

# Frequently Asked Questions about playing videos, mp3 and midifiles

## **What program do I use to play videos, mp3?**

Many programs will play videos and mp3 files. Even your browser i.e. Netscape or Explorer will work.

We usually use Quicktime which is available for free at:

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

*If you use Internet Explorer you would choose "open file" from the file menu, find the file on your hard drive, choose this file and the video will play.*

## **What Program do you recommend for playing midifiles?**

Many programs will play midifiles. As stated before, even your browser i.e. Netscape or Explorer will play midifiles. *See directions above for playing videos with Explorer to play midifiles with a browser.* The best programs, though, will allow you to change the tempo of the midifile so you can better match your current ability. We recommend the following free programs.

Midi-jukebox for Macintosh which can be found at:

<ftp://ftp.midifarm.com/pub/utilities/mac/>

Massiva for Windows which can be found at:

<http://webmassiva.com/downloads/>

Massiva also has directions and an e-mail address which you can contact if you are having problems getting the program to work.

<http://www.webmassiva.com/howto/install/install.htm>

**I've downloaded the files. (These files could be video, mp3 or midifiles) and I can't get them to play with any of the programs you have recommended.**

Almost all the files you download from the internet have been compressed with either a program called "stuffit" or zipped with a program called "zip." The files found on the [www.muse-EEK.com](http://www.muse-EEK.com) have been stuffed with "stuffit." A stuffed file will not play using any of the programs previously mentioned, until you first "unstuff" a file; then it will play using the previously mentioned programs. You will need a program called "stuffit expander" to "unstuff" any files you download from [www.muse-EEK.com](http://www.muse-EEK.com). A free program for this is available at:

<http://www.stuffit.com/downloads.html>

Remember if a file has a ".sit" at the end of its name it's a "stuffed" file and needs to be "unstuffed" via "stuffit expander" in order to work with Quicktime or any other video playing program. After you unstuff a video or midifile it should have the following extensions:

For video the name will end with ".mov"

For midifiles it will end with ".mid"

Remember that many newer computers come with a version of "stuffit expander" already installed. If you download a file and it has one of the ".mov" or ".mid" extensions this means your computer automatically "unstuffed" the file. Therefore all you need to do is click on the file and it will play. This will of course only work if you already have a program like Quicktime or a browser like Explorer already working with your computer.

*It is always best to first open the program you want the file to play in rather than just clicking on the file. A computer may select a program that you don't want to play a file. By opening the program that you prefer first and then opening the file you will ensure that the program you specify is opening the file you desire.*

**I've followed all of the instructions and the files still will not play. What am I doing wrong?**

It is possible that you didn't choose "source" when you downloaded the file. You are given two possibilities just before downloading a file. You can choose "text" or you can choose "source." You need to choose "source." This is the most common problem people have when a file doesn't work. If you get the following message from your computer or something similar you have not downloaded the file correctly or you haven't downloaded the previously mentioned programs and configured them to work with your computer system.

This is probably true if you get this message:  
"Could not find the application program that created the document."

**I've followed all of the instructions, I'm about ready to give up what should I do?**

Contact Muse Eek Publishing Company at [info@muse-eek.com](mailto:info@muse-eek.com) they will do their best to help you. We run Macintosh computers so we have pretty good experience with problems that occur with this type of computer. We have far less experience with Windows machines but will try to help as much as we can.

**I feel like I'm wasting time getting all this stuff to work on my computer when I could be practicing.**

Keep in mind that the time you spend getting your computer to play all these files can be frustrating, but once set up, it will make a major difference for the understanding and furthering of your musical development. We highly recommend that as you feel more and more comfortable with this digital world, you upgrade to products that will allow you more control. By purchasing a professional sequencing program like Cakewalk for Windows or Performer for Macintosh or a notation program like Finale for Macintosh or Windows you will be able to explore music on a much deeper level. These programs will allow you to expand and document your creativity whether your interests are in composing, performing or simply practicing a particular concept.