

Songbook Buddy



Songbook Buddy

User guide

Your library, ChordPro editing, chord diagrams, print and export, and optional cloud sync -- a calm workspace for lyrics and performance.

Contents

1.	Introduction
2.	Getting started
3.	Songs & library
4.	ChordPro editor
5.	ChordPro directives
6.	Preview & playback
7.	MIDI Control
8.	Footswitch Control
9.	Chord diagrams
10.	Import & export
11.	Print & PDF
12.	Sync & settings
13.	Band Mode
14.	App debug logging
15.	Keyboard shortcuts

Introduction

Songbook Buddy is a multiplatform ChordPro song editor. It helps you keep a library of songs with lyrics and chords, preview them in a readable layout, work with chord diagrams, and share or print your material.

Main capabilities

- Song library -- Browse, search, filter, and sort songs; archive and rate them.
- ChordPro editing -- Edit the song source with syntax support, find/replace, and quick insertion of common directives.
- Live preview -- See formatted lyrics and chords; adjust display settings and layout.
- Playback -- Optional autoscroll-style playback and theater (presentation) mode for performing.
- Chords -- Explore chord fingerings (guitar, ukulele, piano) and customize assignments per song.
- Import -- Bring in song files or folders; import chord fingering packs on the Chords tab.
- Print & PDF -- Generate printouts or PDFs from your songs.
- Sync (when configured) -- Cloud sync and account options under Preferences.

Use the in-app Help topics for details, or open the PDF user manual from Help or Preferences for a single downloadable document.

Getting started

Layout

The window is split into a sidebar on the left and a main area on the right. On small screens you can hide the sidebar with the arrow button at the bottom of the main area. On desktop you can drag the divider between the two to resize the sidebar -- down to half its default width -- and its controls reflow to fit.

The status bar at the bottom shows playback controls (when a song is open), transpose, undo/redo, print, import, stats, and Settings (preferences).

Tabs

In the sidebar header, switch between:

- Songs -- Your library and the ChordPro editor / preview for the selected song.
- Chords -- Chord name search, diagrams, and related tools.
- Setlists, Bands, Controls (MIDI + Footswitch) -- each shows a small caption-style title bar above the filter toolbar so you can tell at a glance which tab the sidebar is on. The Controls tab is the former Devices tab, renamed to make its purpose clearer (live control of the app via MIDI and footswitches).
- Pro -- opens the upgrade / subscription hub when Pro features aren't yet unlocked.

Opening a song

Select a song in the list. The center shows the preview or editor depending on your mode. Use the edit control to switch to editing ChordPro source.

Touch phones & orientation

On narrow phones, the app usually keeps the UI in landscape so the editor and preview have more horizontal room. Theater (presentation) mode also allows portrait when you need it. Tablets (e.g. iPad) are not restricted this way.

Tips

- Desktop: Many actions are also in the application menu (File, Edit, Playback, etc.).
- Touch: Editor tools may appear as overlay buttons when the keyboard or touch UI is active.

Songs & library

Sidebar layout

The Songs sidebar toolbar holds the search field, the archive toggle, the Setlist filter dropdown, rating stars, reset, the sort controls, and the import / edit / add buttons. The controls wrap onto additional lines instead of overflowing as the sidebar gets narrower, so the filters always stay reachable.

On desktop you can drag the divider between the sidebar and the main area to resize the sidebar, down to 50% of its default width; the controls reflow to fit.


Edit mode (row actions)

The edit button (pencil / open-lock icon) in the sort row toggles row actions on the list. When edit mode is off the rows are locked: stars are shown but non-interactive and the destructive trailing icons (archive, delete) are hidden. Turn edit mode on to reveal and use those per-row actions. This applies independently to the Songs and Setlists lists.

Searching and filtering

Use the filter field to narrow songs by title, artist, album, or song body. Clear the field with the x icon when it appears, or use the reset button to clear search + rating + tag filters in one step.

Tag filter (include / exclude)


>  Pro feature -- tags, the Filter Tags row, and the per-song Assign tags UI are hidden on the free tier. Upgrading reveals them.

The Filter Tags button opens the tag picker. Each tag cycles through three states as you tap it: a green "+" keeps only songs that carry the tag, a red "-" hides songs that carry it, and a third tap clears the constraint. Combine several + tags and a song must carry all of them to pass; combine several - tags and a song must carry none of them. (The x icon on a tag deletes that tag from every song -- a global delete.)

Archive

The archive icon toggles whether archived songs are shown. Use this to hide inactive songs from the main list. When you archive the currently open song, the sidebar automatically switches to Show archived songs and clears filters that would otherwise hide it, so the row stays visible and selected for a moment in case you want to undo or unarchive it.

Setlist filter (Pro)

>  Pro feature -- non-Pro users get the upgrade screen when they tap the dropdown.

The Setlist filter dropdown lets you restrict the song list to the songs of a single setlist, in setlist position order. Tap to open a popup, pick All setlists to clear, or pick a specific setlist to filter.

The filter is independent of which setlist is open in the Setlists tab -- you can browse the songs of one setlist while another is selected on the Setlists tab. It also stays usable during a band live session: when a leader is performing, your dropdown automatically follows the leader's active setlist so your sidebar mirrors theirs without you having to switch tabs.

Rating filter

The stars set a minimum rating filter. Tap a star level to show only songs with at least that many stars; tap again to clear.


Sorting

The sort row has a sort-field dropdown and a direction toggle. Pick the field -- Modified, Title, or Artist for songs (setlists also offer Event date) -- then tap the direction button to switch between ascending and descending.

New song

The + button creates a new song entry (when available for the current tab).

Import shortcuts

The Import songs icon in the sort row (or File → Import songs... on desktop, shortcut  O / Ctrl+O) opens a single dialog that imports from a file, a folder, a web address, or pasted text -- pick the mode at the top of the dialog. See Import & export for the details.

ChordPro editor

Editing

When edit mode is active, the ChordPro text field is editable.

Saving -- auto-save modes

Preferences → General → Behaviour → Auto-save controls when your edits are written to disk:

- Save instantly -- every change is written and queued for sync as you type.
- Save after a pause -- changes are written a short while after you stop typing; pick the delay just below the dropdown.
- Don't save automatically -- changes stay in memory until you save them yourself.

Under Don't save automatically, a dot marks every song with unsaved changes in the library list, and a Save changes action appears on that row (and File → Save, plus ⌘S / Ctrl+S). File → Save All writes every song that has unsaved changes. When you switch to another song or close the app, an Unsaved changes dialog asks you to Save, Don't Save, or Cancel. On phones and tablets, unsaved changes are saved automatically when the app goes to the background -- but a crash while you are editing can still lose them.

Under the other two modes ⌘S / Ctrl+S still works; it flushes any pending edit and shows a brief Saved toast for muscle-memory comfort.

Preview (rendered view)

The preview uses the same ChordPro source as the editor. Long lyric lines wrap to fit the panel width (including mid-line spaces you use to align chords above syllables).

Chords in the preview (lyrics area)

On desktop (mouse / trackpad), right-click a chord in the main preview (the lyric lines) to open a small menu:

- Assign... -- pick a fingering for this occurrence (same as a normal click).
- Remove assignment -- clear only the per-occurrence shape override; the chord symbol stays in the song.

- Remove from line -- deletes that chord's [. . .] tag from the ChordPro source for this position (lyrics stay). Not available during playback or presentation mode when chord editing is disabled.

The distinct chords strip (diagrams along the top or sides of the preview) does not use this menu: tap a diagram to assign a shape, or drag from there to move a chord in the lyrics.

Trailing spaces

Leading and trailing spaces on the document are preserved while you edit and while it is being saved, so alignment and spacing in the source behave as you expect.

When you switch to another song, close the app (desktop window), or open a song from the library, the app may trim those outer spaces before storing -- so stray whitespace at the very start or end of the file is cleaned at those boundaries, not on every keystroke.

Mark as Chord

To turn a word into a chord, select it in the source editor and choose Mark as Chord (in the desktop Edit → Chord menu) or press ⌘0 / Ctrl+0. The selection is wrapped in []; with nothing selected, an empty [] is inserted at the caret. In the editor this shortcut takes over ⌘0 / Ctrl+0 from Reset transpose -- outside the editor that key still resets transpose.

Find and replace

Use Find (and Replace where available) from the menu or editor toolbar. Navigate matches with Previous / Next and close the bar when done.

Insert ChordPro

The insert tools open a compact catalog of snippets (metadata, section blocks, new chord placeholder, and chords already used in the song, etc.). On desktop in a normal (non-maximized) layout, items may appear as a submenu; otherwise they open as a floating panel or bottom sheet. You can always type any ChordPro directive by hand -- the catalog only lists common shortcuts.

The catalog also includes a new custom block entry (Pro). Picking it inserts {start_of_block: } ... {end_of_block} with the cursor parked in the colon label so you can type the block title immediately. With a non-empty selection, the entry wraps the selection in a custom block instead. Non-Pro users get redirected to the upgrade screen when they pick the custom-block snippet -- every other snippet works on the free tier. See ChordPro directives → Custom blocks for details on how the parser handles the directive.

Maximize

Maximize editor hides the sidebar and preview so the text column can use the full width. In this mode the ChordPro insert strip stays visible beside the editor (no pin icon in the header -- the strip is always shown). The separate insert button next to find is hidden while maximized because the strip is already there; find stays available.

In split mode (editor + preview side by side) the snippet popup includes a Pin to sidebar entry. Pinning anchors the same insert strip to the left edge of the edit column only -- the preview stays untouched, so you can keep the rendered song visible while inserting directives. Use the unpin icon on the strip to return to the popup-on-demand behaviour. Default state is unpinned and the preference is remembered per device.

