1 / GET STARTED

Install and open PFS on Mac

Set up Piano Fingering Studio for the Mac account you use with MuseScore.

What you need

An Apple Silicon Mac (a Mac with an M-series chip), macOS 14 or later, MuseScore Studio 4.7.5 or a compatible newer 4.x version, and a MuseHub account with a PFS license. Install MuseScore separately.

Piano Fingering Studio, called **PFS** in this guide, adds finger numbers to piano music inside MuseScore. You do not need any extra programming software.

macOS 14 is the compatibility target; testing on that minimum version remains pending. New MuseScore major versions require separate compatibility validation.

Piano Fingering Studio is published by **Xylea LLC**. Credits and license details for software included in PFS, including PianoPlayer, come with the product. MuseScore is a separate product.

Install and open PFS

1. Save your scores and quit MuseScore. Download PFS from MuseHub, open the downloaded **.pkg** installer and follow its instructions.

2. Reopen MuseScore and open a piano score. From the **Plugins** menu, choose **Piano Fingering Studio**.

A short Getting Started guide appears after you install or update PFS. Click **Got it** when you are done. It will not appear every time you open MuseScore.

Which Mac account receives PFS?

PFS installs only for the Mac account currently logged in. It does not set up PFS for other accounts on this Mac.

On the Destination Select page, choose **Install for all users of this computer** to continue. This is the system installer's label; PFS still configures only your current Mac account.

This installer requires administrator permission. It does not support the **Install for me only** mode or choosing another installation disk. PFS respects the plugin folder already selected in MuseScore preferences.

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2 / WINDOWS SETUP

Install and open PFS on Windows

Finish installation first, then set up the plugin for the Windows account you use with MuseScore.

What you need

A Windows x64 PC running Windows 10 or later, MuseScore Studio 4.7.5 or a compatible newer 4.x version, and a MuseHub account with a PFS license. Windows ARM64 is not a native target of this package. No separate Python installation is needed.

Install and complete setup

1. Save your scores and quit MuseScore. Install PFS through MuseHub and allow Windows to complete the installer with administrator permission. The application is installed in Program Files.

2. At the end of installation, PFS starts its setup for your ordinary Windows account. Accept the plugin setup prompt if it appears. PFS then opens MuseScore.

3. A short Getting Started guide appears after setup and launch. Click **Got it** when finished. This guide is separate from the installer.

Open a piano score and choose **Plugins > Piano Fingering Studio**. The PFS version is always shown at the bottom left of its panel.

If automatic setup does not start

Open **Piano Fingering Studio** from the Windows Start menu as your normal user. Do not choose Run as administrator. This runs the same user setup and opens MuseScore. Each Windows account needs its own plugin setup.

If the plugin is still missing, save and close MuseScore and choose **Set up or repair MuseScore plugin** from the PFS Start folder. Keep your scores and existing preferences.

Installation and download warnings

The Windows 1.1.0 installer is digitally signed by **Xylea LLC**. Windows or a download service may still show a file-type or reputation warning. A signature does not guarantee that every warning disappears. If you see a malware detection or an unexpected publisher, stop and contact support.

Need help?

Use **Send feedback** in PFS or email **hello@xylea.org**. Include the PFS version, your Windows and MuseScore versions, and the exact message shown.

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3 / ADD FINGERING

Add finger numbers to your score

Let Piano Fingering Studio suggest a starting point. Then make it your own.

Choose the music you want to work on

Highlight the bars you want to add fingerings to. To work on the whole score, make sure nothing is selected.

If you opened a MusicXML file, first use **File > Save As** to save it as a MuseScore file, such as **.mscz**.

Piano accompaniment in a vocal score

PFS identifies the piano part instead of assuming that the first staff is the right hand. In a vocal-and-piano score, it leaves the vocal staff unchanged and assigns the two piano staves to right and left hand. If more than one piano part is present, open the desired piano part separately.

Choose your hands and hand size

Hands: choose Both, Right or Left. PFS will only change fingerings for the hands you choose. For music written on just one staff, choose Right or Left.

Player's comfortable reach: choose the widest distance your hand can comfortably stretch on the keyboard. For example, an Octave is the distance from one C to the next C. The choices run from Sixth to Tenth. Tenth includes minor and major tenths with black keys. Reach limits keys held together; it does not limit the distance of a jump after releasing a key. For untied staccato notes, PFS plans release halfway through the written duration. When voices share the same note on one staff, PFS shows the automatic finger number once.

Add the numbers

For a first try, leave **Fingering detail** on Guided and click **Add automatic fingering**. You can change any of the numbers afterwards. Play through the passage to check what feels comfortable.

Wait for the calculation to finish. **This may take up to one minute.** Follow any error message shown by PFS.

Save your score when you are done. PFS does not save it for you.

What to expect

PFS suggests a practical starting point. Your existing finger numbers and manual changes are kept.

If a note has several finger numbers or an ornament fingering sequence, PFS preserves those markings. It can still add fingerings to other notes it can safely work with. Read any message for the affected note and reason.

