

# Compose, Collaborate, Share

You will find resources for this workshop here: <https://mnomf.org/support/>.

Note: I am using MuseScore 4.3.2 for this workshop. If you are using a different version there may be differences in how the software works and what it looks like.

**If you do something that doesn't look right CMD/CTRL + Z will undo it!**

When you create a new score in MuseScore it will have the following characteristics, all of which can be changed.

<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Saint James Infirmary Blues</u>
Key: C/Am	Key: F/Dm
Time Signature: 4/4	Time Signature: 4/4
Tempo: 120 BPM	Tempo: 84 BPM
Length: 32 Measures	Length: 8 Measures
Text: The Default Text for Jazz	Text: The Default Text for Jazz
Instrument: Piano	Instrument: Piano
Cleft: Treble	Cleft: Treble

**Create new score:** Open MuseScore. Click the “+” to create new score. Select “Jazz” category on left. Click “Done” on right.

**Change the key:** Select “Key signatures” palette, find the key signature for D minor (1 flat), click and drag it to the center of the first measure. There is a video on the website (<https://mnomf.org/support/>) that shows how to do this if you need it.

**Change the tempo:** Click the whole rest in the first measure of the score to select (where your tempo will start), open the “Tempo” palette and click the “Quarter note = 80 BPM,” the tempo on the score is now 80 BMP, edit this by double-clicking the “80” on the score and typing a new value, e.g. “84.” There is a video on the website (<https://mnomf.org/support/>) that shows how to do this if you need it.

**Change the length:** We'll do this later.

## MuseScore Modes

**Default:** Select tools from the palette, make modifications to your score.

**Add Notes:** Select a note or rest on your score then press <n>, to exit press <esc>. You can type notes from your keyboard: a, b, c, d, e, f, g (for flats press the down arrow on your keyboard after the letter, for sharp press up arrow. The duration of each note will be the value of the rest or note, change this by clicking it and pressing one of these keys: “5” for quarter note, “4” for 8th, “3” for 16th, “2” for 32nd, “1” for 64th.

**Add Chords:** Select a note/rest on your score (where you want the chord), press CMD/CTRL + K, to exit <esc>. To move to next chord press <space> until it gets to the right place.

**Add Lyrics:** Select note lyrics starts on, press CMD/CTRL + L, to exit <esc>. To add a space in the lyrics press <option> + <space>.

**A Note About Chords:** MuseScore recognizes a variety of chord symbols. Type: A, B, C, D, E, F, G for major chords, add the letter “b” for flats: Ab, Bb, etc., add a # for sharp. Minor chords: Gm, G-, Gmi, all work (others may as well). Other chords: Gdim7 (G diminished 7), G-7 (G minor 7), G-7b5 (G minor 7, flat 5), Gsus4 (G with a suspended 4th). If a chord doesn’t work, try something else.

### **Saint James Infirmary Blues Chord Structure:**

| D- A7 | D- | D- Bb | A7 | D- A7 | D- F | D- A7 | D- | (eight measures)

Enter Chord Mode (CMD/CTRL + K), place the chords in the correct spots. Use the <spacebar> to navigate through the score. Exit Chord Mode by pressing <esc>.

#### **Add a repeat.**

Open the palette titled “Repeats & jumps.” Click & drag the “Left (start) repeat sign” to the middle of the first measure and release. Click & drag the “Right (end) repeat sign” to the end of the 8th measure and release (D-).

#### **Replace rests with slashes.**

Click the first quarter rest, hold the <shift> key and press the last quarter rest in the 8th measure (where the end repeat sign is). Click the “Tools” menu at the very top of your screen, find “Fill with slashes” about half-way down the menu and select.

#### **Get rid of the unused measures.**

Click the “Tools” menu at the very top of your screen, find “Remove empty trailing measures” at the bottom of the menu and select.

#### **Name your chord chart.**

Triple click “Untitled score” at the top of the score and name the arrangement, “Saint James Infirmary Blues.” Triple click “Composer/arranger” and type “Traditional.” Select “Subtitle” and press <delete>.

**This is a chord chart.** This will help other musicians understand the tempo and chord changes of your song or arrangement.

## **Next: Create a Lead Sheet**