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Introduction to Music Director

Music Director is a powerful multimedia sequencer. It is the only product we know that lets you play MIDI files, Wave files, and CD audio tracks in any order. Beginning with version 3.0, Music Director is a 32 bit application designed for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

Requirements:

- System operating Windows 95 or NT 4.0
- Windows compatible sound card and speakers (or synthesizer)
- 1-3 MB hard disk space depending on what windows support files you already have

Features:

- Includes many songs. Unlimited number can be added
- Uses Grand Piano, organ, flute, trumpet, cello, French Horn, clarinet, strings, woodwinds, etc.
- Saves named play sets, titles, and verses and allows long title names
- Unlimited number of play sets
- Up to 99 verses per title
- Add, delete, or change play sets and their titles
- Double clicking a file or title test plays it
- Controls for volume and MIDI tempo
- Displays which title and verse is playing
- Displays % done and clock time playing current verse
- Option to play last part of title as a lead-in phrase
- Option to pause after verse
- Option to pause after title
- Option to play titles in random order
- Stop play at any point and continue on command
- Allows play set operations during play



Play Sets And Titles

Play Sets And Titles

Play Sets are groups of songs which you play using Play Operations. Each song is called a Title. A Title consists of a file and its associated settings. Each Title has a number of Verses. The Play Set pane shows the name of the current Play Set, the number of Titles in the set, and the name and Verses for each Title in the set. It also shows all the titles in the set with their respective number of verses.

The Play Set pane allows you to add, remove, and change Titles. The default Play Sets that come with Director contain all the songs distributed with Director.

Files

Director can access MIDI files, wave files, and CD audio tracks. These are shown in the Folders pane. The operations for files and tracks are identical. In this manual, the word, files, means either DOS files or CD audio tracks.



Creating and Deleting Play Sets

You can create any number of Play Sets and you can delete Play Sets, but you must always have at least one Play Set. If you try to delete the last Play Set, Director will prevent you from doing so. When no Play Set is playing, you can create or delete Play Sets. To create a Play Set, first ensure that you have a file highlighted in the Folders display. It can be a MIDI file, a wave file, or a CD audio track. Next, either enter a Title name under New Title, or leave New Title blank. If you leave New Title blank, Director will make a default Title name which is the file name without its extension. Ensure that New Verses shows the number of verses you want to play for this Title. Then select **File - New Set**. Director will ask you to name the Play Set. After you enter the name, Director will create the new set with your first Title in it. To delete a Play Set, **select File - Delete Set**.



Changing Play Sets

When a Play Set is not playing you can click the down arrow under Set in the Play Set pane. This produces a drop down list of all the Play Sets. Then click on the Play Set you want to select. Its Title names and Verses will be displayed.



Adding Titles

You can add any number of Titles to your Play Set. First ensure that you have a file highlighted in the File pane. Then check that the number in New Verses is the number of repetitions you want your new Title to execute when you play the Play Set, and that the text in New Title is the name you want for your title. Click on **Add**, and the new song will be added to the Play Set. If a title is selected in the Play Set pane, then the new song will be added after the one selected.



Deleting Titles



Highlight the Title you wish to delete and click **Remove**. The Title will be deleted. Note that you cannot remove the last Title, but you can delete the Play Set as long as it is not the only Play Set. If you click **Remove** while a Play Set is playing, Director removes the Title that is playing.



Changing Titles

You can change a Title's file, its name, or its Verses by clicking **Change**. When you click **Change**, the number in New Verses becomes the number of Verses for the Title. If there is text in New Title, it becomes the new Title name. If a file or CD track is highlighted in the Folders pane, then the Title is also changed to that file or CD audio track. If you want to change the file but not its Title, check the use selected Title as default check box. Then, when you select a title in the Play Set pane, it automatically appears in New Title.



Test Playing a File

If the Play Set is not playing, you can test play any Title in the set by scrolling to that Title and double clicking on it. You can also play any file in the Files pane by double clicking on the file.



Play Operations

There are four main Play Operations: **Play**, **Pause**, **Continue**, and **Quit**. You can select any operation any time its not grayed out. **Play** starts playing a Play Set. **Quit** quits playing the set. The set can be paused and continued any time during play.



Volume

The volume can be changed at any time using the Volume slider. If your system has external speaker volume control, you can optimize the volume setting to minimize the noise inherent in the speakers. First, turn the speaker volume all the way down. Next, increase **Volume** in Director to the maximum. Then, while playing a hymn, adjust the speaker volume till you can hear the music comfortably. Make final adjustments using the Director **Volume** control.



MIDI Tempo

The tempo of MIDI files can be adjusted while they are playing. Type a number between 1 and 500 under **MIDI Tempo** and press Enter or Tab.



