# DAISY Music Braille Project: New app for accessible music & braille converter tool - from Sao Mai Centre for the Blind

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

Dear Music Braille friends,

I’d like to draw your attention to two tools from the non-profit Sao Mai Centre for the Blind in Vietnam which may be valuable for your, or your clients/students.

We look forward to hearing more from them during 2020 - especially about their music braille converter tool which will have many interactive user features. We are in touch with Phuc Dang Hoai, the Executive Director, about the music braille element, and you can reach him at phuc [at] saomaicenter [dot] org

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1) SM Music Reader

is a free Android app for everyone to read music sheets, developed by Sao Mai Center for the Blind. Besides the functions to draw music sheets and play MIDI files, SM Music Reader also offers full accessibility options with speaking and customizing modes for visually impaired users to use it with screen readers like Talkback or Voice Assistant.

SM Music Reader currently provides the following features:

• Read music files written in MusicXML format,
• Draw sheet music for exchanging scores among both sighted people and people with visual impairment at the same time,
• Play MIDI files:
◦ Play all, by part, by staff, and by highlighted passage,
◦ Forward, rewind and automatically repeat,
◦ Adjust tempo, metronome, volume and select instruments’ voices.
• Support reading with screen readers:
◦ View the whole part or selected staff,
◦ Speak note by note and bar by bar,
◦ Speak in order of by voice (horizontal) and by timestamp (vertically),
◦ Speak most details of the score like directions, chords, nuances, slurs/ties, ornaments, fingerings/strings, lyrics, etc.
• Navigate to a certain bar or line,
• Manage your favorite lists and view the file’s details.

Find it at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.saomaicenter.music.reader>

2) Sao Mai Braille (SMB)

is a rich text editing and Braille translation software first released about a year ago. We hope that this additional tool will help blind individuals/organizations for/of visually impaired people produce Braille materials quickly and less costly. In order to support our free activities at Sao Mai and add more features/improvements for the software, we charge for each single user license at a very affordable price of 50USD.

The current version requires a license key after 30 days. In our coming release of SMB, it will be completely free, no more license and with many new powerful features including the support for Braille music. We expect to have it release some time in January, 2020.

Short description about upcoming SMB and its core features:

* Rich-text print and Braille editor
* Using LibLouis for text translation so it supports around 100 different Braille translation tables for many languages and capable of one document with multiple languages
* Basic Braille math and tactile graphic conversion
* Support to insert and edit math equations
* Styleset builder, especially for Braille so can easily adapt for local Brille format standards and Braille volumes management
* Braille music translation from Music XML sheets based on the international Braille music code 2015 and support to translate music text like lyrics into all languages that LibLouis has.

Read more at: <https://www.saomaicenter.org/en/smsoft/smb>

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With best regards,
Sarah
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<https://daisy.org/activities/projects/music-braille/>