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4 / MAKE THE FINGERING YOUR OWN

Change, hide or remove numbers

Edit the numbers directly in MuseScore, just as you would any other fingering.

Choose how many numbers you see

Essential: fewer numbers, focused on places where a fingering choice is useful.

Guided: more reminders to help you follow the passage. This is the starting setting.

Every note: a number on each note PFS can work with. Some unusual ways of writing music need you to add fingerings yourself.

Existing ornament fingering sequences and finger-change markings are preserved. PFS adds fingering to the other notes it can safely handle, including the other hand. Notes sounding or tied together with an unsupported marking may also be left unchanged; the message identifies the exact note and reason.

Keep a number you prefer

If you type a finger number yourself or change one PFS added, PFS keeps your choice the next time you click Add automatic fingering. It also keeps changes you make to how that number looks.

For example, if PFS suggests **3** and you change it to **2**, adding fingerings again will keep your **2**.

Leave a note without a number

If you delete a number, Essential and Guided leave that note without one when you add fingerings again.

Choosing **Every note** asks PFS to fill in missing numbers. That can put a number back on a note where you deleted one. It only does this in the passage and hands you are working on.

Remove numbers PFS added

Select a passage and choose the hands you want to work on, then click **Remove automatic fingering**. To remove numbers throughout the score, first clear the selection.

This removes numbers PFS added that you have not changed yourself. It keeps numbers you entered or changed, and it leaves other passages and hands alone.

Change your mind or change the music

Use MuseScore's **Undo** to undo adding or removing fingerings, changing the detail level, or pasting fingerings. **Redo** brings that change back.

After changing notes, Hands or comfortable reach, click **Add automatic fingering** again. Check the new result before saving.

Keep an editable copy

Save a MuseScore file (**.mscz** or **.mscx**) so PFS can remember your fingering choices when you reopen it. You can also export a PDF to print or share, or MusicXML for another music program, but keep the MuseScore file for working with PFS.

If you want to keep two different fingering versions, use **Save As** to make a separate score file.

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5 / COPY AND PASTE

Copy fingerings to another passage

Reuse a fingering you like elsewhere in the same score.

Copy, then choose where to paste

1. Select the passage whose finger numbers you want to copy. Click the green **Copy Fingering** button below Add / Remove.

2. Select the passage you want to paste into, in the **same score**. Keep the Hands setting the same as when you copied.

3. Read the message in PFS. If the passages can be matched, click **Paste Fingering**.

Which passages can be matched?

They must have the same number of notes. Chords must line up and have the same number of notes too: for example, a three-note chord needs another three-note chord.

If the music has separate lines played at the same time (called **voices** in MuseScore), those lines must match too. The pitches and rhythms may be different. PFS tells you if it cannot match the passages.

What happens to numbers that are already there?

An empty space does not erase a number. If a copied note has no finger number and the matching note already has a **3**, that **3** stays.

Your own changes stay unless you allow PFS to replace them. For example, if you typed a **4** and the copied number is **2**, PFS keeps your **4**. If you previously deleted a number, PFS leaves that note empty. Other notes can still receive the copied numbers.

To let the copied numbers replace your choices, select **Replace conflicting manual edits**. In plain English, this means: **"Let the copied numbers replace fingerings I changed or deleted myself."** A copied empty space still will not erase an existing number.

After pasting

Check the new passage at the piano. A fingering that works in one passage may feel different in another. Use **Undo** once to undo the paste.

PFS keeps pasted numbers just like numbers you entered yourself. You can paste the same copied passage again until you close the PFS panel.

When you need to copy the numbers yourself

Copy/paste works with one finger number, **1-5**, on each note. It does not work with tied notes (two notes joined to make one held sound), tiny decorative notes, notes that move between the upper and lower staff, or markings that ask you to change fingers on a held note. PFS will tell you when a selection cannot be used.

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6 / EVERYDAY QUESTIONS

Licensing, supported music and help

Your score stays yours, including the finger numbers already added to it.

What are the purchase options?

MuseHub offers a monthly subscription and a one-time Lifetime purchase. No free trial is currently offered. Check MuseHub for current prices and promotions.

Lifetime provides continued access to the current major version. Future major versions may be sold separately.

What happens if my subscription expires?

The finger numbers already in your score stay there. You can still edit, save, print, export and use Undo/Redo in MuseScore.

Generating new fingerings and using Smart Fingering Paste require an active monthly subscription or a valid Lifetime license. MuseHub handles your purchase and access.

Why did PFS leave some notes unchanged?

Some piano writing needs a person to choose the fingering. PFS handles supported accompaniment and cross-staff notation, but ambiguous structures, unsupported ornaments or incompatible held-note constraints can leave affected notes unchanged. Read the message for the exact note and reason; do not increase hand reach beyond what is comfortable.

For a note held across a tie, you keep holding the same sound. PFS does not add another number just because that held note is written again.

