

I must disagree with Chris Drage (RISC User 7:7) that Sibelius 7 is head and shoulders above other music typesetting programs. It is unfortunate that he does not even mention the only serious contender, which is PMS. This was the only program for the Arc capable of typesetting music to a professional standard before Sibelius came along and I have been using it for a long time with complete satisfaction. I have recently also acquired Sibelius 7, but haven't so far found anything it can do that PMS can't, though I think PMS may prove more flexible in allowing you to step outside the rules where required and giving you full manual override if necessary. They both have their strengths and weaknesses, and it looks as if some things will prove easier with one than the other. Chris Drage particularly mentions multi-scores and extracting parts, and PMS can do this with ease too.

The main advantage of PMS is that the music is input as an ordinary text file, so you can use Edit or any word processor. It's quite possible for two or more people to work on a score simultaneously without a site licence. You can load and edit an ASCII file created on another machine. I do typesetting for a friend who only has a PC and we find this works very well. You can't do that with Sibelius. Also I can do some work during my lunchtime

using a laptop - the small monochrome screen doesn't make a graphics-based system easy to use, but it's a doddle with text.

I hope this will correct the clear inference to be drawn from Chris Drage's article that Sibelius is the only professional music typesetting program for the Archimedes, because that just isn't true.

Michael Wright

When reading any review or comment on a piece of software, it's always necessary to bear in mind that it's a very subjective business. We all have our own way of looking at and assessing things - we wouldn't be human if we didn't. Nevertheless, Mr Wright has some very valid points to make about PMS in his letter, and if we feel there is

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sufficient interest among RISC User readers we would be happy to commission a comparative review of Sibelius and PMS at some stage. In the meantime, if you would like further information about PMS, contact Philip Hazel at 33 Metcalfe Road, Cambridge CB4 2DB, tel. 0223 65518. PMS was reviewed in RISC User 6:6.

WRITE — BACK

TAKE A BOW

I have always found RISC User very useful but have always thought that there is a need for a graduated course of instruction written in a step-by-step manner. With the advent of the Risc PC it would be just the

SIMPLE WORDS

right time to do it.

Glynn Ellis

Watch this space (or one quite like it - see this month's editorial)

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In his review of Rhapsody 3 (RISC User 7:2) Richard Hallas stated that bowing marks for string instruments could not be obtained. I use Rhapsody 3 (version 3.01) and I can confirm that bowing marks can in fact be obtained.

Govind Kharbanda

A number of readers have responded to R.B. Camp's plea in RISC User 7:7 for a simple word processor. Peter Miles and Clive Bell both recommended Minerva's EasyWord, while C.A. Martin put in a good word for Amor's Protext. Iain King has been an enthusiastic user of Wordwise since its early days on the BBC micro, and he

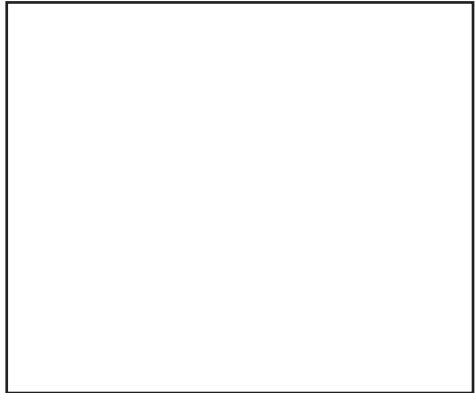
suggested using the Archimedes version, WordwiseA+. Michael Taylor agreed with Mr Camp that a new version of Interword was required, and passed on the following note smuggled out by Interword: Give me freedom! Break down the walls of my prison! Unblock cell 6502. Reincarnate me in the RISC paradise!



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Certainly EasiWord would seem to meet the requirements stated by Mr Camp - quick and simple to use, no fancy frills and the ability to print in text mode. It's also inexpensive,

readily available and works happily in the RISC OS environment.



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