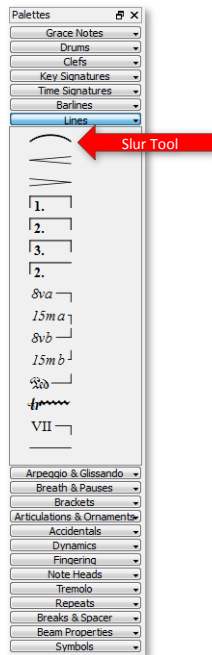# Slurs

<u>Overview</u>

A *slur* is a line placed above or below two or more notes indicating that the pitches are to be sounded without specific articulation or separation.

In MuseScore, a slur is considered a *line*, and the tool to create it is located either in the Menu Bar (**Create → Lines…**), or in the Lines group in the **Palette**, located to the left of the application window:

💡 Using the Menu Bar option launches a separate window of the Lines group that you may find handy if working with a number of other Palette groups at the same time. It prevents having to expand and collapse the groups to view the tools in the attempt to save screen space.

There are three different ways to create a slur in MuseScore:

- Double-clicking the Slur Tool

- Dragging the Slur Tool to the insertion point next to a note head in your score

- Selecting the first and last notes in the range to be slurred and using the **S** keystroke

Inserting a Slur Using the Palette

To insert a slur by double-clicking:

1. Select the note in the score to serve as the first note in the slur.

2. Double-click the Slur Tool and the line will be inserted into the music connected the note used as the insertion point (the 'first' note) and the note immediately following it in the same staff (or 'instrument').

Note that the slur is inserted into the score with the angle of the curvature pointed 'away' from the direction of the note stems and is accompanied by four small **shape editing handles** or 'squares.' These can be used to alter the position or slope of the slur to your taste. (Steps to edit the slur line are provided below.)

If you wish to create a slur between more than two notes, an additional step is required in order to traverse the notes. After the slur has been added to the first two notes, use **Shift+right arrow** to expand the range of the slur, and **Shift+left arrow** to contract.
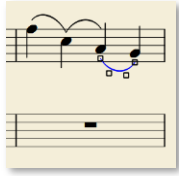
To insert a slur with Drag & Drop:

1. Click the Slur Tool in the Lines Group in the Palette and drag over to the insertion point in the score. Drag until the insertion point (note or rest) is highlighted in red before releasing the mouse button.

2. The slur will be created between the first and second notes.

Inserting a Slur Using a Keystroke

If you are used to the concept of creating a slur as a line 'between' notes, note that MuseScore handles slurs as being primarily related to the insertion point in the music. Thus, if you attempt to establish the range of the slur *prior* to insertion…

…MuseScore will assume that the notes in the range you have selected are *separate insertion points*, and you will end up with something akin to this:
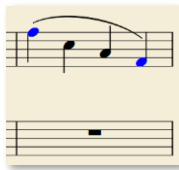

To add slurs over a range of notes:

1. Select the first note in the range.

2. Press and hold the CTRL key and select the last note in the range.

3. Press the **S** key to add the slur.

💡 Windows users will note here the difference in keystrokes for the range-select function. In Windows, CTRL+click is usually for individually selecting objects not necessarily in a range or sequence. The CTRL+click function for range-select when creating a slur in MuseScore permits the user to cross two staves with a continuous line.

💡 If a slur has been added using this method, expanding and contracting the slur using Shift+<arrow> will not function. The slur has been bound to the specified range of notes and must be otherwise manually edited.

Editing a Slur

As indicated above, the position and curve of a slur line may be edited using the handles which appear with the slur immediately after it has been inserted. (These handles must be used even when attempting to move the entire line as is.) While all of the handles can be used to change the curvature or contour of the slur line, the outer handles are used primarily to fine tune the line's start and end points.

💡 Care must be observed when editing a slur line. MuseScore 'understands' the position and curvature of a line relative to the note spacing, stem direction, and other factors. When copying and pasting notes and rests which contain slurs to other parts of the score, the edited slurs may appear distorted requiring additional

editing. It may be advisable to simply delete the slurs from the pasted sections and recreate them from scratch.

original insertion

modified insertion w/paste