Undo and redo

ChordPro edits support Undo and Redo from the status bar or application menu, scoped to the current song.

ChordPro directives in Songbook Buddy

This page lists only what Songbook Buddy actually implements: tokenizing/parsing, preview, ChordPro Buddy (CPB) scanning, and the save/import cleanup that drops or keeps {...} spans.

Notation: [C] places a chord on the next word or syllable. Lines starting with # are treated like comment lines.

Metadata ({key: value})

The tokenizer normalizes these short keys before they reach the song metadata map:

Long key	Short forms
`title`	`t`
`subtitle`	`st`
`artist`	`a`, `art`
`author`	`au`
`key`	`k`
`comment`	`c`
`comment_italic`	`ci`

Any other identifier in {name: ...} is still parsed as generic metadata (first occurrence of each key wins in the AST).

Preview header uses: title, subtitle, artist or author, album, key, capo, tempo, time, and year. The first items live in the title block; key, capo, tempo, time, and year render as Meta chips controlled by the Meta visibility switch in the Format sidebar. Other keys may affect the AST but not that header row.

If a song has chords but no explicit {key: } directive, Songbook Buddy auto-detects the key from the chord content and shows it as a normal Key chip. When the song is transposed, the chip shows Key: <current> (original: <original>) so both keys are visible at a glance.

Keys kept in saved ChordPro (after strip)

When saving or importing, {...} is removed unless it is a structural directive (sections, layout breaks) or its key is in the app's preserve list. That list includes for example: title, subtitle, artist, composer, lyricist, copyright, album, year, key, time, tempo, duration, capo, meta, comment, comment_italic, sorttitle, define, chord, textfont, textsize, chordfont, chordsizes, columns, grid, pagetype, pagewidth, pageheight, image, footer, toc, doctype, lang, plus standalone section labels like verse, chorus, bridge, intro, outro, prechorus, pre_chorus.

Not on that list (examples): `license`, `tag` -- they are dropped from stored text if present.

`{year: ...}` is preserved in source and rendered as a Meta chip in the preview header (and printed metadata) when the Meta visibility switch is on.

Comments

- `{comment: ...} / {c: ...}` -- comment section (normal weight in preview).
- `{comment_italic: ...} / {ci: ...}` -- italic comment section; not related to capo (`{capo: ...}`).

Section pairs and labels (no value -- {name} only)

Open / close (must appear without `:value` in this form):


Open	Close	Short
<code>`start_of_verse`</code>	<code>`end_of_verse`</code>	<code>`sov` / `eov`</code>
<code>`start_of_chorus`</code>	<code>`end_of_chorus`</code>	<code>`soc` / `eoc`</code>
<code>`start_of_pre_chorus`</code> or <code>`start_of_prechorus`</code>	<code>`end_of_pre_chorus`</code> or <code>`end_of_prechorus`</code>	<code>`sop` / `eop`</code>
<code>`start_of_bridge`</code>	<code>`end_of_bridge`</code>	<code>`sob` / `eob`</code>
<code>`start_of_tab`</code>	<code>`end_of_tab`</code>	<code>`sot` / `eot`</code>
<code>`start_of_grid`</code>	<code>`end_of_grid`</code>	<code>`sog` / `eog`</code>
<code>`start_of_lyrics`</code>	<code>`end_of_lyrics`</code>	<code>`sol` / `eol`</code>
<code>`start_of_comment`</code>	<code>`end_of_comment`</code>	<code>`socm` / `eocm`</code>

`start_of_comment / end_of_comment` are parsed like a lyrics block in the tokenizer (comment block).

Standalone labels (run until the next section or EOF): `verse`, `chorus`, `bridge`, `intro`, `outro`, `prechorus`, `pre_chorus`.

`{chorus}` alone is a section label in Buddy, not full spec "chorus recall".

Custom blocks (Pro)

>  Pro feature -- viewing custom blocks works for everyone; inserting them via the editor menu requires an active Pro subscription.

If `verse / chorus / bridge / pre-chorus / intro / outro` don't cover what you want, you can wrap any number of lines in a custom block and give it your own title:

```
chordpro
{start_of_block: Solo}
[Em] [G] [D] [Am]
{end_of_block}
```

The label after the colon (Solo in the example) is shown above the block in the song view. If you leave the colon blank -- {start_of_block: } -- the renderer falls back to a generic BLOCK label.

The parser also accepts the more general ChordPro 6 form {start_of_<env>: Label} ... {end_of_<env>} for any environment name that isn't already a built-in (verse, chorus, pre_chorus, bridge, tab, grid, lyrics, comment, footer). So {start_of_solo: Lead} ... {end_of_solo} works the same way as start_of_block.

Style and indentation

Custom blocks have their own typography and indent settings, separate from verse/chorus/bridge:

- Format → Font settings → Custom blocks sets the font family, size, weight and italic flag.
- Format → Indent → Custom blocks controls how far the body is inset (0 - 144 logical pixels at scale 1.0).

So you can give a "Solo" block a different look than your verses without juggling commented-out section markers.

Layout (no colon)

- new_page, np, new_physical_page, npp
- column_break, colb, cb

These are consumed by the parser; the scrolling preview may not show a visible page/column break. They are kept in source when saved (structural/layout).

ChordPro Buddy / CPB scan (whole lines or inline fragments)

Handled before "unknown directive" stripping. Recognised items are removed from the text and, where noted, copied into app fields.

Transpose (semitones, clamped to -11...+11 for storage): {transpositionLevel:N}, {transpose:±N} (ChordPro standard), including inline forms on a line.

Play time (seconds): {playtime:N}, {duration:N} (same numeric meaning for the song playtime), including inline forms. A playback-settings JSON snapshot may be stored when playtime is set.

Display (merges into the song's saved display settings): `{font:section,...}` with section one of `title`, `subtitle`, `lyric`, `chorus`, `comment`, `tablature`; `{linespace:...}`; `{print_chords:yes|no}`, `{print_major:...}`, `{print_minor:...}`, `{print_seventh:...}`, `{print_bemol:...}`, `{print_bass_not_root:...}` (whole line or inline where implemented).

Stripped without mapping (removed from text only): `{color:...}`, `{chordChartSize:...}`, `{left_margin:...}` / `{right_margin:...}` / `{top_margin:...}` / `{bottom_margin:...}`, `{print_orientation:...}` (and inline variants as needed).

On save with existing display settings, CPB `{font:...}` / `{linespace:...}` / `print_*` merge into the current song display settings rather than replacing from scratch.

Import

ChordPro files go through two steps before a song row is written:

1. `parseCpbDirectives` -- CPB / transpose / playtime / display-related lines and fragments are interpreted, then removed from the string. Values are held in memory for the import payload.
2. `stripUnrecognizedChordProDirectives` -- any remaining `{...}` that is not structural and not in the preserve key list is deleted from the text. Lines that contained only removed tags are not kept as blank lines.

Unknown directives therefore do not crash the importer: they vanish from the stored ChordPro (and from generic metadata extracted from that stored text). If you need to keep rare ChordPro tags for round-tripping to other tools, ensure their key is in the preserve set or store a copy outside the app.

Mapping into Songbook Buddy's own fields (typical ChordPro import):

Source (first useful line match)	Song fields / JSON
<code>`{title:...}`</code> / <code>`{t:...}`</code>	<code>`title`</code> (fallback: filename)
<code>`{artist:...}`</code> / <code>`{a:...}`</code> / <code>`{composer:...}`</code> / <code>`{author:...}`</code>	<code>`artist`</code>
<code>`{album:...}`</code> / <code>`{al:...}`</code>	<code>`album`</code>
<code>`{key:...}`</code> / <code>`{k:...}`</code>	<code>`songKey`</code>
<code>`{capo:...}`</code> (integer)	<code>`capo`</code>
<code>`{tempo:...}`</code> (integer)	<code>`tempo`</code>
CPB transpose	<code>`transposeSteps`</code>
<code>`{playtime:...}`</code> / <code>`{duration:...}`</code>	<code>`playtime`</code> , <code>`playbackSettings`</code>
CPB <code>`font`</code> / <code>`linespace`</code> / <code>`print_*</code>	<code>`displaySettings`</code>

The full cleaned ChordPro string becomes `chordproText`.

The same normalization pattern is used when saving from the editor (`ChordProPersistPlan`), so editor and import stay consistent.

Using this in the app

- Edit source in the ChordPro editor; use Import for `.cho`, `.chordpro`, `.txt`, etc.
- Preview and print use the parsed song; header chips follow display toggles (title block, author block, key block).

Preview & playback


Preview

In non-edit mode, the center shows a formatted preview of the song (lyrics, chords, sections) using your song display and layout settings. Adjust scale and fonts from song settings / format controls where available.

On narrow phones, you can pinch on the preview (Songs tab) to change display scale in steps, same as in song settings. On large tablets (e.g. iPad), use the status bar scale controls or a hardware keyboard's ⌘/Ctrl+</> instead -- pinch is not used on the preview there so scrolling and system gestures stay reliable.

On desktop, right-click menus for chords in the lyric area (assign, clear assignment, remove from line) are described under ChordPro editor in Help. The optional distinct chord strip beside or above the preview uses tap and drag only, not that menu.

Format sidebar -- fonts (Pro)

>  Pro feature -- requires Songbook Buddy Pro.

Open sidebar Format → Font settings. Each row (title, chorus, verse, ...) has an Aa button and a size slider. Tap Aa for font face, size, bold, italic.

- Changes apply immediately (there is no separate OK). Close with x or tap outside the card. Reset restores font and style to when you opened the card.
- With keyboard focus on the card, ↑ / ↓ step through font families without opening the dropdown list.
- Browse opens the library: tab Google Fonts Library plus This computer on desktop for .ttf / .otf files (add font folders as prompted).
- Preferences → Fonts lists downloaded fonts and fonts you activated from this device (removing a device font leaves files on disk).