File Selection



File selection works like Windows File Manager. You can select any valid drive and directory, and its MIDI, and wave files, or its audio tracks if its an audio CD, will be displayed. To select a file or track, highlight it in the Folders pane. If the Play Set is not playing, you can test play any file by double clicking on it.



Settings

The **Settings** menu allows you to change the database and to toggle the Play Set Title display between the Title name and the path of the Title

Change Database

Director uses a database to keep track of your song information. The default database name is DirDb.MDB. You can copy and rename this file in Windows so that there are multiple databases. To access a different music database in Director, chose **Settings - Change Database**. A dialog will appear that allows you to navigate your system and select any file with a .MDB extension.

Toggle Display

If you click on Settings, a submenu will appear called **Display File Path**. When there is a check in front of **Display File Path**, Director displays the standard path of your Titles. When it's not checked, Director displays the Title names. Just select **Settings - Display File Path** to toggle the setting. This setting is useful for reviewing what files make up a particular Play Set.



Play Options

The **Play Options** section has four check boxes which are used to control how the titles are played.



Lead in

Check this box to have each Title start by playing the last few measures. This is useful for church music ministers to provide a congregational cue leading in to the main hymn.



Pause after verse



Check this box to make Director stop playing after each verse. It will resume playing when you click **Continue**.



Pause after title



Check this box to make Director stop playing after each title. It will resume playing when you click **Continue**. This is useful when using Director to accompany congregational singing because it gives the leader precise control on when to start each hymn.



Random play

When this box is checked, Director randomly selects and plays Titles from the Play Set until you click **Pause** or **Quit**. This allows you to play music in the background while using other Windows programs.



Help

Director has a comprehensive context sensitive help capability. Clicking the right mouse button on an object in Director produces a help screen for that object. The Title display and the Files display are exceptions to this rule. They are enhanced so that right clicking on them produces a pop-up play menu that includes the context sensitive help as one of the selections.

Director's help is also a hypertext system. This means that certain phrases in Help are colored green. Clicking on a green item brings up information about that item. Help information can also be accessed through the Main Help menu selection.



Main Help

Selecting **Help - Main Help** or pressing F1 displays a displays a hypertext table of contents for the help system.



Multimedia Devices

Selecting **Help - Check Multimedia Devices** brings up a diagnostic module that can identify and describe the multimedia devices installed in your system. Select the type of device to check, enter the device number and press **Perform Test**. A window will appear that describes the device. If it is a Wave device a capabilities matrix will also appear with bullets in front of each capability supported by your sound card.



About

Selecting **Help - About Director** displays the name, version number, and copyright information. The **About Window** has a button for getting system information.



Shareware Info

Clicking on **Shareware Information** brings up a display which describes the shareware aspects of Music Director including the price and how to register.



What's New

What's new in version 3.0.

- 32 bit product designed for Win 95 with automatic deinstall capability
- Addresses multiple CD ROM drives
- 16 new rag time songs
- Browser for finding a file you moved after you created a title in Director
- Startup window no longer remains behind main window
- New check box to allow selected title to be default new title
- New title is inserted after selected title instead at the end of the play list
- Maximum path length is 128 characters instead of 64
- Maximum title length is 48 characters instead of 35
- Display shows more directories
- Shows longer files, paths, and title names
- Volume control now works in 32 bit operating systems
- Volume control became a Windows 95 slider
- Remembers settings
- Other enhancements and bug fixes

What's new in version 4.2.

- Improved handling of titles orphaned when underlying files are moved or deleted
- Coding efficiency. Reduced distribution files 56% while increasing functionality, and speed.
- Other enhancements and bug fixes
- Windows NT 4.0 compatibility



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why aren't there any wave files in Music Director?

A: High quality wave files easily take up megabytes. We removed wave files to decrease the download time. You can add your own wave files in play sets, and CRA has high quality wave files available for separate purchase. Contact us for details.

Q: Don't your songs infringe on copyrights?

A: No. The copyright law provides that copyrights can be renewed for up to 50 years after the author's death. All the songs in Music Director were written by composers who have been dead for over 50 years.



Quitting

To quit Music Director, select **File - Exit**, press Alt-F4, Double click the upper left hand icon, or click the upper right hand x in Windows 95.



Technical Support

Technical support is available in four media:

1. CompuServe E-Mail. Address your questions to CRA at 102136,3077.
2. Internet E-Mail. Address your questions to 102136,3077@compuserve.com
3. Telephone. Call us at 301-839-8040.
4. Regular mail. Write us at CRA, 9814 Indian Queen Point Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744.



Deinstallation

This program can be deinstalled as follows:

For Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0

1. Select "**Start**" - "**Settings**" - "**Control Panel**"
2. Double click on "**Add/Remove Programs**"
3. Highlight the application name
4. Click on "**Add/Remove**"

For Windows NT 3.51

1. Find the program group for the program
2. Double click the **Remove** icon

