Local Music Organizer

Detailed User Guide - Early Access
macOS utility for large local Music.app libraries

Early Access - Trial included - macOS 14 Sonoma or later - Universal Mac build

Version target: 0.3 Early Access
Apple Silicon recommended; Intel supported in Universal builds
Support: sergeyappleservice@gmail.com
Website: https://local-music-organizer-site.pages.dev/

Read this first

Keep backups before cleanup, tag editing, Repair / Convert, File Maintenance, or any action that changes Music.app records or local files. The app is designed for careful review, not blind one-click deletion.

Contents

This guide describes the current Early Access workflow, including the latest changes: direct full-library Dashboard scans, Health Check scopes, Short tracks, Other issues, Playlist Compare Remove All from A/B, ALAC 24-bit Archive output, readable log blocks, and OptimFROG setup.

1. What Local Music Organizer is for

Local Music Organizer is a macOS utility for people with large local Music.app libraries. It is built for real local files, long-term collections, playlist curation, repair/conversion workflows, and careful maintenance before cleanup.

It is not a streaming service manager, not a cloud Apple Music replacement, and not a one-click deletion tool. The intended workflow is inspect - review - confirm - act - keep logs.

- Inspect Music.app library quality: bitrate, codec/container, sample rate, duration outliers, artwork, missing files, empty tags, and suspicious records.
- Compare playlists and find shared/repeated tracks before deleting or changing anything.
- Find where a track is used before moving, repairing, converting, replacing, or removing it from a playlist.
- Use Warm Cache to accelerate repeated scans on large libraries.
- Repair or convert difficult local audio files into Music.app-compatible copies while keeping original archive files.
- Build smarter shuffle-style playlists for large offline collections.

Offline-first positioning

The app is made for users who still maintain their own offline libraries, not only rented or streamed music catalogs. It works best when tracks are local files visible to Music.app and macOS.

What the app should not do

- It should not silently delete audio files.
- It should not replace original archive files without review.
- It should not run destructive cleanup without explicit confirmation.
- It should not hide logs for completed operations.

2. Requirements, trial mode, and Early Access license

System requirements

- macOS 14 Sonoma or later.
- Apple Silicon is recommended for large libraries. Intel Macs are supported in Universal builds, but very large scans and Music.app automation may be slower.
- Music.app with a local library. The app is designed for local Music.app libraries, not cloud-only Apple Music streaming collections.
- Internet access is required for activation and periodic license checks.

Trial mode

The app can open without an active license. Trial mode is intentionally limited so a user can verify that Local Music Organizer can read at least one real playlist and local tracks before purchase.

- Trial mode allows one playlist at a time.
- Trial scans are limited to up to 50 local tracks.

- Full-library scans, unlimited playlist analysis, cleanup actions, Repair / Convert, and File Maintenance require Early Access activation.
- Trial mode remains available if no license is activated or if a license is later revoked.

Early Access activation

1. Open Local Music Organizer and go to the License screen.
2. Enter the buyer email used for purchase.
3. Copy the License Request or Hardware ID shown by the app.
4. Send the request to support with the purchase email.
5. Enter the serial/license key you receive and activate online.
6. Keep a copy of your purchase receipt and license email.

License checks and offline grace

- The app checks license status during activation.
- The app checks license status at startup.
- While running, the app checks license status periodically, currently about every 60 minutes.
- If the license server is temporarily unavailable, the last successful active check allows up to 24 hours of offline use.
- If a license is revoked after a refund, chargeback, dispute, fraud review, or manual admin action, full-version access may stop during a future license check.

Privacy note: for license validation, the app may send buyer email, Mac Hardware ID, license key, app version, and basic license status data to the license server. This is used for activation, validation, fraud prevention, refund handling, support, and troubleshooting.

3. Permissions and first launch checklist

If the app sees no playlists, cannot read files, cannot edit tags, or cannot remove playlist entries, check macOS permissions before assuming the library is broken.