If Aa shows an orange outline and warning icon, hover or long-press -- the song still references a font that is not in Songbook Buddy's active list; fix via System default, Preferences → Fonts, or This computer.

Theater (presentation) mode

Theater or presentation mode focuses the preview for performance: distractions are reduced and the layout is optimized for reading from a distance. Exit the same way you entered to restore the normal layout.

In Preferences → General → Behaviour, Keep screen on in theater mode (on by default) prevents the display from sleeping or locking while theater mode is active and the app is in the foreground; when the app is in the background, the screen can sleep normally.

Theater advance mode

Preferences → General → Behaviour → Theater advance mode chooses how the song moves during playback in theater mode:

- Continuous autoscroll -- the song scrolls smoothly from top to bottom over its playback duration.
- Automatic page-turn -- the song holds still and turns automatically, splitting the playback duration evenly. Each automatic turn advances half a viewport so the bottom of the previous view stays in sight.
- Manual page-turn -- the song turns a full page at a time, only on your input.

In both page-turn modes the pages are split purely by viewport height -- no ChordPro {new_page} authoring is involved. You can always turn pages yourself with the on-screen arrows (a page indicator shows current / total), a double-tap on the screen, a footswitch, MIDI, or the keyboard: Space, →, or Page Down for the next page, ← or Page Up for the previous. While in Automatic page-turn, the status-bar position slider marks every page boundary so it doubles as a page map.

Playback

With a song that has content, you can play, pause, and stop from the status bar. Stopping typically returns scroll position to the start (see on-screen hints where provided). A timeline may show progress during playback.

Transpose

Transpose sharp/flat controls and the reset button in the status bar change the song key in semitone steps, within app limits. This affects how chords are displayed and played back, not the raw ChordPro unless you choose to persist transposition.

When you transpose, the Key chip in the metadata header -- preview, status bar, and printed PDF -- updates to show the currently transposed key with the original key in parentheses, e.g. Key: G (original: F), so you can always see at a glance what you're playing in vs. what the song is written in.

Auto-detected key

If a song has chords but no explicit `{key: }` directive, Songbook Buddy now auto-detects the key from the chord content and shows it the same way an explicit key would be shown -- Key chip in preview/PDF, Key field in song settings. The detected key is read-only metadata; if you want to override it, add a `{key: }` directive in the editor (see ChordPro directives).

In song settings (Format sidebar), the Key field is paired with a read-only Transposed key field -- its tooltip reads Currently transposed key (read-only) -- so you don't have to look at the renderer to know where you are.


Format sidebar -- visibility & indentation

The Format sidebar's visibility section has paired switches for what to render in the layout: Title / Author, Meta / Section bars, Section labels / Chords, Lyrics / Comments, Tabs / Grid.

The Meta switch (formerly named Key & Capo) now covers every metadata chip the renderer can produce -- key, capo, tempo, time signature, and year (from a `{year: ...}` directive). Toggle it off for a clean lyrics-and-chords-only look.

The Indentation section gives each indentable block -- pre-chorus, chorus, bridge, custom blocks -- a label plus a fixed-width slider that wraps onto its own line only when the sidebar is too narrow to fit both.

MIDI Control

>  Pro feature -- requires an active Songbook Buddy Pro subscription.

MIDI Control lets external hardware (footswitches, pedalboards, looper apps) trigger actions in Songbook Buddy, and lets Songbook Buddy emit MIDI when your own playback or selection state changes. It lives under Devices → MIDI.

Enabling MIDI

The very first control in the MIDI sidebar is the Enabled switch, and it is off by default. Songbook Buddy does not open the system's CoreMIDI / ALSA MIDI session, scan for ports, or relay any messages until you flip it on -- this avoids the start-up MIDI scan and notification chatter for users who do not use MIDI at all. Turn it on once and the port lists below populate.

Ports

The sidebar shows two lists: Inputs (things we can receive from) and Outputs (things we can send to). Tick a port to open it. USB devices appear automatically. For network / RTP-MIDI the OS session must be running -- open macOS Audio MIDI Setup → Network to create or join a session, then the peer shows up here.

The port lists and the Device dropdowns on each mapping only show ports that are currently visible to the OS. If a USB device is unplugged or a Bluetooth device disconnects, it disappears from the dropdowns; reconnecting brings it back without restarting the app.

Panic at the bottom of the sidebar sends All Notes Off and All Sound Off on every channel to every enabled output -- a safety net when something hangs on.

Inbound mappings -- MIDI triggers app actions

Each row in the Inbound list routes one MIDI message to one app action:

- Device -- which port this mapping listens to. "Any device" matches every enabled input.
- Type -- the message kind (see the overview below).
- Channel -- 1-16 for channel-voice messages; ignored for System Real-Time (Start / Continue / Stop / Clock).

- Note / CC -- key number, controller number or program number depending on type.
- Value -- for CC / NoteOn: match a specific value, or leave "any" to fire on any value.
- Action -- what the app does when the message arrives (Play/Pause, Stop, Next song, ...).

Learn (the graduation-cap icon on each row): press it, then press the button on your device. The next incoming message overwrites the row's Device / Type / Channel / Note-CC / Value in place, keeping the Action you already chose. Press + Add first to create a blank row with the action you want, then Learn into it.

Duplicate (copy icon): clones the row -- handy for building two variants that share an action.

Repeated identical messages are debounced for 50 ms so a chattery footswitch does not fire twice.

Outbound mappings -- app events emit MIDI

Each row turns an app event into one outbound MIDI message:

- Event -- Playback started / stopped, Song selected, Setlist entry changed.
- Device -- only this output receives the message, or "Any device" to broadcast to every enabled output.
- Type, Channel, Note / CC, Value -- the message to send.

Messages are only sent when at least one matching output is enabled; otherwise the send is silently dropped.

Persistence

Mappings are saved locally on this device and survive app restarts. They are not synced to other devices, because the Device column points at a specific local MIDI port ID -- the same device has a different ID on another machine.

Message types at a glance

NoteOn

- Meaning: key pressed.
- Parameters: note (pitch), velocity (how hard).
- In practice: starts a tone or triggers an event.

- Note: velocity = 0 is often interpreted as NoteOff.

NoteOff

- Meaning: key released.
- Parameters: note, release velocity (optional).
- In practice: stops a tone.

CC (Control Change)

- Meaning: continuous controller.
- Parameters: CC number (0-127), value (0-127).
- In practice: knobs, faders, pedals.
- Examples: CC1 = Modulation, CC7 = Volume, CC64 = Sustain pedal.
- The most useful type for automation and mapping.

PC (Program Change)

- Meaning: switch preset.
- Parameters: program number (0-127).
- In practice: change sound / patch (e.g. synth presets).

Start

- Meaning: start the sequencer.
- In practice: starts playback from the beginning.
- Typical use: MIDI Clock sync.

Continue

- Meaning: resume.
- In practice: resumes from the last position instead of the top.

Stop


- Meaning: stop the sequencer.

- In practice: halts playback.

Picking a type for your mapping

- NoteOn / Off -- good for buttons and triggers.
- CC -- ideal for continuous control.
- PC -- mode / preset switching.
- Start / Stop / Continue -- transport control (like Play / Stop).

Footswitch Control

>  Pro feature -- requires an active Songbook Buddy Pro subscription.

Footswitch Control lets a Bluetooth or USB footswitch trigger actions like Play/Pause, Next song or Previous song -- without having to reach for the screen. It lives under Devices → Footswitch.

How it works

Almost every musical footswitch presents itself to the operating system as a keyboard over Bluetooth or USB. Pair it once in the OS settings (Bluetooth / System Settings), and each pedal press sends a key code that Songbook Buddy can map to an app action.

Because we listen to the OS keyboard stream, there is no pairing step inside Songbook Buddy itself -- if the pedal types a character into a text editor on your device, it will also work here.

Compatible devices

- AirTurn (BTi200S / DUO / QUAD / PEDpro) -- tested. Put it in HID Keyboard mode (usually "Mode 2") so each pedal sends a dedicated key.
- PageFlip (Firefly, Dragonfly, Butterfly) -- should work. Uses modifier combinations so four pedals can map to more actions.
- BlueTurn / BTi105 -- should work.
- Elgato Stream Deck Pedal -- works with the Stream Deck app configured to emit keyboard shortcuts.
- Generic USB foot pedals -- any pedal that can be programmed to emit key events.

MIDI footswitches don't use this screen -- map them under Devices → MIDI.

Add a mapping

1. Press + Add to create an empty row.
2. Pick the Action you want (Play/Pause, Next song, ...).
3. Press Learn (the graduation-cap icon) and step on the pedal. The next key press overwrites the row's key + modifiers in place.
4. Repeat for each pedal.

Duplicate (copy icon) clones a row -- handy when two pedals should share an action variant.

Repeated presses of the same pedal are debounced for 80 ms so contact bounce does not fire twice.

Single vs double tap

Each mapping has a Trigger column: Single (default) fires on one press, Double fires when the same key is pressed twice within 300 ms. Add two rows on the same key to cover both -- e.g. on an AirTurn BTi200 S2:

- Left pedal -- Single → Play/Pause, Double → Previous setlist entry
- Right pedal -- Single → Stop (also rewinds), Double → Next setlist entry

If a key has any double-tap mapping, the single-tap action is delayed ~300 ms while we wait to see if a second tap arrives. Keys without a double-tap mapping fire immediately.

The AirTurn sends the same key code on single and double tap in HID Keyboard mode -- the distinction happens inside Songbook Buddy, not in the pedal.

When mappings are ignored

- When Enabled (top of the sidebar) is off.
- When a text field has focus -- so typing into the editor, tag chips or find-bar keeps working. Theater / presentation mode overrides this so you can still page through on stage.

