Nightingale operates in terms of parts (in the sense of "extracting parts") more than most score-editing programs do. For example, to change the overall structure of your score—piano/vocal, large orchestra, whatever—in Nightingale, you add and delete parts, each of which has one or more staves, rather than the staves themselves. (See the 'Add Part/Staff' command in Master Page.) This means that Nightingale always knows what the parts in your score are, and its Extract Parts command can operate with no further information. It also makes it possible for Nightingale to handle notational complexities such as multiple voices on a staff and cross-staff beams in a very straightforward way.

Nightingale always sets newly-created scores up with a single two-staff part, presumably for piano or another keyboard instrument. If you want to work with a single-staff part and not a piano grand staff, you must:
1) Go to the Score menu and select Master Page.
2) IIn the Master Page menu (which was just added), select 'Add Part at Bottom'.
3) Use the 'Add Part/Staff' command to add 1 part of 1 staff.
4) Select the piano grand staff and delete it.

Finally, in parts of more than one staff, Nightingale automatically connects barlines across the part's staves and draws a curly brace at the left end of the system. To "group" parts further, use the 'Group Parts' command in Master Page.