What if a message says the fingering history is full?

Save your work and keep the original score. Email **hello@xylea.org**; we can help you make a copy that you can continue working on.

This limit applies to that score only. You can keep using PFS with other scores.

Does PFS send my music anywhere?

PFS processes your music locally on your computer. It does not upload your score. MuseHub handles your account, licensing and updates.

The **Send feedback** button opens an optional browser form. It includes your PFS version automatically, but does not automatically send your score or files from your computer.

How do I get help?

Choose **Send feedback** in PFS, or email **hello@xylea.org**. Include the PFS version shown at the bottom left, your MuseScore and operating-system versions, what you clicked, and the message you saw.

After a generation failure or timeout, a **Diagnostic report** link may appear at the bottom right of the PFS panel. If support asks for it, open the local report and share it yourself. It records timing and status, not your music or account details. It is not uploaded automatically.

Feedback: https://tally.so/r/ZjpYlA
Email: hello@xylea.org

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7 / WHEN YOU NEED IT

Update or remove PFS on your Mac

These steps leave your saved scores and their finger numbers in place.

Install an update or fix an installation

Save your scores and quit MuseScore. Open the PFS **.pkg** installer and follow its instructions again. Other MuseScore plugins keep their settings.

If you have changed the plugin folder in MuseScore preferences, remove the old PFS copy before installing in the new folder. If an error mentions that folder, check **MuseScore > Preferences > Folders > Plugins**. Contact hello@xylea.org if you need help.

To remove PFS completely

1. Save and close. Save your scores, close the PFS Getting Started guide if it is showing, and quit MuseScore. Wait for any installation or update to finish.

2. Find the PFS folder. Look at the plugin folder listed in MuseScore's preferences. Inside it, find the folder named **PianoFingeringStudio**. If you changed the plugin folder, look in the previous location. The usual location is:

`/Users/<your-user-name>/Documents/MuseScore4/Plugins`

How to use these paths: in Finder, choose **Go > Home**. Use that folder's name in place of **<your-user-name>**. Then choose **Go > Go to Folder...** and paste the path. For example, if your home folder is alex, paths start with **/Users/alex/**.

Save your settings before removing files

3. Open the PianoFingeringStudio folder. If you see a file named **preferences.json**, copy it to this folder:

`/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/user`

Create the **user** folder if needed. If it already holds an older preferences.json, replace that older copy with the one you just copied. This keeps your settings for a later reinstallation.

Move these PFS items to the Trash

4. Move the **PianoFingeringStudio** folder to the Trash. Keep the larger Plugins folder and the other plugins inside it. Then remove the following items in order. For a file or app, open the folder containing it and move that item to the Trash. Skip an item if it is not there.

- `/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/LaunchAgents/com.pianofingeringstudio.getting-started.plist`
- `/Users/<your-user-name>/Applications/Piano Fingering Studio.app`
- `/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/versions`
- `/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/onboarding`
- `/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/launcher.json`

Keep your music and saved settings

5. Leave the rest of the Piano Fingering Studio folder in Application Support in place, including the **user** folder you used above. Keep your scores and MuseScore settings. If the PFS guide was waiting to appear, it stops when it detects removal of its installation files.

To use PFS again, run its installer. Your saved PFS settings will be restored. Keep the removed items in the Trash until you have checked that you kept everything you wanted.

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8 / WINDOWS MAINTENANCE

Update, repair or remove PFS on Windows

Keep your scores and settings while managing the application and your user plugin.

Update or repair

Save your scores and quit MuseScore. Install the update through MuseHub, then allow the ordinary-user setup to finish. Existing scores and saved fingering preferences are retained.

For plugin repair, use **Set up or repair MuseScore plugin** in the Piano Fingering Studio Start folder. If your MuseScore plugin folder is not available, check **Edit > Preferences > Folders > Plugins** and contact support before deleting files.

If MuseHub Open repeats installation

Repeated installation from the MuseHub Open button has been observed on Windows and remains under investigation. After a successful installation, open PFS from the Start menu or open MuseScore and use its Plugins menu. Do not repeatedly reinstall or clear MuseHub data to try to reset licensing.

If setup has completed but the plugin is absent, use the repair shortcut described above. Tell support whether the problem occurs during download, machine installation, user plugin setup or a later Open action.

Remove your plugin, then the machine application

1. Save and close MuseScore. In the PFS Start folder, choose **Remove my MuseScore plugin** as your normal Windows user. Saved fingering preferences are retained.

2. If other Windows users have configured PFS, each should remove their user plugin first. Then uninstall **Piano Fingering Studio** through Windows Settings > Apps.

Keep your scores and unrelated MuseScore plugins. The machine uninstaller does not replace each account's user-plugin removal step.

When license access is unavailable

Read the message in PFS, check your MuseHub account and license, then retry. Do not change permissions or disable security software to repair licensing. For purchase/account issues use MuseHub support; for PFS behavior contact hello@xylea.org.

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