Persistence

Mappings are saved locally on this device and survive app restarts. They are not synced to other devices, because a pedal's key code can differ depending on the pedal's mode and the OS layout.

Chord diagrams

Chords tab

On the Chords tab, pick a chord name and optionally instrument / tuning (for string instruments). The app lists fingerings or piano voicings depending on the instrument.

The diagram size slider in the Chords tab is remembered separately for each instrument (guitar, ukulele, piano, etc.), so you can zoom diagrams for one instrument without changing the others.

The status bar above the chord grid offers two transpose arrows that move the chord root up or down one semitone (so picking C and tapping ▲ shifts the grid to C#); the small C indicator between them resets to C.

Capo (guitar)

When the Chords sidebar instrument is guitar, a Capo slider appears under the tuning row (0-12). Moving it shifts the displayed diagrams as if a capo were clamped at that fret -- the chord name stays the same, but the fingering positions move down so the player still sees the shape they use against the capoed neck. The setting is global to the Chords tab and does not change the chord stored in your songs.

Chord selection level

Under the diagram-size slider the Chord selection dropdown limits how many quality buttons (m, 7, maj7, sus2, ...) show in the chord-name grid:

- Basic -- major / minor only.
- Standard -- adds the everyday extras (7, maj7, m7, sus2, sus4, dim, aug, add9, ...).
- Advanced -- every quality the chord engine recognises.

Pick a level that matches how many shapes you actually use on stage; raising it later does not change any saved fingerings.

Slash chords (bass note)

Use the bass dropdown next to root and quality to build symbols such as G/B or Am7/G. Choose None to clear the bass. The same slash syntax in songs (e.g. [G/B]) is recognised when parsing chord names.

For guitar and ukulele, the fingering list prefers shapes whose lowest note matches the chosen bass when possible; if the default set has no match, the app runs a wider search for suitable shapes.

For piano, suggested voicings use the slash note in the left hand as the bass when one is set.

Root & bass diagram colours (Chords tab)

The switch Root & bass diagram colours in the Chords tab sidebar turns amber (root) and violet (bass) highlights on or off for diagrams on that tab only. When it is off, only chord-tone dots use the theme accent colour, and the legend hides root and bass. Song Render preview and exported PDF follow Preferences → General → Coloured chord diagrams in preview & PDF instead.

Diagram actions

Diagrams may offer actions such as favorite, play a voicing (where audio is available), or assign a shape to the current song.

Filters

Use filters (e.g. common shapes) to reduce the list of fingerings for guitar or ukulele.


Assigning and editing fingerings

Pick a fingering or voicing from the list, then assign it to the current song (diagram actions or the assignment dialog). Assignments are saved in the song's display settings (chord fingering map) for preview and export.

Chord assignment dialog (right-click on a chord, or tap the chord chart)

Tap any chord in the song view (or right-click → Assign... in the editor) to open the chord-assignment dialog. The dialog shows every fingering / voicing that fits the chord name and the current instrument + tuning. You can:

- Filter by common shapes / fret range to thin out long lists.
- Adjust the diagram size with the slider in the toolbar -- left icon = small, right icon = large. Affects the preview within the dialog only.

- Adjust the chord-symbol font size with the second slider (0 % ... 150 %, Pro). The chord-name title above each card grows; the dot/finger glyphs and "Nfr" base-fret label stay at their geometry-driven size. The setting is global -- once you change it, the chord-name label scales the same way everywhere it's drawn (Chords tab cards, the song view's side chord chart, the inline diagrams in the lyric area, and the PDF export). The slider lives in the chord-selection dialog because that's where you can preview the change against a grid of cards; close the dialog and the choice persists.
 - Tap a card to assign that fingering. Double-click a card on desktop to assign and dismiss the dialog in one action.
 - The dialog header has a tune button that jumps straight to Preferences → General → Chord diagram colours so you can adjust the diagram colours without losing your place.
- >  Pro feature -- creating or editing custom diagrams requires an active Songbook Buddy Pro subscription. Viewing and assigning the built-in diagrams works on the free tier; the chord-symbol font slider is also Pro.

Editing or creating a fingering (Pro)

The chord assignment dialog has a small + button (or Edit) that opens the chord editor. There you build or modify a fingering directly on a fretboard:

- Tap a fret to place a finger; tap above the nut to mark a string open (O) or muted (X).
- Drag horizontally across multiple strings at the same fret to draw a barre.
- The finger chips at the bottom let you label each note with a finger number (1-4) -- handy for printed sheets and for showing the user which left-hand finger to use.
- Base fret ◀ / ▶ shifts the visible fretboard window; the diagram automatically shows an "Nfr" label when the lowest fret is above 1.
- Preview plays the chord through the SoundFont engine so you can hear the shape before saving.
- Save writes a custom fingering bound to the chord name + instrument + tuning. Copy clones an existing fingering into a new editable one without modifying the original.
- The eraser button (tooltip Clear diagram) wipes every placed note in one tap so you can start a complex shape from scratch without backing out of the editor.

Built-in (factory) diagrams are read-only; Copy is the way to derive your own editable version. Custom diagrams sync across your devices when cloud sync is configured, and surface alongside the built-in ones in every chord chart in the app.

Format sidebar -- used chords

On the Instrument tab of the song format sidebar, the used chords diagram size applies to the current song instrument and is stored the same way as the Chords-tab size (per instrument name).

Song preview -- distinct chord strip vs lyrics

When distinct chord diagrams are shown beside or above the preview, that strip is for quick assign (tap) and drag into the lyric area. Right-click chord menus apply to chords in the lyric preview, not to that strip (see ChordPro editor help).

Colours in preview vs Chords tab

By default, chord diagrams in the song Render view (inline charts in the lyrics, the side/top chord strip, and the Format → Instrument "used chords" grid), in the assign-chord dialog, and in exported PDF/print use monochrome dots so the page stays calm for performance and printing.

Turn Colored chord diagrams in preview & PDF on under Preferences → General to use root / bass / chord-tone colours in the song preview and in print. On the Chords tab, chord-tone colour is always on; root and bass highlights are optional via Root & bass diagram colours (see above).

The actual root, bass, and chord-tone colours are customizable under Preferences → General → Chord diagram colours, with separate light- and dark-theme values and a Reset to defaults action. The custom colours apply everywhere diagrams are drawn -- Chords tab, song preview, side chart, and exported PDF.

Import & export

Supported song import formats

File → Import (single file), Import folder (recursive scan), and drag and drop onto the song list all accept the same file types:

- ChordPro-style song files -- `.cho`, `.chopro`, `.chordpro`, `.cpm`, `.crd`, `.gcp`, `.pro`, `.txt`. Content is read as ChordPro (or plain text stored as song source).
- Text extraction formats -- `.txt`, `.text`, `.doc`, `.docx`, `.odt`, `.pdf`. The app pulls plain text; when lines look like chords above lyrics, they are converted to ChordPro, otherwise the text is kept as the song body.
- ZIP archives (`.zip`) -- unpacked to a temporary folder; supported files inside are imported recursively (junk entries such as `__MACOSX` are ignored).

Empty files and files with unsupported extensions are skipped. Duplicates (same title and artist as a song already in the library) are skipped and reported in the import summary when applicable.

Importing songs

The Import songs button in the sidebar toolbar (or File → Import songs... on desktop, shortcut ⌘ O / Ctrl+O) opens a single dialog with four mode chips along the top:

- From file -- Pick one supported song file from the system file picker.
- From folder -- Pick a directory; every supported file inside is imported recursively.
- From web -- Fetch a song page from a `http(s)://` link.
- From text -- Paste chords-and-lyrics, ChordPro, or Ultimate-Guitar-style text.

The From web and From text modes are described in detail under Import from other sources below.

Drag and drop still works alongside the dialog -- drop one or more files, folders, or ZIP archives onto the song list to skip the mode picker.

Failed imports may be listed in a dialog; you can sometimes save an error log for support.

Import plan dialog

Every import -- single file, folder, or drag and drop -- first shows an import plan dialog so you stay in control of how each kind of file is handled. Files are grouped into categories -- ChordPro, Plain text, Word / OpenDocument, PDF, Images, and Unsupported -- with a file count per category and an action you can change:

- ChordPro -- Import or Skip.
- Plain text -- Autodetect ChordPro (sniffs the contents and routes to ChordPro when it sees directives or [chord] markers, otherwise treats it as chords over lyrics), Chords over lyrics, or Skip.
- Word / OpenDocument -- Chords over lyrics or Skip.
- PDF -- Ask each time, Extract text, Store as sheet (Pro), or Skip.
- Images -- Store as sheet (Pro) or Skip.

Tick Save these choices as my defaults to reuse the same plan on future imports. If every category is set to Skip, the dialog tells you nothing will be imported.

When a PDF is set to Ask each time, a per-PDF preview dialog opens for each PDF: it shows the extracted text on one side and a first-page sheet preview on the other, with Import as text / Import as sheet buttons. Tick Remember my choice to apply the same decision to the remaining PDFs in the batch.

Import from other sources (web & pasted text)

Switch the Import songs dialog to From web or From text (formerly a separate "Import from other sources..." menu item) to build a song from a web address or from pasted text:

- From web address -- Paste a full `http(s)://` link to a song page and tap Fetch. The page is downloaded and a generic, heuristic extractor reads the title, artist, and the chord/lyric body. It is not tied to any particular website; pages that need JavaScript to show their content, block automated access, or simply are not chord pages will report that no song could be read.
- Paste text -- Paste (or drag in) chords-and-lyrics, ChordPro, or Ultimate-Guitar-style text and tap Convert.

