

Quarter Tone Playback

Version 1.0 for Musescore 2.0 and above

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Plugin Description:

This plugin automatically applies tuning to notes in the score altered with quarter tone accidentals and key signatures. It works with the FLAT_SLASH  and the SHARP_SLASH  accidental signs, which are normally used in Arabic music to denote a decrease or an increase of the tuning by a quarter tone (50 cents) respectively.

In Musescore, it is possible to generate custom key signatures in the Master Palette (View → Master Palette). This allows building key signatures for Arabic scales using quarter tone accidental signs. Moreover, these signs can be used as accidentals by applying them to the notes from the Accidentals Palette (Advanced Workspace should be activated).

In the Musescore file *QuarterTonePlayback.mscz* delivered with the plugin, it is possible to see how these key signatures and alterations can be used.

Plugin Features:

For the following plugin features, please refer to Figure 1 below.

- Custom Tuning: it is possible to change the tuning of the quarter tones, although the standard tuning is ± 50 cents.
- Key Signature Definition: although it is possible to create custom key signatures in Musescore, it is unfortunately not possible to access them in the plugin framework. As an alternative solution, the user can set the custom key signature in the plugin itself in order to notify it of the key signature. More details are given later in the How to Use the Plugin section.
- Accidental Auto-Detection: the plugin automatically detects accidental signs and tunes the respective note automatically.

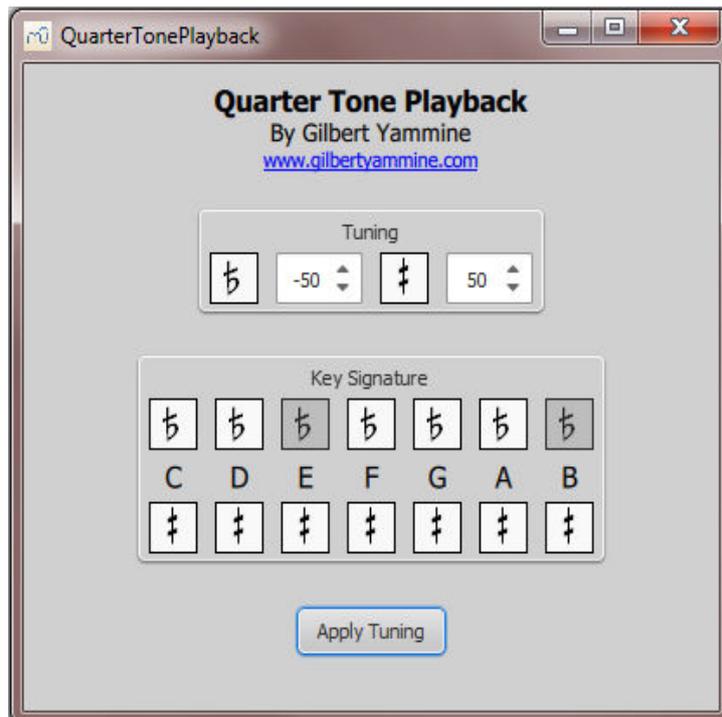


Figure 1 Screenshot of the plugin

How to Use the Plugin:

A Musescore file *QuarterTonePlayback.mscz* is delivered with the plugin, in which it is possible to follow the following demo.

The score, as shown in Figure 2 below, has a main custom key signature (B and E are lowered each by a quarter tone). In measure 6, another custom key signature is added (B and F# are lowered each by a quarter tone). In measure 7, the main key signature is applied again.

Additionally, the score contains various accidentals with normal flats and sharps, as well as slash flats and sharps.

In order to apply the quarter tone tuning to the score, the user has to separately select each section containing one key signature and apply the tuning to it. As shown in Figure 2 below, Measures 1 to 5 are selected and the key signature is set in the plugin. Then, the Apply Tuning button is pressed. The plugin takes the entered key signature into consideration and applies the tuning to the notes concerned. Additionally, it applies the tuning to notes altered with accidentals.

The same is then done for measure 6, and then for measures 7 to 10 together.

Contact:

If you have any suggestions to improve the plugin or you want to report a bug, please contact me on info@gilbertyammine.com or by visiting my website www.gilbertyammine.com

MuseScore: Quarter Tone Playback

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Quarter Tone Playback*

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Tuning

-50 50

Key Signature

<input type="text" value="♭"/>						
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
<input type="text" value="♮"/>						

Figure 2 Example score with custom key signatures and accidentals