

HMA Virtual Winter Workshop 2026

Dorico Boot Camp

What you need:

- Computer/iPad
- Dorico (any edition), installed
- MIDI controller/keyboard (optional)

Recommend:

Dorico reference card (<https://blog.dorico.com/2019/06/quick-reference-cards/>)

Dorico manuals ([https://www.steinberg.help/search/documents?value-filters=product names smtg~%2522Dorico%2522&virtual-field=title only&content-lang=en-US](https://www.steinberg.help/search/documents?value-filters=product%20names%20smtg~%2522Dorico%2522&virtual-field=title%20only&content-lang=en-US))

- User manual
- Token reference
- Popover reference

Dorico Forum (<https://forums.steinberg.net/latest>)

General principles:

- Remember that you're learning a (more or less) new language.
- Let Dorico do as much of the work as you can.
- Adjust big things before little ones
- Use the reference card, manual, Steinberg forum, and Facebook group(s)
- Think rather than react
- YMMV
- Have patience

As an instructional exercise, build a score:

Start with handbell project template

Describe the five modes: Setup, Write, Engrave, Play, Print
Describe the four zones. Note dynamic nature depending on what you're doing.
Describe Page, Galley, and Fill modes.

Setup: Add players, flows, and layouts

Project Information: title, composer, lyricist, arranger, copyright

Layout properties: bar numbers every bar except first, rastral size, always justify final system

Write:

- Caret, rhythmic grid, popover, jump bar
- Enter time signature, tempo, melody, tuplets, accompaniment, dynamics, articulations, lyrics
- Cross-staff notes, flipping elements, ties, slurs, fermatas
- Building chords (Q)
- Adding voices
- Changing pitches (half-step and octave)
- Force duration
- Bottom zone - changing attributes, MIDI values, playback levels (also percussion scores)

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Point out that many handbell articulations have to be added =>
importance of creating/copying your template projects

Note: BUC generator requested, but not yet added

Transport Window: demonstrate its use in checking correctness

Engrave:

Submodes: object, frame, vertical, horizontal

Describe frames and page templates

Discuss tokens

Moving notes horizontally

Moving staves/systems

Moving bars

System and frame breaks

Note: Engraving is independent between layouts (including rastral size)!

Play:

Piano-roll presentation of current layout.

Show how bottom zone tools are used to adjust playback values

Show how to export to audio (also note export to MusicXML)

Print:

Show how to make PDFs of layouts.