Any (e.g. 2, 7, 44:31, nested tuplets)

<b>Playback</b>	<b>Sibelius First</b>	<b>Sibelius 5</b>
Edit MIDI data	-	✓
Built-in sounds	Limited - included GM soundbank	Full range of high-quality sounds in Sibelius Sounds Essentials
Supports VST and Audio Units for playback	-	✓
MIDI devices supported	General MIDI only	Many types & custom types
Mixer settings adjustment	Limited	Full
Playback markings on specified repeats	-	✓
Playback of hairpins, rits & accel	Fixed	Adjustable
Words which affect playback (e.g. legato)	Fixed	Editable

<b>Utilities</b>	<b>Sibelius First</b>	<b>Sibelius 5</b>
Arrange - automatic arranging & orchestration	-	✓
ASCII tab file export	-	✓
Copy and paste to Word and other programs	Low resolution (96dpi) only	✓
Display timecode	Single format	Customizable format
Edit Dynamic Parts	Limited	Full
Edit word menus	-	✓
Export lyrics as text file	-	✓
Export to previous version	-	✓
Filters (for editing similar objects)	-	✓
Find	-	✓
Focus on staves	-	✓
Graphics export (for e.g. creating worksheets)	-	✓
Highlight music	-	✓
Ideas Hub	-	✓
Import Finale, PrintMusic, Finale Guitar, SCORE, Acorn Sibelius	-	✓
Instrument changes	-	✓
Keyboard shortcuts	Fixed	Customizable
Lyric verses allowed	5	Unlimited

Lyrics from text file	-	✓
Menus	Fixed	Customizable
MIDI file export	Type 1 GM only	Type 0 & Type 1 for any device
Note input options	Limited	Full
Panorama (scroll view)	-	✓
Paper & desk textures	6	Over 60
Part extraction	-	✓
Paste As Cue	-	✓
Plug-ins	5	Over 110
Properties window (to edit individual objects)	Limited	Full
Rehearsal marks	Default only	Fully customizable
Rulers	-	✓
Special page breaks	-	✓
Swap voices	-	✓
Video (inc. timecode and hit points)	-	✓
Viewing options for page margins, note colors, full screen, etc.	-	✓
Worksheet Creator	-	✓

<b>Publishing</b>	<b>Sibelius First</b>	<b>Sibelius 5</b>
Advanced layout features	-	✓
Auto Layout options	-	✓
Edit fonts	Limited	Full
Edit staff types	-	✓
Edit text styles	-	✓
Engraving rules, edit hundreds of	-	✓
Headers/footers	Limited - no footers	✓
House Style import/export	Import only	✓
Manage Dynamic Parts	-	✓
Manuscript papers (preset score layouts)	Few; can't create your own	Many; can create your own
Note spacing rules	Fixed	Customizable
Reset position/design of objects	-	✓
Set default object positions	-	✓