Title: Sibelius generated XML – status report
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Introduction

With the third major update of the XML to Score converter (SipXML2Score) I would have wanted to support conversion of the XML which Sibelius generates. However, after a week of toiling, I gave up the effort. There are so many problems with the XML it generates that it cannot be used for input to a program of a typographic nature.
This report mentions the problems I found with it, and the action I took.
The findings are based on material generated by Dolet for Sibelius 1.1.
SipXML2Score now has a tab with options specifically for Sibelius input.

Stems

The XML contains no information on stems. This is uncomfortable but something we can live with. Stems can be assumed for notes which have a half, quarter, etc. Tails are not part of XML as these result from the note duration.
Stem direction is another thing but with the height of the notes and the beam group these could be guessed with reasonable accuracy. However, the information on beam groups in not there.
The converter has an option to set 'Sibelius stem correction'.

Beams

The XML works is that beams can be a begin, an end, a continuation, or a hook (partial beam). This is where XML has rather random indications of which I thought I could do a corrective preprocessing to fix it but this turned out to be impossible. There is just no logic in the way XML has the errors.
The option 'Attempt Sibelius beam reconstruction' is therefore disabled.

Accidentals

While they can be optionally specified in XML for printing, they are always given and the key signature is not considered. The converter gives a message to the effect that an accidental is precautionary.

Lines

Lines occur in music to indicate slides and for many other meanings. There are no lines generated in Sibelius XML.

Ties

While most slurs seem to be in order, ties are not generated.

Slurs

Some slurs have been encountered with a begin but without an end.

Note types

Notes with an x-head are not indicated as such while MusicXML has that capability.

Guitar octave

Music for this instrument is usually written one octave higher. While the Finale variety of Dolet automatically recognizes this, the Sibelius one does not. The converter has the capability to octavate with a transposition feature.

Extra measure
The first measure generated is a dummy rest bar. If this were the only problem I would suppress the first bar by default…

XML definition
Dolet for Finale uses the quote mark in XML while Sibelius generates a single quote. The detection of this is done automatically by SipXML2Score for input in the UTF-16 encoding.

There may very well be more problems with Sibelius XML but the above problems need to be addressed before I will consider further qualification.

Jan