Music.app automation permission

- Required for reading Music.app playlists and library records.
- Required for tag editing and playlist entry removal workflows.
- Open System Settings -> Privacy & Security -> Automation and allow Local Music Organizer to control Music.app.

Full Disk Access

- May be required for file and folder checks, physical root comparisons, log export, missing file scans, and external drive work.
- Open System Settings -> Privacy & Security -> Full Disk Access and add Local Music Organizer if file access is incomplete.

Network access

- Required for activation and license status checks.

- Required when opening Terminal installers for Homebrew packages or helper tools.

First launch checklist

1. Open Music.app once and confirm the target library is available.
2. Open Local Music Organizer.
3. Grant Automation permission if macOS asks.
4. Choose a log folder you can easily find, such as Desktop.
5. Run Refresh Playlists or a small trial scan first.
6. If working with physical files, grant Full Disk Access before large folder scans.

4. Safety model, backups, undo, and logs

Before major cleanup, keep a backup. Time Machine is useful, but a separate copy of the Music folder and important archive folders is safer before bulk edits or conversion work.

General safety rules

- Scans are generally read-only until a specific action button is pressed.
- Playlist removal actions remove playlist entries, not physical audio files.
- Tag edits are explicit and are sent to Music.app.
- Supported tag edits and playlist removals may have Undo, but Undo is not a substitute for backups.
- Repair / Convert should create compatible copies. Do not delete originals until converted files are reviewed and tested.
- Logs are written only for completed operations. If an operation is stopped immediately, the app should not leave a misleading completed log.

Undo Last Change

Undo Last Change is intended for recent reversible actions, such as selected tag edits or playlist entry removals. Use it immediately if the previous action was wrong.

- Undo should restore removed playlist entries when supported.
- Undo should apply to Playlist Compare single removal and bulk Remove All from A/B operations when those entries were removed by the app.
- Undo should not be treated as a replacement for a backup when many files or tags are involved.

Readable logs

Text logs are formatted as readable blocks. Each described track or file should be separated by a blank line so the log does not become a single unreadable wall of text.

```
Track 1 / 54
Status: Repeated in both
Track: Example Artist - Example Title
Path 1: /Users/.../Music/Example.m4a
Path 2: /Users/.../Music/Example.m4a

Track 2 / 54
...
```

5. Interface overview and tool groups

Local Music Organizer is organized around practical library maintenance workflows. The left-side navigation contains the main tools; the top toolbar contains setup, cache, and helper controls.

Common buttons

- Check Tools: detects helper executables such as ffmpeg, lame, xmp, wavpack, wvunpack, sacd_extract, and OptimFROG decoder.
- Check Codec Support: asks the installed FFmpeg build what it can decode/encode.
- Install Homebrew: opens the official Homebrew install workflow in Terminal.
- Open Terminal Installer: installs common helper tools through visible Terminal commands.
- Install Old-School Helpers: installs legacy format helpers such as xmp and WavPack tools when available.
- Install SACD Extract: attempts to install sacd_extract into ~/.local/bin for SACD ISO workflows.
- Open OptimFROG Download Page: opens the official OptimFROG download page; the app does not bundle this decoder.
- Open ~/.local/bin Folder: creates/reveals the local bin folder where manual helper tools may be placed.
- Copy OptimFROG Notes: copies setup instructions for OFR/OFS users.
- Pause Music Cache: pauses background cache activity when you need to reduce Music.app automation work.

Log folder

Choose a log folder before large scans. Desktop is convenient during testing. Completed reports and conversion logs are written there unless an operation is stopped before completion.

6. Warm Cache and direct scans

Music.app automation can be slow with thousands of tracks and many playlists. Warm Cache reads expensive Music.app data once and reuses it across tools.

Cache types

- Full Library Records Cache feeds many library-wide tools, duplicates, file maintenance, and fast searches.
- Light Music Library Cache feeds Library Map, Track Usage, and repeated matching operations.
- Playlist Membership Cache feeds Playlist Compare, Playlist Duplicates, Track Usage, and playlist usage protection.

