# DAISY Music Braille Project - Save the Date, and other news

By email: 21 January 2019

From: Sarah Morley Wilkins, Project Manager, DAISY Music Braille Project

Dear colleagues, Happy New Year!

A few updates from the project, and a great offer from Dedicon for other agencies :)

## 1. Geneva Meeting

### 1.1) Save the date and first information:

* The next DAISY Music Braille meeting will be held in Geneva on the afternoon of Tuesday 28 and all-day Wednesday 29 May 2019.
* WIPO is very kindly hosting the meeting at their headquarters.
* We will let you know exact meeting details, hotel arrangements, and online access (if available), as soon as we can.

### 1.2) Agenda:

The agenda will be more focussed than our previous Round Table meetings, focussing on:

* Requirements document for future tools, hopefully also with responses from developers;
* Guidance and specification for checking and marking up a MusicXML file to get good conversions;
* Development costs, and agencies to consider contributing to agreed plans.
* We will ask for, and circulate, updates on other work before the meeting.

## 2: News on Progress

Since our October meeting we have made good progress on our agreed objectives. We welcomed Haipeng Hu as a consultant to the project team, and with various contributions from across the project we can report a number of achievements:

### 2.1) Guidance for marking up MusicXML files to get better braille through conversion tools:

* Guidance for sighted people checking and correcting MusicXML scores has been drafted and edited.
* A MusicXML specification handbook has been drafted and annotated highlighting specific braille-music issues.
* A template has been prepared ready to populate with these two documents to create a single Handbook.
* Documents to be circulated for comment shortly.

### 2.2) Immediate fixes needed in conversion tools:

* After intensive testing (by the UK team) the three main tools have been sent issue lists: GoodFeel, Hodder and BrailleMuse.
* Some are already implementing some fixes.
* Some common big issues will be carried forward into the Requirements document

### 2.3) Requirements document:

* A requirements document, capturing the high-level needs noted so far has been drafted and edited.
* Will be circulated shortly for comment and prioritisation by agencies, educators and transcribers.

### 2.4) MusicXML/MNX improvements:

* Sibelius: bug report for MusicXML Export has been sent to beta test group.
* MuseScore: bug report for MusicXML export submitted to forum.
* MNX Community Group: sent them info for their end-January meeting, expressing our intention to contribute to MNX specification and testing.
* SMuFL: Mapping is underway of the Standard Music Font Layout Glyphs to braille symbols.

### 2.5) Hodder trial at Dedicon:

* After an intensive trial in the autumn, Dedicon reports very positive feedback, getting excellent performance for almost all score types.
* Final report to be circulated soon.
* GREAT OFFER: Dedicon is now open to taking music braille transcription orders for other agencies. Please contact their Director of Production – [EdwinMeijerink [at] dedicon [dot] nl](mailto:EdwinMeijerink@dedicon.nl)

We look forward to continuing to work with you during 2019 to secure the longer-term future for music braille for our next generations. Thank you in advance for your collaboration efforts. It really does make a difference.  
  
With best regards,  
Arne and Sarah

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