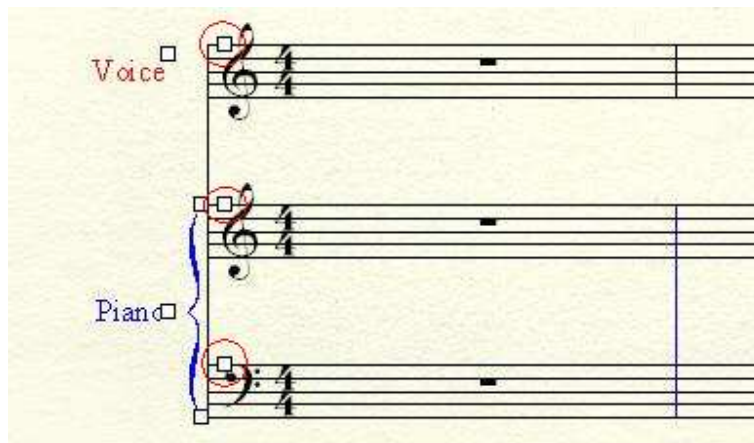


## Optimizing (Hiding Staves) in PrintMusic

A very common PrintMusic question is, "I have a vocal and piano score, where only the piano is playing for the first 8 measures. How do I hide the empty vocal line?" Or the reverse question, "I have a score where the oboe only plays for a couple of measures. How do I put in the oboe line just where I need it?"

The answer is the same for both: Optimize! That's the fancy Finale term for hiding staves, which is what we call it in PM. When you set up your score, include all the staves that you need, even the ones that will only be needed for a few measures. If you've already started working with the score, it's easy to add another staff. See the article *Adding a New Instrument*.

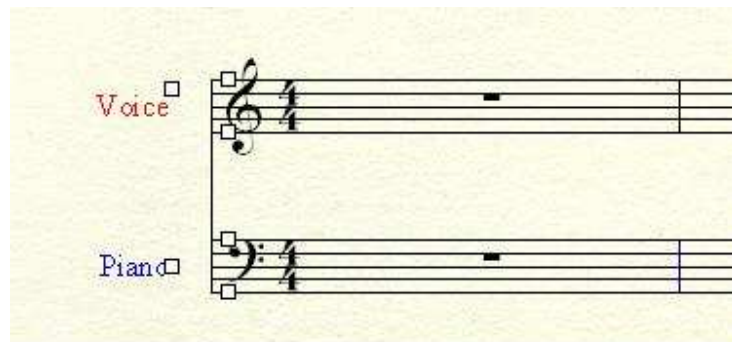
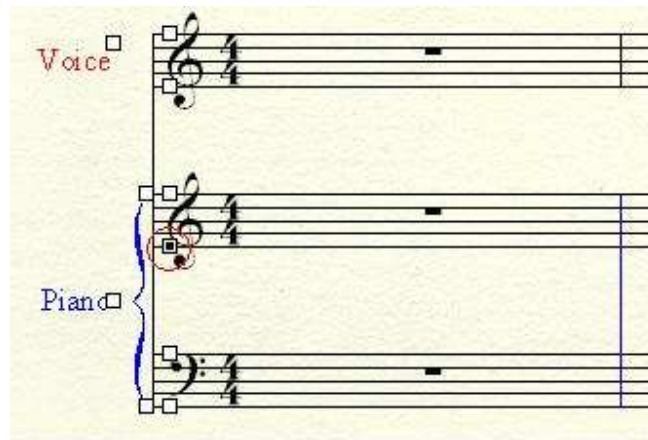
So, how do we get rid of the empty measures? Make sure you are in Page View, and select the Staff Tool. You will see that each staff has a box at the upper left. If you click in this box, and hit DELETE, that staff will vanish from the entire score, forever. Obviously, this is not what we want! (That's why working on a copy for anything major like this, is a good idea.)



Select the Page Layout Tool. Go to the Page Layout menu, and select Allow Individual Staff Spacing.



Go back to the Staff Tool. Now, you see that each staff has two boxes at the left end, one at the top, and one at the bottom. Clicking in the lower box and hitting DELETE will hide this staff, in this system only. You will have to do each staff, and each system, one at a time.



**Piano treble staff has been hidden**

This step should be saved for last. That's because if you have a measure with notes in it that shifts to an optimized system when you edit the notes, or add lyrics or anything else that might change the measure size, you will lose the measure from view. So get your systems set up with the correct number of measures before you hide the empty staves.

What if you make a mistake, and remove a staff that you should have left? Go back to the Page Layout menu, and deselect Allow Individual Staff Spacing. All of your staves will reappear, and you can start over. A pain, but still...

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