Important distinction: Dashboard direct scan

> The current Library Dashboard is designed to scan the full Music.app library directly, independent of playlist cache. This avoids misleading results caused by only reading a playlist or a stale cache.

- Warm Cache is still useful for repeated playlist and lookup work.
- Dashboard should clearly report that it is reading full Music.app records when doing a full library scan.
- Repair / Convert skips the full cache by default because conversion work is file/queue based rather than library-cache based.

7. Library Dashboard

Library Dashboard is a read-only overview for quality and maintenance review. Use it before cleanup, tag edits, file moves, or conversion decisions.

Scan behavior

- Dashboard reads the full Music.app library directly for current records.
- It does not depend on selected playlists for the full dashboard scan.
- It can take time on large libraries because it reads real Music.app data.
- The progress view shows current full-record scan progress and overall cache status separately.

Dashboard cards

- Records: total records currently scanned or displayed.
- Empty artist: tracks without artist metadata.
- Low bitrate: tracks below the configured low-bitrate threshold.
- No artwork: tracks where Music.app artwork is missing or artwork notes indicate no artwork.
- Missing files: Music.app records pointing to inaccessible or missing local paths.
- Long tracks: tracks over the long-track threshold, useful for DJ mixes, album files, or suspicious metadata.
- Short tracks: very short tracks, currently treated separately from Other issues so they are easy to review.
- Other issues: issues that do not fit the main cards, such as uppercase extensions or unusual filename/path warnings.

Filters and result list

- Click a card to filter the result list.
- Use Clear Filter to return to issue-focused results.
- Use Save Current List to export a review list.
- Reveal opens the file in Finder when the file exists.
- Inspect opens technical audio inspection for a local file.
- Edit Tags is available for supported Music.app records.

Short tracks and Other issues

Short tracks are shown separately because they often indicate intros, fragments, failed imports, hidden samples, or metadata duration errors. Other issues remains for miscellaneous warnings that should still be visible but should not hide the more important categories.

8. Library Map, Playlist Duplicates, and Library Duplicates

Library Map

Library Map helps understand repeated tracks and library relationships. It is useful before large cleanup because it shows how tracks are distributed across records and playlists.

Playlist Duplicates

Playlist Duplicates finds repeated entries inside one playlist. Removal affects the playlist entry only; it does not delete the audio file and does not delete the Music library record.

- Use it when a playlist has repeated songs caused by imports, sync operations, or manual edits.
- Review visible results before removing entries.
- Use Undo immediately if a playlist entry was removed by mistake.

Library Duplicates

Library Duplicates finds Music.app library records pointing to the same local file or exact duplicate candidates. It helps distinguish duplicate records from duplicate audio files.

Quality Duplicates

Quality Duplicates compares similar tracks or multiple versions using quality signals such as bitrate, codec, sample rate, file size, duration, and metadata similarity. Use it as a review tool, not automatic deletion.

9. Playlist Compare and bulk removal

Playlist Compare compares two playlists and shows shared or repeated tracks. It is useful when cleaning overlap between playlists, merging curated lists, or removing duplicates from one side only.

Basic workflow

1. Select Playlist A and Playlist B.
2. Click Compare Playlists.
3. Review repeated/shared tracks.
4. Use the filter box to narrow the visible result list.
5. Use Play A / Play B, Reveal, Copy, or Edit actions to verify the row.
6. Remove from A or Remove from B only when you know which playlist entry should be removed.

Remove All from A / Remove All from B

Bulk removal removes playlist entries only. It does not delete audio files and does not delete Music.app library records.

- Remove All from A removes all currently shown compare rows from Playlist A.
- Remove All from B removes all currently shown compare rows from Playlist B.
- Bulk removal uses the current filtered compare rows. This lets you filter first, review the visible set, and remove only that visible set.
- A confirmation dialog should show the target playlist and the number of entries to remove.
- Undo Last Change can restore the removed playlist entries when the operation was performed by the app.