Either way you get an editable Preview -- Title, Artist, Album, and Comments fields plus the converted ChordPro, which you can fix up before saving. A warning appears if a song with the same title and artist is already in your library. Tap Add to library to save it.

You must tick the legal acknowledgement checkbox before the feature is usable: you are solely responsible for ensuring any imported content is used lawfully and with proper authorization.

Importing chord fingerings

On the Chords tab, use Import chords in the status bar to open the Import chord fingerings dialog. Pick a ChordPro Buddy .txt export and the app adds any new shapes to your library (standard tuning); shapes you already have are skipped. Tap Format help in the dialog to see the exact one-chord-per-line text format used by these files -- positions use x for muted, 0 for open, a fret number, and an optional D to mark a default voicing.

Sheet songs across devices

Sheet songs (PDF / image-backed scores) sync the ChordPro row through normal cloud sync, but the binary file is uploaded and downloaded separately (Pro Cloud), end-to-end encrypted with your sync passphrase. When you open a sheet whose file hasn't reached the current device yet, the sheet viewer shows a friendly placeholder instead of failing:


- Sheet not on this device yet -- open the song on the device where it was imported so the file can sync, then tap Check again here.
- Downloading sheet... -- the encrypted attachment is being fetched (only happens once per device).
- Could not download sheet -- shows the underlying error and a Try again button.

For bulk repair (e.g. after restoring a backup, or after opting in to attachment sync), see Sync & settings → Sheet attachment sync for the Download missing sheet attachments and Upload missing sheet attachments actions in Preferences → About.

Export / backup

Use Preferences and the Maintenance tab for database backup / restore and layout tools. Print and PDF flows export formatted output rather than raw ChordPro in most cases -- see Print & PDF.

Print & PDF

>  Pro feature -- requires an active Songbook Buddy Pro subscription.

Opening the print dialog

With a song selected that has content, choose Print from the status bar or File menu (desktop). The dialog shows a live multi-page preview on the right and options on the left. Use Print, Save PDF, or Share when you are satisfied.

Layout options

- **Fonts** -- Body text uses each section's display font from song settings. Downloaded fonts and fonts added from this computer (desktop, via Preferences → Fonts) are embedded in the PDF when they are registered, matching the preview when possible.
- **Visibility** -- Toggle title, artist, key / capo, section headers, chords, and lyrics in the exported layout (independent of what you see in the editor preview).
- **Monochrome chords** -- Optional switch below Lyrics in the print dialog: when on, inline chord names and labels above diagrams use ink tones; diagram dots stay monochrome (ignores Colored chord diagrams). When off, chord names use the brand accent colour; dot colours still follow Colored chord diagrams in preview & PDF in Preferences → General.
- **Chord charts** -- Choose where diagrams appear (for example off, top of line, top or bottom of the song, or repeated on every page). The preview reflects your choice. Diagram dot colours depend on Monochrome chords (print dialog) and Colored chord diagrams in preview & PDF (Preferences → General), as described above.
- **Columns** -- One to four columns on each sheet (where supported). With two or more columns, a ChordPro {cb}, {column_break}, or {colb} on its own directive line -- or embedded in a lyric/chord line -- moves the following text to the next column at that point (after the last column, the next break starts the next page).
- **Paper size** -- A4, US Letter, or US Legal. The first-run default is picked per-locale (Letter in North America, A4 elsewhere); your choice is remembered.
- **Page** -- Portrait or landscape orientation for the selected paper size; the preview and exported PDF use the selection.
- **Header / footer** -- Optional custom header and footer lines; the footer can include automatic page numbers on the right. A Header separator line switch draws a thin rule between the header and the song body -- turn it off for a cleaner look or for header-less prints.

Print scale

Scale runs from 20% to 200% and resizes lyrics, chords, spacing, and diagrams together so the PDF stays consistent.

Chord size sliders (independent)

Two extra sliders in the print dialog let you fine-tune chord rendering on top of the global print scale, and they are completely independent of the song-settings diagram-size slider:

- Chord diagrams scale -- visible whenever any chord diagrams are shown in the PDF. Affects the inline diagrams that appear above the lyric lines.
- Chord chart size -- only visible when chord charts (the cluster of "used chords" reference cards) are placed somewhere other than top-of-line, e.g. top of the page, bottom of the song, etc. Lets you print larger reference cards without inflating the inline diagrams.

Both sliders snap to whole percent and apply only to the PDF output -- your on-screen layout is untouched.

You can set it in three ways:

1. Slider -- Drag in 1% steps. The preview refreshes when you release the thumb.
2. Number box -- Type a whole percent (e.g. 115), then press Enter or leave the field. Values are clamped to 20-200; the % appears inside the field.
3. Step down / step up -- - and + change scale by 1% each tap.

Print scale is only for PDF and print output; it does not change the on-screen song display scale in the editor.

Requirements

Printing typically requires an available printer or PDF-capable system service. On some platforms, Save as PDF is offered by the system print sheet.

Saved print layouts

The print dialog can store and recall named print presets so you don't have to re-tick the same combination of visibility, columns, scale, paper, margins, and header/footer options every time.

- **Save** -- once you have the dialog set the way you want, tap Save and give the preset a short name (max 12 characters). The button tooltip shows: Save the current Print/PDF settings as a named preset (max 12 characters). Syncs across your devices.
- **Load** -- tap Load layout to apply any saved preset. The button tooltip shows: Apply a saved Print/PDF preset (visibility, columns, scale, paper, margins). Loading a preset only changes print settings -- it does not touch song content or display layouts.
- **Synced across devices (Pro Cloud)** -- print layouts ride the normal cloud-sync channel (encrypted with your sync passphrase), so a preset you save on the desktop is available on your tablet and phone.

Sets and advanced options

Depending on version, additional targets (e.g. setlists) or layout presets may appear in the print UI -- follow the on-screen sections and previews.

Sync & settings

Preferences overview

Open Settings (gear in the status bar) or Preferences from the app menu. The dialog title bar also shows your current account state -- your email plus -- online when signed in to cloud sync, or not signed in otherwise -- so you can confirm at a glance which account is active before changing anything.


The dialog has several tabs:

- General -- Appearance (theme mode and language) is always shown at the top; below it are foldable sections -- UI, Behaviour, Chord diagram colours, and Help -- described under General: appearance & themes and General: behaviour below. (Narrow-phone landscape vs theater portrait is described under Getting started.)
- Fonts -- Pro: manage downloaded Google Fonts, browse the Google Fonts Library, and on desktop add font folders so `.ttf` / `.otf` from your computer appear in Songbook Buddy. Lists fonts you activated from This computer. Print and PDF embed the same font registry as the on-screen song when those faces are available.
- Sync & Share -- Appears when cloud sync is configured in your build: account, sync frequency, and status. If sync is not configured, this tab may be hidden or explain that sync is unavailable.
- Maintenance -- Foldable sections for Database (backup, restore, location), Layout management, Instrument (bulk-assign), App debug logging, and the destructive Danger zone (see below).
- About -- Version, credits, links to this guide and the PDF manual.

General: appearance & themes

The always-visible Appearance block sets the theme mode (System / Light / Dark) and the language.

The foldable UI section holds:

- UI scale -- applies app-wide to text and control density.
 - Light theme / Dark theme -- pick a colour theme for each mode (Songbook Buddy-light/dark, solarized, terra, dracula, one, optimistic, everforest, ocean, deepsea, ...). The picker shows palette preview dots.
- >  Pro feature -- selectable colour themes require Songbook Buddy Pro; non-Pro users get the default Songbook Buddy palette.

The foldable Chord diagram colours section sets custom colours for the root note, bass note, and chord-tone dots used in every chord diagram -- Chords tab, song preview, side chart, and exported PDF -- each with a separate light-theme and dark-theme value, and a Reset to defaults action.

General: behaviour

The foldable Behaviour section holds:

- Auto-save -- Save instantly, Save after a pause (with a delay dropdown), or Don't save automatically. See ChordPro editor → Saving for what each mode does.
- Keep screen on in theater mode -- on by default; see Preview & playback.
- Theater advance mode -- Continuous autoscroll, Automatic page-turn, or Manual page-turn; see Preview & playback → Theater advance mode.

Pro and Pro Cloud

Songbook Buddy ships two paid entitlements. Both are tied to your Sync account so they follow you to every device -- sign in before purchasing.

- Pro -- a one-time purchase that unlocks all the offline Pro features: tags, setlists, ChordPro power tools, MIDI/footswitch control, font management, custom colour themes, full print/PDF, and so on. Never expires.
- Pro Cloud -- an annual subscription on top of Pro that adds the online features: Band mode, unlimited devices (no 3-device fair-use cap), real-time sync across your devices, collaboration & sharing with bandmates, and future online features. Requires Pro to activate; if your Pro Cloud subscription expires, the base Pro features stay available.

The Pro tab in the sidebar (lock glyph) opens the Upgrade hub where you can see your current status, pick a plan, restore purchases, or pay with PayPal.

Cloud sync

When the app is configured for cloud sync, account and sync controls appear under Preferences and Sync now may appear in the menu bar (under Account) and in the status bar. You can trigger a manual sync and inspect status there.

If sync is not configured, those options stay hidden or show a short explanation -- your library remains local only.

Once you sign in to your account, the session is remembered on disk and restored on every launch, so the

Account screen stays signed in without you having to log in again.

Sync interval and manual permission prompts

Preferences → Sync & Share → Sync interval decides how often the app syncs on its own:

- Manual -- ask for sync (default for manual users) -- the app never syncs in the background, but when something important happens (sign-in, restore from backup, coming back online with pending changes, unlocking encryption, ...) a small dialog asks Sync now? with Sync now / Not now / Never ask buttons.
- Manual -- never ask -- same as above but suppresses the prompts. Use this if you only ever want to sync from the Sync now button or ⌘ S / Ctrl+Shift+S.
- Every 5 min / hour / once a day -- automatic full sync on that cadence, plus syncs that follow connectivity changes, local writes, and the same trigger points the manual prompts listen to.

