MuseScore Skills Checklist

1. Setting up a new score

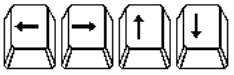
Click on New Score. Create from template. Choose a clef, hit next. Reduce the number of measures to something reasonable (8?) and start!

2. Clicking notes into the score (using "the pencil")



Click on the pencil and click on a rhythmic value (like a quarter note). Now click on the music - it will make notes.

3. Changing a note with arrow keys



Use the forward and back arrow keys to move around in the music. Select a note and arrow up or down, this will change it.

4. Making rests

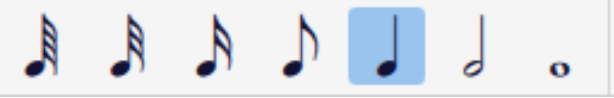


The dumb way is to make a note, then use the arrow key to move back to the note. Hit backspace or delete and it will make a rest!

The smart way is to use the arrows to go the point where you want a rest, then type 0 (zero). It will make a rest the is the same length you have selected up top (quarter note, half note, etc.)

Also, there is **a rest button** that you can click on at the top of the screen, next to the other note values. Click on that to turn "rest mode" on, then click on the score, and it will make rests.

5. Changing a rhythmic value



Use the arrows to a find a note that you want to change, then click on a new rhythmic value up top (quarter note, eighth note, what-have-you). The note will change its value.

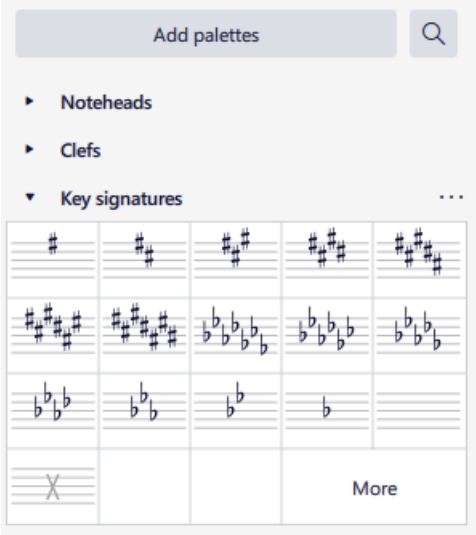
6. Make chords

Click a note into the score, then click on another note on the same beat. The notes will combine to make a chord.

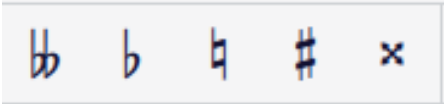


7. Using a key signature

All right, this is our first "palette." Find the key signatures on the left of the screen (in the list of palettes). Open it up, pick a key signature, and drag and drop it onto the first measure. Alternately you can double click on a sig and it will put it into the music where the cursor is. Now whatever you write will be in this scale (unless you go out of your way to write something else.)

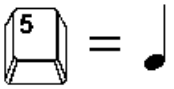


8. Adding more sharps and flats



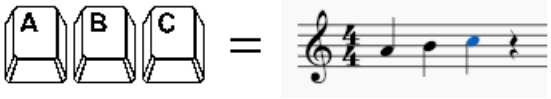
Click on a sharp, flat or other accidental before you click on a note. It will attach the accidental to that note. Alternately you can push notes up and down with the arrow keys. If a note is on B-flat and you want A-sharp or vice-versa, press J.

9. Keyboard shortcuts for rhythms



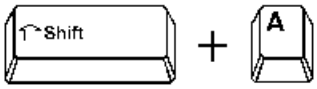
You can switch between rhythmic values by typing numbers. Quarter note is 5. Half note is 6, eighth note is 4, and so on. This way you don't have to click on the note values up top.

10. Keyboard shortcuts for notes



You can just type A, B, C etc. and it will insert that note into the score. I think it just guesses where you want it. If it picks the wrong octave hit control-up or control-down and that will change it.

11. Keyboard shortcuts for chords



If you want to add notes to a chord hit shift-A, shift-B etc. and it will add that note to whatever beat you are on.

12. Turning the pencil off to make edits

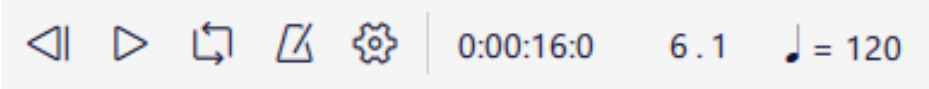
If you want to change something in the middle of your music, you can turn the pencil off. This will let you click on details and change them. Click on a note, and then you can drag it up or down with the mouse, you can push it up or down with arrows, and you can backspace or delete it. I imagine you can push pretty much any button at this point to modify it in some way.

13. Rhythmic typing mode ("Input by duration")



Click on the pointy thing next to the pencil. This is a rhythmic typing mode which is probably faster if you are making a melody. Use the up and down arrows to decide what pitch you want, then type the rhythmic value (5 for quarter note etc.) and it will insert that into the score. You can lay out a whole melody of quarter notes by just moving up and down and typing 5's. Hitting the zero switches to "rest mode" and back.

14. Play your creation



Playback controls are on the top right of the screen. Also you can hit the space bar and it will start playing.

⚠ One important warning ⚠

In my experience MuseScore is a little unstable, and it crashes every now and then. Thus it is important to save your work frequently (by hitting command-S or clicking File->Save.)