

Verovio in Geschichte, Gegenwart ... und Zukunft

Laurent Pugin

Verovio is a software library for rendering MEI encoding into music notation. It is designed to be generic, light and usable in a wide range of environments. The primary input format for Verovio is naturally MEI but it also supports Plaine and Easie, MusicXML (with some limitations) and Humdrum. The primary output format is SVG rendering, an XML vector graphic widely used in web environments. Verovio also supports MIDI output. It can also output MEI data, which is of significant interest when the input format is other than MEI. In this case, Verovio acts as a data converter from the input format to MEI.

The goals of this paper will be manifold. First of all, a review of the latest developments will be given. Verovio is indeed continuing to be steadily developed and new features are constantly being added. This review will also cover the changes made to the toolkit in the release of version 2.0 and the changes made when switching from MEI 3.0 to MEI 4.0.

The paper will also give an overview of how users have been using the Verovio toolkit in recent years. When it was launched approximately five years ago, there were quite clear and foreseen possible use cases, such as critical editions. It is interesting to see, however, that the range of uses is now substantially wider than that imagined at the start, and some examples of less common uses will be given.

The review section will be the basis for investigating future developments for the project. We will try in particular to identify areas where the development of Verovio has not yet been fully realised and, most importantly, how the involvement of the community could be strengthened. Recurrent discussions relate to documentation, and user needs in that area have still to be more clearly defined. Looking at the future will also provide an opportunity to present some upcoming features and ideas for the project.