Compare log format

Playlist Compare logs use per-track blocks rather than long pipe-separated lines. Each track block includes status, track name, note, and one or more paths, separated by a blank line from the next track.

10. Track Usage

Track Usage answers one critical question: where is this track used? Use it before deleting, replacing, repairing, moving, or renaming files.

Search behavior

- Enter a search term and press Enter to start Find File on Disk when the field is active.
- The tool can match physical file results and cached Music.app records.
- When a cached Music.app item exists, the row can show Play in Music rather than only Preview.
- The app avoids slow full Music.app scans on every Play action; it uses available cache where possible.

Buttons

- Physical file rows: Preview, Stop, Reveal, Inspect.
- Music.app rows with persistent ID or cached record: Play in Music, Stop, Reveal, Inspect when available.
- Stop should stop Music.app playback, Quick Look, AVAudioPlayer, NSSound, or fallback audio playback.

Why Track Usage matters

A track may be used in many playlists. Removing or replacing a file without checking usage can damage curated playlists. Track Usage should be part of any careful cleanup workflow.

11. Quality Duplicates and Audio Inspector

Quality Duplicates

Quality Duplicates helps compare multiple versions of similar tracks. It is especially useful in long-lived libraries where the same song may exist as MP3, AAC, ALAC, WAV, AIFF, downloaded versions, CD rips, or repaired copies.

- Compare bitrate, codec, container, sample rate, file size, duration, and metadata.
- Prefer careful review over automatic deletion.
- Use Track Usage before removing or replacing any version.

Audio Inspector

Audio Inspector opens a local audio file and shows technical information. Use it before conversion or when investigating unusual files.

- Format, container, codec, sample rate, bit depth, bitrate, channels, duration, and file size.
- Raw afinfo data when available.
- Visual/technical clues for rough audio quality review.
- Useful for deciding whether a file should be converted, repaired, or left unchanged.

Check Codec Support

Check Codec Support shows what the installed FFmpeg build reports as supported. This is important because conversion support depends on the helper tools installed on the Mac, not only on the app.

12. Health Check and Artwork Check

Health Check scopes

Health Check now has explicit scope selection so the user always knows what target is being checked.

- Entire Music.app Library: reads and checks all current Music.app records. This does not depend on playlist selection.
- Selected Playlists: checks only selected playlists. If no playlist is selected, the scan does not start.
- Physical Folder: scans audio files under the selected physical folder. This does not read Music.app playlists.

What Health Check can find

- Missing physical files or inaccessible paths.
- Empty metadata and suspicious library records.
- Playlist duplicate entries when checking playlists.
- Orphan physical files under a chosen root that are not found in selected references.
- Permission problems, unreadable files, zero-size files, very small files, path risks, quarantine attributes, and decode risks in Physical Folder mode.

Artwork Check

Artwork Check finds tracks or albums with missing artwork. Artwork access through Music.app can be slower and more fragile than light metadata reads, so artwork checking is separated from faster scans.

Recommended workflow

1. Run Library Dashboard first for broad quality indicators.
2. Run Health Check with the correct scope.
3. Run Artwork Check when you need a focused artwork report.
4. Export logs and review before taking cleanup action.

13. Repair / Convert workflows

Repair / Convert is for libraries with mixed formats, legacy files, old imports, CUE sheets, audiophile files, and files that may not work well in Music.app. The goal is to create compatible copies while preserving originals.

Preservation rule: do not replace or delete original archive files until the converted copy has been inspected, imported, and listened to.

Queue workflow

1. Add Files or drag files into the queue.
2. Add CUE Sheet when working with CUE-based albums.
3. Analyze Queue to detect source type, CUE mode, tracks, and likely output behavior.
4. Choose output profile and options.
5. Start Conversion.
6. Review the output files and log.

Queue safety

- Converted successful items are removed from the queue after completion so they are not accidentally converted again.
- Failed or unconverted items remain in the queue for review.
- If stopped, the queue is not cleared and no completed log should be written.
- Repair / Convert skips full Music.app cache by default; conversion is driven by selected files and queue items.