Live band sessions, invite redemption, setlist publishing, and outbox flushes still run on demand even under Manual only -- the interval only gates the periodic full cycle.

Failed sync items (dead letter)

Preferences → About → Failed sync items lists any change that exhausted its retry budget on the server (for example, an item rejected by row-level security, or a row that does not validate). Each entry shows the table, record id, and last error, with two actions:

- Retry -- moves the change back into the outbox with a fresh retry budget. Use this once you believe the underlying cause is fixed (you upgraded to Pro, you accepted a band invite, the row was repaired, ...).
- Discard -- drops the dead-letter entry. The local copy of the row is not touched; only the unsynced change record is removed.

The panel updates live as the engine retries and finishes items.

Sheet attachment sync (Pro Cloud)

For sheet songs (PDF / image-backed scores), the ChordPro row syncs through normal cloud sync, but the binary file is uploaded and downloaded separately, end-to-end encrypted with your sync passphrase. Two one-shot actions in Preferences → About keep things in line when devices drift:

- Download missing sheet attachments -- Scans for sheet songs that have a remote pointer but no local file on this device and downloads them from the cloud. The result snackbar reports `<downloaded>` downloaded, `<failed>` failed, `<skipped>` already present.
- Upload missing sheet attachments -- Scans this device for sheet songs whose binary hasn't made it to the cloud yet (typically: imported before cloud sheet sync was enabled, or interrupted at upload time) and uploads them so your other devices can fetch them. The result reports `<uploaded>` uploaded, `<already in cloud>` already up to date, `<missing locally>` with no local file, `<failed>` failed.

The app also runs an automatic upload sweep after sign-in to self-heal anything that was added while you were signed out. Open a sheet on its original device if it can't be found anywhere on the cloud.

When a sheet hasn't reached this device yet, the sheet viewer now shows a friendly Sheet not on this device yet placeholder with a Check again button instead of failing to render -- and while a download is in progress it shows Downloading sheet.... A failed download surfaces the underlying error and a Try again button.

Complete resync (repair)

In Preferences → Sync & Share, open the Advanced section, then use Complete resync. It rebuilds the cloud from this device: your entire synced library for this account is deleted on the server, then your local database is uploaded again. It is not routine "quick sync" and should only be used when you have sync problems between your devices.

Tapping the button now opens a Run complete resync? dialog that spells out exactly what will happen (cloud library deleted, this device's library uploaded, cloud-only items lost) before any data is touched. Confirming shows a Complete resync progress dialog while the rebuild runs -- keep the app open until it finishes. When it's done you get one of:

- Complete resync finished -- your cloud library now matches this device; open Songbook Buddy on your other devices and tap Sync to apply the same library.
- Complete resync failed -- the dialog shows the underlying error and a short checklist (check connection, sign out/in for encrypted libraries, restore a backup, send a diagnostic report). The button is also disabled with a short reason when cloud sync isn't configured, you aren't signed in, or another sync is already in progress.

Other devices: Anything that existed only in the cloud and not locally on the device where you run complete resync is removed from the server by that step. Other devices with the same account will largely reflect their current local state on the next sync. In general, sync behaves like last write wins.

Library recovery (all devices)

Use this when several devices signed into the same account no longer show the same library and you want one device's backup to become the truth everywhere. This is a deliberate rollback: edits you made after the backup date on any device are discarded for your owned songs, setlists, tags, chord shapes, and similar account-owned data.

Before you start

- Pick the authoritative device -- the one whose library is correct right now.
- On that device, take a fresh backup (Preferences → Maintenance → Database → Backup) even if you already have an older file. If the rollback is a mistake, that fresh file is your escape hatch.
- Close Songbook Buddy on other devices while you work, or at least do not edit the library until every step below is finished.
- Band sharing: restore replaces your library baseline on the cloud. Songs and setlists owned by other band members on the server are not rolled back to match your old backup file. After sync, your devices show your restored library plus current shared band content from the server (which may differ from what was in the backup snapshot).

What this procedure does

Step	Effect
Manual -- never ask on all devices	Stops automatic sync from running while you wipe and restore.
Wipe local database on all devices	Removes each device's local copy so nothing "newer" fights the backup.
Restore from backup on the authoritative device	Loads the backup file, then uploads that library to the cloud (restore re-sync).
Complete resync on the same device	Extra repair pass: wipes your cloud library for this account and uploads the local file again. Use it when restore alone did not settle sync.
Sync now on other devices	Each device downloads the new cloud baseline.
Restore your usual sync setting	Turns automatic sync back on.

Step-by-step (verified workflow)

1. Authoritative device -- Decide which install has the library you want (songs, chords, setlists, etc.).
2. Backup -- On that device: Preferences → Maintenance → Database → Backup. Save the `.db` file somewhere safe (cloud drive, USB, ...).
3. Every device (same account):
 - Preferences → Sync & Share → set sync to Manual -- never ask.
 - Preferences → Maintenance → Danger zone → Wipe local database → confirm. The app exits; that device now has an empty local library.
4. Authoritative device only:
 - Preferences → Maintenance → Database → Restore from backup → choose the file from step 2 → confirm the warning. Wait until restore and cloud sync finish (success message, sync indicator idle).
 - Preferences → Sync & Share → Advanced → Complete resync → confirm → wait until it finishes successfully.
5. Each other device -- Open the app, sign in if needed, run Sync now (menu Account or status bar) and wait until the library matches and sync is idle.
6. All devices -- Preferences → Sync & Share → set sync back to how you normally use it (e.g. every 5 minutes, once a day, ...).

While sync is manual

If sync is Manual -- ask for sync instead of never ask, the app may prompt you to sync after restore or sign-in -- accept those prompts on the authoritative device so the backup reaches the cloud before you open other devices.

If something goes wrong

- Restore or complete resync failed -- Read the error dialog; check network and that you are signed in. Do not edit on other devices until the authoritative device reports success.
- Another device still looks wrong -- Run Sync now again on that device after the authoritative device finished step 4. Avoid Complete resync on a follower unless support asked you to -- that would upload that device's (possibly empty or stale) library to the cloud.
- Wrong backup chosen -- Restore the fresh backup you took in "Before you start" if you still have it.

This built-in backup / restore flow is not the same as a future Data repair export (`.sbb-repair.zip`) described in maintenance planning -- that tool is separate and not part of this chapter.

Maintenance: database

The Maintenance tab's Database section shows where the app stores its SQLite database file (`songbook.db`) on your device. That file holds songs, ChordPro text, chord library data, and other app state. Drift persists.

On Windows and Linux, the database and the `downloaded_fonts/` tree live in a Songbook Buddy subfolder of your Documents folder; older installs that kept these files loose in Documents are migrated into that subfolder automatically on first launch after upgrade. iOS, Android, and macOS already use a sandboxed app-data location and are unchanged.

- Use the displayed path if you need to inspect or copy the live DB (advanced users).
- Prefer the built-in Backup action for a safe snapshot rather than copying the file while the app might be writing to it.

Backup runs a WAL checkpoint so the on-disk database is consistent, then lets you save a copy of that file (e.g. `songbook_backup_YYYY-MM-DD.db`) wherever you choose -- suitable for archiving or moving to another machine.

Restore replaces the local database from a backup file you select. A confirmation dialog spells out that the current library will be replaced -- read it before proceeding. On iOS, the file picker accepts files of any type (because iOS does not recognise `.db` as a known type) and Songbook Buddy then verifies the SQLite header before importing, so pick the `.db` file you previously saved and the app will reject anything that is not a real Songbook Buddy backup.

When cloud sync is configured, the app follows the restore with a one-shot post-restore sync: every server-side row owned by this account is removed, the restored local library is pushed back up, and other signed-in devices converge to this backup on their next sync. Songs and setlists owned by other band members on the server are not rolled back. For recovering all devices at once, see Library recovery (all devices) above.

Maintenance: instrument

The Instrument section has Assign instrument & tuning -- a bulk action that overwrites the instrument and tuning on all songs, or on songs matching a tag filter. The tag filter is tri-state (tap a tag to include, again to exclude, once more to clear), and a live count shows how many songs will be affected. Existing per-song chord-fingering overrides for the previous instrument are cleared. Confirm the dialog before proceeding.

Maintenance: layout management

These actions affect how songs are shown (fonts, scale, diagram options, etc.), not the ChordPro text itself.

- Reset all songs' layout -- Clears per-song display overrides so songs fall back to your default song appearance (you can still tune defaults in song settings).

- Apply layout to all songs... -- If you have saved display layouts (layout presets stored in the app), pick one and apply its settings to every song in the library. If no layouts are saved, the button explains that none are available.

Confirm dialogs explain what will change.

Maintenance: danger zone

Use extra care here; actions may be irreversible after confirmation.

- Reset all app settings to defaults -- Restores interface preferences to their factory defaults: theme, language, auto-save, sidebar layout, chord-tab options, last-open song, print dialog defaults, saved window position (desktop), import folder shortcuts, and similar SharedPreferences data. It does not delete songs, ChordPro text, the chord shape library, sync account data, or anything stored in the SQLite database.
- Delete archived songs -- Permanently removes songs you previously archived from the library.
- Wipe local database -- Signs you out, closes the database, deletes local song files, and re-seeds the bundled chord data. A Wiping local database progress dialog stays up for the few seconds it takes; afterwards you see Local database wiped (sign in again to pull your library back from the cloud, or restore from a backup) or, if something failed, Wipe failed with the underlying error.

Read each confirmation carefully before accepting.


