

Benesh Notation Editor FAQs:

Q: What are the benefits of using the Benesh Notation Editor?

A: Writing scores by hand will soon become as obsolete as using a typewriter for text documents. Unlike hand-written scores, which might need to be rewritten in order to include all the subtle little changes the choreographer might make over time, BNE scores will always be clear and readable.

Q: Can you alter scores using BNE?

A: Yes, alterations can be entered easily and quickly without affecting the original document. The information can be adjusted and the layout rearranged simply and easily. This means that, unlike hand-written scores, it is not necessary to pre-plan the layout of each page before any information can be entered. Individual 'parts' can be extracted from a full multi-person score to create separate, more manageable, role-specific scores for use in the rehearsal room or as study resources.

Q: Where can I buy the Benesh Notation Editor?

A: You can buy the BNE online at the RAD shop or in person at the Academy's headquarters.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: The BNE is available in 2 editions:

- The Lite Edition, which is suitable for the general user, costs £150.00 (inc. VAT) for a single licence.
- The Professional Edition, which is designed for the professional notator, costs £450.00 (inc. VAT) for a single licence.
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Both editions include comprehensive Help files and beginner tutorials. Discounts are available for RAD members (10%) and for dance companies who subscribe to the Benesh Institute Licence to Use Scheme (20%).

Q: What is the difference between the Lite Edition and the Professional Edition?

A: Both editions function in the same manner but the Lite Edition does not give you access to some of the lesser-used signs. All signs are accessed from 21 themed palettes. The dancers' counts, fingers, props, support and zoning palettes are only available in the Professional Edition.

Q: Can I upgrade from the Lite Edition to the Professional Edition?

A: Yes, you can apply to upgrade to the Professional Edition at any time. You simply pay the difference in the price (£300.00 inc. VAT for a single licence)

Q: Can I try the BNE before buying it?

A: You are welcome to visit us to try out the Benesh Notation Editor. Contact Liz Cunliffe lcunliffe@rad.org.uk for an appointment, or call +44 (0)20 7326 8031.

Q: What do you get when you buy the BNE?

A: The BNE comes on a CD-ROM with a dongle. The CD-ROM contains a Read Me document that gives instructions on how to load the Editor as well as comprehensive Help files that include a Tutorial section to help you learn how to use the program. You can access these from within the Editor or print them out for reference.

The dongle is a security device. It acts as a key that ensures that the Editor can only be used on the computer to which it is attached.

Q: Can I use the BNE on more than one computer?

A: You can load the BNE onto your home computer and your work computer, but the program will only function when your edition specific dongle is fitted into the USB port of whichever of these two computers you are using.

Q: Do I need training to use the BNE?

A: The software is very intuitive to use and many people find that they can start writing notation straight away with the help of the beginner tutorials found in the Help files. However, in order to fully understand and be able to use all the features of the BNE to their full potential, it is advisable to do a course. Courses can be arranged on an individual basis. Contact Liz Cunliffe lcunliffe@rad.org.uk for further details.

Q: What technical support is provided?

A: You are entitled to 60 days free technical help by email or phone. After the 60 day period has expired you can get help by subscribing to an annual maintenance agreement. If you do not subscribe to the annual maintenance agreement a charge is made for support per incidence.

Q: How do I get updates?

A: Updates are sent free of charge to registered users as soon as they become available. They are sent to the email or postal address you registered with us. We recommend that you provide us with an email address and let us know if you move so that we always have up-to-date contact details.

Q: What sort of computer do I need to run the BNE?

A: You need a PC with Windows installed. The minimum specifications we recommend are:

Hardware

- Pentium II 233 Mhz processor (586)
- 64 Megabytes of Ram (Free RAM 20 megabytes)
- CD-ROM drive
- USB port (the program is protected by a dongle which fits into the USB port)

Software

- Windows 98/2000/XP/Vista
- Windows Clipboard installed

Recommended: high-resolution graphics card (display at 1280 x 1024 pixels or higher)

Q: What sort of printer do I need?

A: We recommend an A3 colour printer HP but you can print A4 scores using any printer that runs PCL6 (600 dpi). Note: printers running with Windows 98 need to be connected by parallel port.

Q: Does the BMN run on Mac computers?

A: Only if your Mac computer has a suitable Windows operating system installed.

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