CUE sheets

- Single-file CUE: one large audio file with multiple track indexes.
- Multi-file CUE: each track points to a separate audio file.
- CUE analysis should distinguish these modes before conversion.
- Use the CUE summary and queue review before starting conversion.

Output profiles

- AAC 256 or AAC 320: smaller Music.app-compatible copies for everyday use.
- MP3 260 or MP3 320: compatibility output for older devices or general use.
- ALAC 16/44.1 M4A: recommended lossless Music.app-compatible archive/listening copy for most users.
- ALAC 24-bit Archive M4A: optional advanced archival output. It is not the default, creates larger files, and is usually not audibly different for everyday listening when the source was already normal CD-quality or lossy material.
- AIFF 16/44.1: large uncompressed output; artwork embedding may be skipped for compatibility.

Recommended default: use ALAC 16/44.1 for normal lossless Music.app-compatible copies. Use ALAC 24-bit Archive only when you intentionally want a larger archival copy and understand the storage tradeoff.

14. Helper tools: Homebrew, FFmpeg, xmp, WavPack, SACD, OptimFROG

Check Tools first

Open Repair / Convert and click Check Tools before installing anything. The app reports which helpers are detected.

Recommended setup order

1. Click Check Tools.
2. If brew is missing, click Install Homebrew.
3. If macOS asks to install Command Line Tools for Xcode, allow it and wait. This is not the full Xcode app.
4. Return to Local Music Organizer and click Open Terminal Installer for FFmpeg and LAME.
5. Click Install Old-School Helpers if you need tracker modules or WavPack helpers.
6. Click Install SACD Extract only if you use SACD ISO files.
7. Use Copy OptimFROG Notes for manual OFR/OFS decoder setup.
8. Click Check Tools again and confirm that paths are detected.

Typical paths

```
Apple Silicon Homebrew: /opt/homebrew/bin/brew
Intel Homebrew: /usr/local/bin/brew
Manual local helpers: ~/.local/bin
```

Helpers

- FFmpeg and LAME: common helpers for inspection and conversion.
- xmp: tracker/module playback/conversion helper for MOD, XM, IT, S3M, and similar files.
- WavPack / wvunpack: helpers for WV/WVC workflows.
- sacd_extract: helper for SACD ISO workflows; not needed if you do not use SACD ISO files.
- OptimFROG decoder: manual setup for rare .ofr/.ofs files.

OptimFROG / OFR / OFS manual setup

OptimFROG is a rare lossless audio format. Local Music Organizer can detect an OptimFROG decoder but does not bundle or silently install it.

1. Click Open OptimFROG Download Page or use a trusted source you choose.
2. Download the macOS / OS X command-line OptimFROG package.
3. Find a decoder executable such as ofr, ofrdec, or optimfrog.
4. Click Open ~/.local/bin Folder in the app, or create ~/.local/bin manually.
5. Copy the decoder executable into ~/.local/bin/.
6. In Terminal, run chmod +x ~/.local/bin/<decoder-name>.
7. Restart the app or click Check Tools again.
8. Confirm that OptimFROG decoder is detected.

OptimFROG preservation warning: do not delete original .ofr or .ofs files after conversion. Keep the original source separately and review converted copies before using them in Music.app.

15. File Maintenance and tag editing

File Maintenance

File Maintenance helps reveal files in Finder, copy paths, inspect permissions, compare Music.app references with real files, and understand whether library records point to accessible local media.

- Use Full Disk Access if scans cannot read folders that should be accessible.
- Be careful with permission normalization. Review what will change before confirming.
- Do not move or delete physical audio files without checking Track Usage and playlists first.
- Network Safe modes avoid expensive file-stat calls on NAS/SMB/iCloud-style locations where thousands of checks can be slow.

Tag editing

Supported tag edits update Music.app records. Tag editing is powerful and should be done on reviewed visible rows only.

- Review visible records before editing tags.
- Use Undo immediately if an edit was wrong.