App debug logging (troubleshooting)

The Maintenance tab also offers App debug log level (None, Basic, Advanced). When enabled, the app prints anonymized diagnostic lines (prefix [AppDebug]) to the developer console -- useful for edge cases and support. For step-by-step instructions, privacy notes, and where to see the output, open the help chapter App debug logging in this guide (search "debug" in the help search box).

Help and manual


This user guide is built into the app. The PDF user manual bundles the same topics in one file for offline reading or printing outside the app. A matching PDF is bundled for each supported UI language when available; if a file is missing, the app falls back to English.

Band Mode

>  Pro feature -- requires an active Songbook Buddy Pro subscription.

Band Mode lets you organize bands, manage musical line-ups, assign setlists to a band, share a band with other Pro accounts via invite codes, and use live-session sync to keep everyone on the same song while you play.

Where Band Mode lives

- The Bands tab (sidebar icon: ). The sidebar lists your bands; the centre area shows the selected band's detail panel on the left and an Artist picker on the right.
- A Band dropdown in each setlist's expandable details lets you assign that setlist to a band (or clear the assignment).

The hybrid member model

A band's roster is a list of members. Every member has these fields:

- Display name (required) -- the name shown in this band. The same person can appear under different names in different bands.
- Artist link (optional) -- point a member at an entry from your Artists library. Useful when the member also writes or performs songs you have in the library -- songs by that artist will then connect back to this band member. Members without an artist link appear in italic and with a music-note icon.
- Role / instrument (optional, free text) -- e.g. "Vocals", "Bass", "Keys". The app recognises instruments in the text and shows matching glyphs in front of the name. Separate multiple instruments with , , ; , / , & , + , | or the words and / und -- one icon is drawn per recognised entry. Recognised categories include vocals, piano/keys/organ/synth, guitar, bass, drums/percussion, strings (violin, cello, viola), and wind (saxophone, trumpet, flute). Unknown words are skipped.

This model is deliberately hybrid:

- For musicians who already exist as Artists in your library, link to the artist so cross-references stay tight.
- For session players, guests, or anyone you don't want to track as an Artist, just type a display name. No artist link needed.

Members are stored locally only. Nothing leaves your device unless you have cloud sync configured for your account.



Adding members

Open the Bands tab and select a band.

- Add yourself: at the top of the picker you'll find a Me section pre-filled with your account's display name and email address. Click + to create an Artist entry and a band member for yourself in one step. Your row shows a crown icon and the (you) label. Editing this member exposes an email field -- it is used for invite flows.
- From the Artist picker on the right: type in the search box, then click the + icon next to a row to add that artist as a member with the artist's name copied to the display name. Artists already in the band show a check mark instead.
- By name only: click Add member by name only at the bottom of the picker. Use this for musicians not tracked as Artists.
- Through the Add member action: click Add member in the action bar at the bottom-left of the band detail. This opens the same dialog and lets you fill in name, optional artist link, and role.

The save button enables only when the display name is non-empty.

Editing and removing members

- Hover (or tap) a member row to reveal the edit  and remove  icons.
- Edit opens the same dialog with current values. You can change the name, change or clear the artist link (use (no artist link) at the top of the dropdown to clear), or change the role.
- Remove soft-deletes the member after a confirmation dialog. The member is hidden from the list immediately but can be restored from your sync history if you have cloud sync.

Reordering with drag & drop

Member order is freely sortable and persisted locally.

- Grab a row by the drag handle on the left and drop it at the target position. A blue bar above the drop target row marks the insertion slot; a blue bar at the bottom of the list marks "drop at end".
- While dragging, a small blue pill with the member name follows the pointer -- the same look as reordering setlist songs.
- Dropping a row outside the list removes the member. As with the trash-icon path, a SnackBar with Undo appears so you can restore it.

Editing the band itself

The band header shows the band name as an editable title (commits on blur). Use the ▼ chevron to expand the Description field -- also commits on blur.

Use Delete band... in the action bar to remove the band. Songs and Artists are not affected -- the band and its membership rows are simply soft-deleted.

Assigning setlists to a band

Open any setlist, expand the details (▼), and pick a band from the Band dropdown. The setlist remains usable as before -- there is no automatic filtering. Choose (no band) to clear the assignment.

Filtering setlists by band

The sidebar toolbar on the Setlists tab has a Band filter button (group icon) next to the archive toggle. Pick from:

- All bands -- no restriction (default).
- No band -- show only setlists that are not assigned to any band.
- A specific band -- show only its setlists.

When a filter is active the button is highlighted in blue and the band name appears inline next to the icon. The filter only affects the sidebar list and stacks independently from search and archive visibility.

Sharing a band

A band can be shared with other Pro accounts. Sharing is opt-in -- a band stays local until you create an invite for it.

Inviting someone

1. Open the band and click Create invite in the action bar (visible if you are owner or admin).
2. Pick a role for the invited account (admin / member / viewer) and a TTL (how long the code stays valid: 1 h / 24 h / 7 d / 30 d).
3. The dialog shows a 6-character invite code in the format XXX-XXX. Copy it with the Copy button and share it through any channel you trust (messenger, mail, voice).

The code is one-time-use. Once redeemed it expires immediately. Codes are short, so they are not enough to brute-force -- there is also rate-limiting on redemptions.

Joining a band

1. On the Bands tab, click the Join a band icon (arrow-into-box) in the sidebar toolbar.
2. Type or paste the 6-character code (the dash is optional, case is ignored). Submit.
3. On success the band appears in your sidebar and is selected automatically.

If the code is invalid, expired, already used, or you would be inviting yourself, the dialog tells you why without leaking which case applies beyond what the server allows.

Roles and what they can do

Role	Edit band	Edit members	Edit setlists	Delete setlists	Create invites	Change roles	Remove members
Owner	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Admin	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Member	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
Viewer	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

Only the owner can delete the band itself, change other members' roles, or be transferred. Anyone except the owner can leave the band themselves through Leave band... in the action bar.

Managing members of a shared band

The App members section in the band detail panel lists every account that has access. Each row shows the member's role chip. As owner you can:

- Change a role by clicking the chip and picking a new role from the dropdown.
- Remove a member with the trash icon next to the chip -- the kicked account loses access on its next sync.

Admins can also remove members but cannot promote or demote.

Privacy: no user enumeration

Band Mode never exposes "find user by email" or "browse all accounts" controls. Sharing works exclusively through invite codes generated by the band owner or an admin. The app never confirms whether a given email or name has an account -- by design.

Sync and conflict handling

Band Mode rows participate in the same local sync outbox as the rest of the app. For shared bands, conflicts are resolved with Last Writer Wins at the field level:

- Two devices editing different fields of the same band or member merge cleanly.
- Two devices editing the same field within a short window: the most recent write wins. The other edit is replaced.
- For member reorderings done in parallel, earlier moves may be lost. If you and a bandmate both reshuffle the same setlist offline, only the last reshuffle survives once you reconnect. Practical advice: large reorderings should be done by one person at a time when possible.

Band songs vs. your own library

Songs that appear in a shared band's setlist are band songs -- their content (title, artist, lyrics, chords, tempo, key, capo) lives encrypted on the server under the band's key and is shared with everyone in the band. Per-user fields (transpose, display, playback settings, your private notes, your rating) stay local to your account.

The list-row icons tell you which is which:

- Lock icon -- this song is a band song you do not own. You can view it, transpose it for yourself, change your own display / playback settings, but you cannot edit the title, lyrics, or chord chart. Only the song's owner (or a band owner / admin) can.
- No lock -- this is your own song, even if it appears in a band setlist.

Copy to my library

If you want to keep working on a band song after you leave the band, or branch off your own version, open the song and use Copy to my library in the action menu. The app creates a personal song row with the current shared content. Your edits then go to your local copy and are no longer visible to the rest of the band.

Leaving a band

Use Leave band... in the action bar (visible to anyone except the owner). On confirm:

- The band, its members, and its setlists disappear from your sidebar.

- Any band songs that were only reachable through that band are converted into personal songs in your own library so you don't lose them. They keep their last-known content; your previous transpose / display / playback overrides come along too.
- Your former bandmates keep the band and its content unchanged.

The owner cannot leave their own band; transfer ownership first or delete the band.

Common error messages

The error snackbar surfaces a short message with a hint at what went wrong. Most of them resolve themselves on retry; the ones below mean something more specific:

- Only the band owner can do this -- actions like deleting a band or changing other members' roles are owner-only.
- Only an owner or admin can do this -- creating invites and adding members.
- Read-only -- only the band's owner or admins can edit this setlist -- Phase C rule for shared band setlists.
- Invite code is invalid or already used -- ask for a fresh code.
- Invite code has expired -- same; ask the band owner / admin to generate a new one.
- You can't redeem your own invite -- generate one for someone else, or join from a different account.
- Both accounts need a Pro subscription for band sharing -- the inviter and the joiner each need Pro.
- Too many attempts. Please try again later. -- short rate-limit window; wait a minute or two.
- Encryption is locked. Sign in again to unlock band content. -- the per-band key wasn't unwrapped on this device. Sign out and sign back in with email + password (not just biometric resume).
- Network problem. Please check your internet connection. -- sync continues from where it left off once you're back online.

Live session sync

While the band is rehearsing or performing together, one member can act as leader and broadcast their current setlist position and playback phase to everyone else.

- Who can start: any member with role member, admin, or owner. Viewers see the status but cannot start.
- Starting: open the band detail panel and tap Start live session. You become the leader.
- Status line: other members see "Live: leader-id is leading". A small dot turns blue while playback is running and grey while paused.

