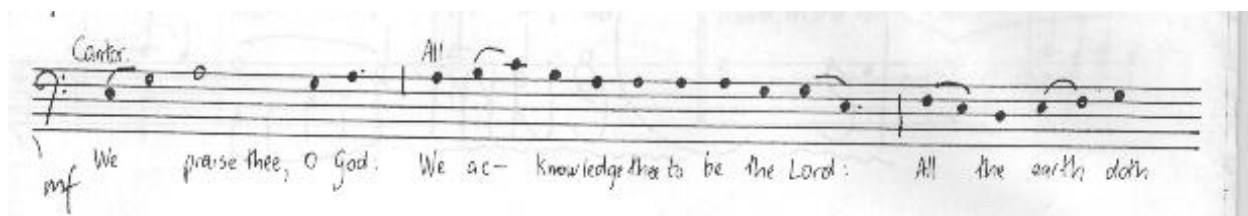


Sibelius and Chant (stemless notes)

Making stemless notes in sibelius

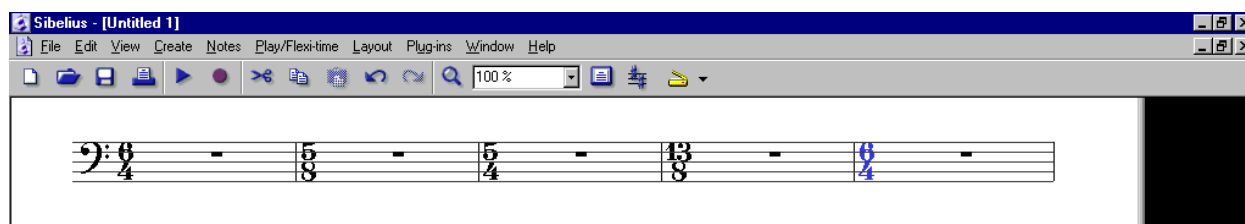
Sibelius will make stemless notes for you easily – you just need to plan ahead a little first!

In the example given we are copying the following chant by the Australian composer Keren Terpstra:



- In Sibelius, open a new score and add the desired singers.
- Divide the music up into rhythmic phrases, allowing one crotchet (quarter-note) for a black stemless note, and 4 crotchets (quarter notes) for a white stemless note. Treat dotted black notes as dotted crotchets.
- For each rhythmic phrase, create a time signature of the correct length (e.g. for the opening of our example, "We Praise thee", 6 crotchets = one bar of 6/4)¹.

For our example the correct rhythmic divisions will look like this:



- Now input the notes as if they were crotchets and semibreves.
- Your score will look something like this:



- We now need to tell Sibelius how to make stemless crotchets. To do this, do the following:
 1. Click on the **Notes** menu, then on **Noteheads**.
 2. Click on the number 4 noteheads so they turn blue, and then click on the **Modify** button
 3. Click on the first slash (under quarter note) so it turns blue and then click on the **Change Symbol** button
 4. In the **Symbols** menu that pops up, scroll down the list to the **Noteheads** section, and choose the first notehead (see next page for a picture of these options). Click on the **Select Symbol** button.
 5. The notehead for the **Quarter note** will have changed to a normal notehead shape. Repeat the process for the **Whole note**, but choosing the hollow notehead, for obvious reasons. Then click **OK** and then **Close**.

¹ This is much better than putting in the notes in the default 4/4, which will leave unnatural-looking spaces in the music.