- Export or copy logs when asking for support.
- Keep reports for large cleanup sessions so you know what changed.

Enter shortcuts

- Track Usage search supports Enter to start Find File on Disk.
- General choose/confirm fields can use Enter where it is safe.
- Destructive or write-heavy actions still require explicit buttons and confirmation.

16. Smart Shuffle Builder

Smart Shuffle Builder creates more natural listening sessions from large local collections by reducing repeated artist clusters, album blocks, and predictable patterns.

- Use it for curated local libraries where ordinary random shuffle feels repetitive.
- Build from existing Music.app playlists.
- Review the generated list before relying on it for a long session.
- The goal is better playlist construction, not a replacement media player.
- It is especially useful for large offline libraries with many repeated artists or album-heavy imports.

17. Website screenshots and user guide downloads

The official website includes screenshots of the main workflows so users can see what the app does before downloading or purchasing Early Access.

- Library Dashboard and Dashboard details.
- Playlist Compare and Track Usage.
- Repair / Convert and Conversion Queue.
- Audio Inspector and Inspector details.
- Shuffle Builder.
- License Activated and Trial Mode.

Website screenshots are preview cards. Clicking a screenshot may open the original full-size screenshot in a new tab. The website user guide link should point to the final file named exactly:

```
LocalMusicOrganizer_UserGuide.pdf
```

Avoid filenames such as LocalMusicOrganizer_UserGuide.pdf.pdf, and keep icon.png at the website root for the site icon.

18. Troubleshooting

The app does not see Music.app playlists

- Open Music.app once and confirm your library is available.
- Check System Settings -> Privacy & Security -> Automation.
- Allow Local Music Organizer to control Music.app.
- Restart Local Music Organizer after granting permission.

File scans cannot access folders

- Grant Full Disk Access if needed.
- Confirm the files are local, not cloud-only placeholders.
- Confirm external drives are mounted.
- Check that selected physical root points to the correct folder.

Activation fails

- Check internet connection.
- Confirm buyer email matches the license request.
- Confirm Hardware ID did not change.
- Copy and paste the serial key exactly.
- If the license was refunded or revoked, full-version activation may be disabled.

Homebrew asks for Command Line Tools

This is normal on many Macs, especially clean Intel systems. It is not the full Xcode app. Wait for Command Line Tools to finish, then continue with the Homebrew workflow.

OptimFROG is still not found

- Confirm the decoder executable is in ~/.local/bin, /opt/homebrew/bin, or /usr/local/bin.
- Confirm it is executable with chmod +x.
- Confirm the file name is one the app recognizes, such as ofr, ofrdec, or optimfrog.
- Click Check Tools again after installing or moving the executable.

Logs look old or missing

- Stopped operations may intentionally write no completed log.
- Check the chosen log folder path.
- Run the operation again after selecting a writable log folder.
- Use Open Log Folder to reveal the current log directory.

19. Refunds, revocation, and support

Refund requests are reviewed manually and should be submitted within 14 days of purchase. Trial mode is available before purchase so users can confirm that the app can read a Music.app playlist and analyze local tracks.

Refunds may be accepted when

- The software cannot be activated after reasonable troubleshooting.
- The software cannot reasonably be used on a supported system after permissions and setup have been checked.
- There is a verified licensing or activation issue that prevents Early Access use.

Refunds may be declined when

- The request is after 14 days.
- A license has been issued and the software works as described.
- The issue is caused by unsupported macOS versions, missing permissions, missing backups, unsupported library setups, corrupted libraries, third-party tools, optional helper tools, or actions outside intended use.

Revocation

If a refund, chargeback, payment dispute, fraud review, or manual license review results in revocation, the license may be disabled on the license server. After revocation, the app may stop accepting that license during a future license check. Trial mode remains available.

Support email

For support, send a clear description, purchase email, app version, macOS version, License Request text, screenshots if useful, and logs or reports when available to sergeyappleservice@gmail.com.

End of guide. Keep backups, review before changing anything, and use logs when asking for support.