- Following the leader: the Follow leader switch is on by default. While it is on, your local app jumps to the song the leader picks. Turn it off to scroll independently.
- Snap to leader: when you have followed off, a Snap to leader button appears. Tap it to jump back to whatever the leader is currently on.
- Leader looks offline: the leader sends a heartbeat every few seconds. If nothing usable arrives for roughly 45 seconds, the status line switches to Leader appears offline. If you are an owner or admin you can then tap Take over to claim leadership.
- Reliability: Songbook Buddy also refreshes session and participant data from the server in the background so who is online stays plausible when many devices join or realtime updates are delayed.
- Ending: the leader taps End session when done.

Count-in (lead time) sync

If the leader has a lead time configured for the song (count-in seconds before playback actually starts), followers no longer start playing immediately. Instead they enter the same lead-in countdown locally -- adjusted for network latency by the timestamp the leader broadcasts -- and roll into running at the same wall-clock moment as the leader. This works even if your own song lead time is set to 0; the leader's value drives the count-in for everyone.

Setlist filter mirror

While following, the Setlist filter dropdown on your Songs sidebar automatically mirrors the leader's active setlist. You can flip through the leader's setlist songs in the sidebar without switching to the Setlists tab. Turning Follow leader off detaches your filter; you can pick another setlist or clear the filter entirely. Snapping back to the leader re-engages the mirror.

What is not synced: audio, MIDI ticks, or precise tempo. Each device runs its own playback timer; the leader updates only correct the anchor song and phase. Slight drift between devices is normal.

App debug logging

The app can record optional technical notes while it runs. These notes are anonymized: they do not include song titles, lyrics, passwords, or other personal content -- only coarse information such as counts, success or failure, and short category labels.

When to change the level

- None is the normal setting. Leave it there for everyday use.
- Turn on Basic or Advanced only when support asks you to, or while you are working with support on a specific problem and they need more detail.
- Advanced adds the most detail. Use it only when support requests it, not for routine use.
- When you are finished, set the level back to None.

How to set the debug level

1. Open Settings (gear in the status bar) or Preferences from the app menu.
2. Open the Maintenance tab.
3. Under APP DEBUG LOGGING, find App debug log level (labels may be translated in your language).
4. Choose None, Basic, or Advanced.
5. Restart the app after changing the level.

How to send a bug report

1. Open Help → Send bug report..., or open Preferences, go to the About tab, and tap Report a problem...
2. Choose the category that best matches the issue. If you can, add a short note under What happened? -- that helps support reproduce the problem.
3. Your email is optional but useful if support needs to reply.
4. Tap Open email.... Your mail app opens with the diagnostic information already filled in. Send the message from there -- you do not need to copy or paste anything yourself.

If no mail app can be opened, the app will show a short message explaining the next step.

Privacy

Diagnostics are designed not to include your song text or other private content. If you ever see something that looks sensitive, do not share it publicly -- contact support through the usual channel.

Keyboard shortcuts & hotkeys

This chapter lists shortcuts available when you use a physical keyboard. On macOS and iOS (with an external keyboard), the primary modifier is ⌘ (Command). On Windows and Linux it is Ctrl. Combinations below show ⌘ / Ctrl interchangeably as in the rest of the app.

Many desktop actions also appear in the menu bar (File, Edit, Playback, Transpose, Help, etc.). Shortcuts are not active while focus is in a text field -- except where noted (editor find bar, ChordPro source editor).

Edit

Shortcut	Action
⌘ F / Ctrl+F	If the ChordPro source field or editor find bar is focused -- and the Songs tab find UI is allowed (song selected, not playing/presenting): open Find & Replace in the editor. Otherwise: switch to the Songs tab and focus the sidebar search field (filter songs, setlists, or bands depending on the tab).
⌘ F	Open Find (find bar, replace row optional) in the ChordPro editor when the same Songs-tab / playback conditions as above apply. (Apple platforms.)
Ctrl+H	Find & Replace in the ChordPro editor when the source editor or find bar is focused (Windows / Linux).
⌘ G / Ctrl+G	Find next match.
⌘ G / Ctrl+Shift+G	Find previous match.
⌘ Enter	In the find bar, jump to the previous match (Enter alone finds the next match).
Esc	Close the find bar (when it has focus). Esc also closes the Preferences dialog.
⌘ E / Ctrl+E	Toggle the ChordPro editor panel (split). Requires the Songs tab, a selected song, and no active playback or presentation. Same as Edit → Toggle editor.

Undo / redo (two different meanings)

- ChordPro source editor focused -- ⌘ Z / Ctrl+Z undoes text edits; ⌘⇧ Z or ⌘ Y / Ctrl+Shift+Z or Ctrl+Y redoes text. Standard editor behavior.
- Editor not focused (e.g. after dragging chords on the preview) -- ⌘ Z / ⌘⇧ Z / ⌘ Y (Ctrl equivalents) apply session undo/redo for those chord-layout changes on the current song.

The status bar and Edit menu show Undo / Redo when session undo is available for the selected song.

Playback

Shortcut	Action
Space	Play or pause autoscroll / playback when a song is loaded. Ignored while a text field is focused so you can type spaces.
Space twice quickly	Double-tap Space within about 400 ms: stops playback and scrolls back (same idea as Stop and scroll back in the menu). A single Space still toggles play/pause if the second press comes later.
Space / → / Page Down	In a theater page-turn advance mode: turn to the next page. (Double-tap Space still stops and scrolls back.)
← / Page Up	In a theater page-turn advance mode: turn to the previous page.
⌘ T / Ctrl+T	Toggle presentation / theater mode (requires a song with body text).
⌘ . / Ctrl+.	Stop and scroll back (like the status bar control). Ignored while typing in a text field.

Manage





Song and library operations, transposition, and file actions.

Song list (Songs tab, list has focus)









Shortcut	Action
↑ / ↓	Move selection to previous/next song. Not used when ⌘ or Ctrl is held -- those combinations are reserved for transpose (see below).

Page Up / Page Down	Jump selection by about one viewport of rows.
Home / End	Jump to first / last song in the filtered list.

Transpose (song with content; ignored in text fields)

Shortcut	Action
 ↑ / Ctrl+Up	Transpose up one semitone (within app limits).
 ↓ / Ctrl+Down	Transpose down one semitone.
 0 / Ctrl+0	In the ChordPro editor (panel open, chord song): Mark as Chord -- wrap the selection in `[]`, or insert an empty `[]` at the caret. Everywhere else: Reset transpose to 0 (original).
 ↓ / Ctrl+Shift+Down	Reset transpose to 0 (alternate, matches Transpose menu).

File & app

Shortcut	Action
 N / Ctrl+N	New song.
 O / Ctrl+O	Import songs -- opens the unified import dialog with From file, From folder, From web, and From text mode chips.
 E / Ctrl+Shift+E	Export ChordPro (`.pro`) for the current song (non-empty ChordPro body).
 E / Ctrl+Alt+Shift+E	Export library as a .zip of ChordPro files.
 P / Ctrl+P	Print / PDF for the current song (non-empty ChordPro body).
 , / Ctrl+,	Open Preferences (on macOS  ; on Windows/Linux Ctrl+Comma).
 S / Ctrl+Shift+S	Sync now (only when cloud sync is configured and not already syncing).

More

Preview display scale (selected song)

Shortcut	Action
<code>⌘ + / Ctrl++</code>	Scale up one step. Routes by focus: while the ChordPro source editor has the cursor it increases the editor font scale; in layout or theater view (no text field focused) it increases the song display scale.
<code>⌘ - / Ctrl+-</code>	Scale down one step, with the same focus routing as <code>⌘ +</code> .
<code>⌘ → / Ctrl+Right</code>	Alternate zoom in for the song display scale. Ignored while a text field is focused, so arrow keys still work for cursor navigation inside the editor.
<code>⌘ ← / Ctrl+Left</code>	Alternate zoom out for the song display scale (same caveat as above).

Song-display stepping matches the Song settings scale and pinch on the preview on phones. Large tablets use the status bar or these shortcuts -- not pinch on the preview. The editor font scale is the same control as Preferences → Editor font size. Both ranges are capped by the app.

Dialogs

- Esc closes Preferences when the dialog is key-focused.
- Esc closes Find / chord dialogs where the tooltip shows it.

Platform notes

- iPad / iPhone with hardware keyboard: shortcuts follow the ⌘ column where the app exposes them.
- If a shortcut does nothing, check that the right tab is active, a song is selected, playback is not overriding the editor, or that focus is not inside a TextField.

OS-standard window & app shortcuts

These are wired through the platform menus so the OS provides the exact behaviour you expect.

macOS

Shortcut	Action
----------	--------

⌘ H	Hide Songbook Buddy.
⌘ H	Hide other applications.
⌘ M	Minimize the window.
⌘ F	Toggle native full-screen. (Different from ⌘ T Theater mode -- that one is in-app.)
⌘ Q	Quit the application.
⌘ W	Close the topmost dialog or popup. With nothing on top to close, this is a no-op (the app is single-window).
⌘ S	Save the open song. Under Save instantly / Save after a pause the edit is usually already on disk, so this flushes anything pending and shows a brief "Saved" toast. Under Don't save automatically this is the real save. Save All (every song with unsaved changes) is in the File menu.
⌘ ?	Open the in-app Help screen.

Windows / Linux

Shortcut	Action
Alt + F4	Quit (with boundary save).
Ctrl + Q	Quit (Linux).
Ctrl + W	Close topmost dialog/popup.
Ctrl + S	Save the open song (flushes pending edits; the real save under "Don't save automatically"). Save All is in the File menu.
F1	Open the in-app Help screen. (Also works on macOS.)
F11	Toggle Theater mode. (macOS uses ⌘ T for Theater and ⌘ F for OS full-screen.)

Keywords

hotkeys, shortcuts, keyboard, command, control, space, transpose, find, replace, undo, redo, sync, print, preferences, toggle editor, chordpro editor, save, save all, mark as chord, page turn, theater, import from web