

Transforming XML Into Music Notation

Baron Schwartz

April 8, 2003

Abstract

This thesis project tested whether an XML (Extensible Markup Language) encoding of musical data can be transformed into printed music notation. The encoding format is called MEI, the Music Encoding Initiative, and is intended to become a framework for encoding musical data to enable storage, retrieval, and transmission. Because music notation requires a superset of the information needed for most other purposes, successful transformation into music notation indicates that the MEI format represents enough information about musical data to be useful for other purposes. The thesis also analyzes the design of the MEI format, and suggests design techniques, such as variations on stylesheet languages, that may result in a more flexible, extensible format.