

Nightingale has a “Master Page” that is analogous to master pages in page-layout programs in that it controls all graphic aspects of the overall score format. Simply by dragging, you can change the margins, spacing between staves within systems, and spacing between systems. In addition, when Master Page is in effect, it replaces the normal Play/Record menu with a menu of its own.

Nightingale’s Master Page also controls some “performance”—i.e., MIDI—aspects of the overall score, along with the ‘MIDI Preferences’ and ‘Dynamic Prefs’ commands. The ‘Instrument’ command in the Master Page menu lets you set several characteristics of the selected part.

Master Page displays a “page” of music in which the top system is drawn with solid lines, the second system with dashed lines, and all systems below in “gray” (dotted) lines. The top system does most of the work, and its individual staves can be clicked on or dragged. The only thing you can do with the second system is drag it up or down as a whole: this sets the spacing between systems. The systems below are “untouchable” and are drawn simply to give an idea of what the whole page will look like. In addition, margin lines are drawn, and you can drag them to set the margins (or you may prefer the Margins command).

Many Master Page commands work on the selected part or parts. To select a single part, click anywhere on its staff (or any of its staves, if it has more than one) in the top (solid lines) system. To select several parts (for example, to use the Group Parts command), click on a staff, then shift-click on another staff. (As in earlier versions of Nightingale, you can also press above or below a staff in the top system, drag up or down to include the parts you want, and release the mouse button.)

You can scroll and zoom in and out to view a larger or smaller part of your score in Master Page, just as you always can.

Notice that Master Page is for OVERALL (sometimes called “global”) aspects of the score. If you want to change the spacing between staves or systems in one place in your score, use the ‘Work on Format’ command instead; if you want to change MIDI characteristics of groups of notes, use the “QuickChange” command.