



# Birdland-Qt Quick-Start Guide

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Birdland is a multimedia music viewer and library manager for music books in PDF form with specific attention to fakebooks. It displays a page of music by searching a database of titles and other metadata. Answering the *Let's hear how it goes* query it shows audio files, Midi files, ChordPro charts, and JJazzLab songs from your media library and YouTube links matching the search parameters. It also displays non-indexed PDF files but without metadata searching. Birdland ships with index data from 9 sources covering over 100 books and over 20,000 titles.

Answering the *Let's hear how it goes* question, search results also include links to audio files, MIDI files, ChordPro files, and JJazzLab songs from your media library, and and relevant YouTube videos.

The *Lite* version includes indexes for many popular fake books compiled from several sources but does not include *Index Management* tools to create or manage your own indexes. These tools will be included in a future release.

*Birdland-Qt* is a cross-platform application that runs on Windows, macOS, and Linux.

*Birdland* does not include any media (fake books, audio files, MIDI files, ChordPro files, etc.) Such media is available from many online sources, which we leave to you to discover.

## Terminology

- *Music* - You look at music.
- *Audio* - You listen audio.
- *Canonical Name* - standardized fake book names that identify music files in *Birdland* indexes.
- *Indexes* - contains the relationship between song titles (and other metadata) and the canonical name and page number in fake books and other media (audio, MIDI, etc.).
- *Source / Src* - identifies the origin of index data, which comes from individual contributors, libraries, publishers, and from programmatic extraction.

## Documentation:

The *Birdland Guide* describes all of the configuration options. Calling it *Configuration Guide* or *Settings Guide* or *Options Guide* was not possible on the macOS platform.

The *Documentation* file is from *Birdland 2022*, out of date, and will be revised in a later release. It may help with some of the concepts but keep in mind that it discusses index management, which is not presently included, and it figures are for the older *Birdland*.

```
1  Help->Documentation
2  Help->Birdland Guide
3  Help->Quick-Start Guide
```

## Helper Applications

Birdland works fine right out of the box for searching and viewing your music files. Some helper applications are needed to use all of its features:

- VideoLan (VLC) - Birdland used the VLC library for the built-in audio and MIDI player. While the VLC library is included in Birdland on all platforms, on Windows and macOS the VLC library requires additional libraries that cannot be included and which are part of the VLC package. When installing on Windows be sure to install it in the default location *C:\Program Files* so it can be found. You can also use VLC as an external audio and MIDI player If you prefer.
- ChordPro - is required only if you want to convert ChordPro files to readable text for viewing. Tell Birdland the location of the ChordPro executable with a configuration option.
- MuseScore - is required only if you want to engrave MIDI files to music notation for viewing. Tell Birdland the location of the MuseScore executable with a configuration option.

## Configuration

Tell Birdland where your media files are located using the *Configuration Options* window. See the *Birdland Guide* in the Help menu for a description of all options.

```
1  File->Settings (Windows, Linux)
2  Birdaland-Qt->Preferences* (macOS)
```

To find your music files, Birdland needs to know how the names of *your* music files correspond to the *Canonical Names* in the indexes.

The *Canonical2File* map, which you create using tools in the *Edit Canonical->File* tab or manually, contains this information. An example file is included to get you started.

You can type in folder and file names directly in the *Configuration Options* window or right click to show a selector for many of the options. After changing the settings for media files you have to rebuild the internal database.

```
1  Database->Rebuild All Tables
```

## Building the *Canonical->File* Map

Birdland needs to know how the name of each book in *your* music library corresponds to the canonical name used in the Birdland indexes before it can find music via a search. The *Canonical->File* map contains this information. It is located in the configuration directory (see the table below for the location).

The browsers on the *Media Browsers* tab in the left panel do not require the *Canonical->File* map and can be used once their corresponding configuration options are set.

### With the *Edit Canonical->File* Tab

The *Canonical->File* tab shows three tables: the *Canonical Name*, the *Canonical File*, and the *Canonical->File Map* tables. The latter shows the linkage between the canonical names and file names.

Before beginning be sure that you have entered values for the configuration options:

- *Root of music files*
- *Folders containing music files permitting Canon->File editing*

The files described by these options are shown in the *Canonical Files* tables when you click the *Load Tables* button. You can now proceed to build the *Canonical->File* map.

- Select *Edit Canonical->File* Tab
- Click the *Load Tables* button
- Select a canonical name in the *Canonical Name* table
- Select a filename in the *File Name* table
- Click the *Link Canonical to File* button The link will be created in the *Canonical->File Map* table if it does not exist or updated if it does exist.
- Select a row in the *Canonical->File* and click *Clear One Link* when you make a mistake
- Click the *Save* button to save the *Canonical->File* table in your configuration folder.

### By Hand

The *Canonical->File* file is an ordinary text file that you can create with your favorite editor. It consists of two columns separated with a vertical bar. For example:

```
1 New Real Book Vol 1 - Chuck Sher | Fake Books/New Real Book Vol 1.pdf
2 Firehouse Jazz Band - Unknown | Fake Books/Firehouse Jazz Band Commercial
  Dixieland Fake Book.pdf
```

The first column is the *Canonical Name* of the book.

The second column is *your* filename of the book relative to the *Root of music files*: configuration option. Select the menu item below for a list of all canonical names.

```
1 Reports->Canonical Names
```

## Using Birdland

- Enter a full or partial title in the green *Title:* box in the upper left.
- Press return or click *Search*.
- Click on a row in the *Music Index* to view music in your collection matching the title.
- Right-click on a row to search again for just the title or composer.
- With the cursor in the PDF viewer press *Down-Arrow* to show a zoom window of the music. Press again to close. A *Status Bar* indicator shows to remind you of zoom window should it hide behind the main window. Click on the indicator or press ESC to bring it to the front.
- A *Status Bar* indicator shows if the title matches audio or MIDI in your collection. Click on the indicator to go to the matching entry in the *TOC/Media Data* tab.
- Click on a row in the *Music Files*, *Audio*, *MIDI*, *ChordPro*, *JJazzLab*, or *YouTube* tabs to open or play the media.
- Right-click on a row in the *MIDI* table to engrave the score and more search options and the *Audio* or *ChordPro* tables for more search options.

## Keyboard Shortcuts

The following shortcuts apply when *Music Viewer* has focus:

KEY	ACTION
Down-Arrow	Toggle the PDF to a Zoom window, which can be resized and moved to a second monitor
H	Fit PDF to available width
V	Fit PDF to available height
Up-Arrow	Toggle fit between available width and height
Space / Right-Arrow	Scroll down within a page
Backspace / Left-Arrow	Scroll up within a page
Home	First page
Page-Up	Previous page
Page_Down	Next page
End	Last page

The following shortcuts apply globally:

KEY	ACTION
ESC	Bring the Zoom window to front, helpful if hiding behind main window, same as <i>Zoom</i> button

**File Locations**

PLATFORM	CONTENT	LOCATION
Linux	Configuration	~/.config/birdland_qt
	Data	~/.local/share/birdland_qt
Window	Configuration	C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Roaming\birdland_qt
	Data	C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Local\birdland_qt
MacOS	Configuration	~/Library/Preferences/birdland_qt
	Data	~/Library/Application Support/birdland_qt