

How to Find Sheet Music Online: A Guide

The internet is full of high quality sheet music that can be accessed mostly for free or through a subscription! Here are some of my tips on how to find this music, using the song “Luck Be a Lady” from *Guys and Dolls* as an example.

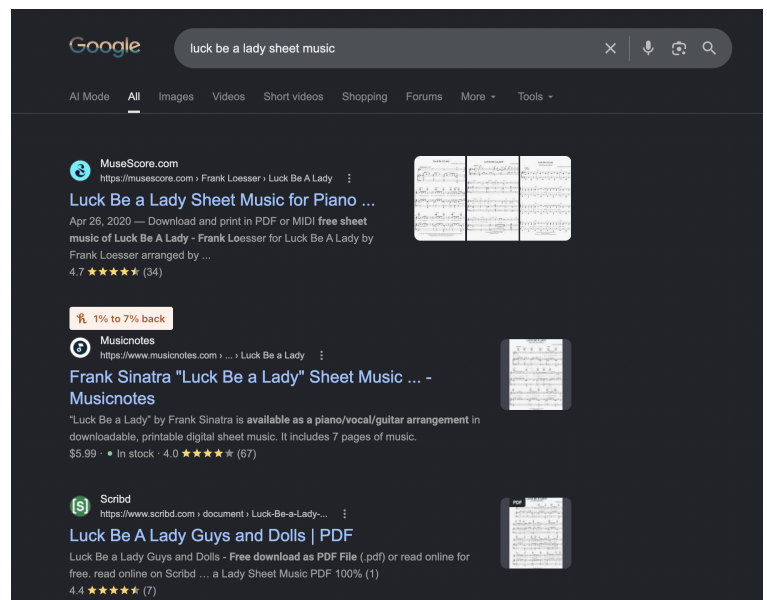
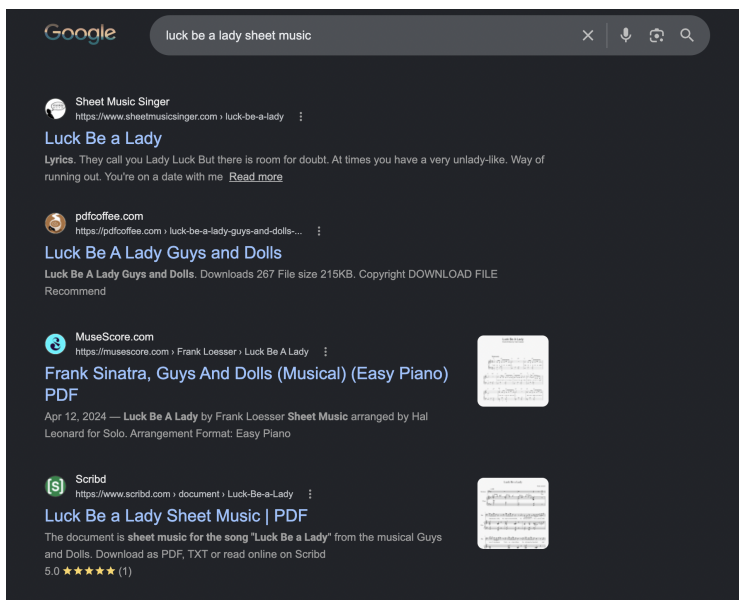
[Click here for a video tutorial of me going through the process of finding a piece of sheet music.](#)

Using the right search terms:

- “Luck be a lady guys and dolls *sheet music*”
- “Luck be a lady *sheet music pdf*”
- “Luck be a lady guys and dolls *sheet music pdf free*”

If nothing comes up, you can also try...

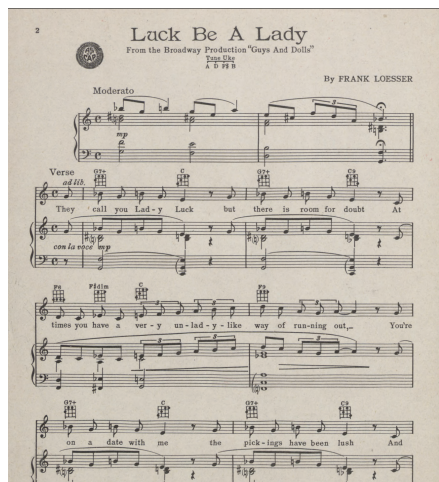
- “Guys and dolls full score pdf” (search within the full score for individual song you are looking for)
- “Luck be a lady audition material”



Results will likely pop up from the following sites: **MuseScore**, **Scribd**, **PDF Coffee**, and **Musicnotes**. Musicnotes often comes up first, but you can only purchase individual pieces for about \$6 each, so I would recommend it as more of a last resort. I have full subscriptions to MuseScore and Scribd, meaning, upon request, any music you need from these sites I can download on my account and upload into your Google Folder. PDF coffee is a little bit sketchy, but the music is typically good and doesn't require any sort of account or subscription to download (just make sure to exit out of the pop-up window right after clicking “download” so you don't get a computer virus 🙄).

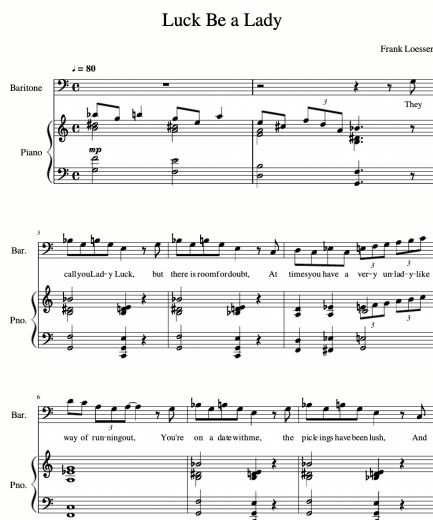
How to choose between results:

The best sheet music is easy to follow and preferably has chords* so I can play along with you during your lesson. Here's how I navigate choosing between different options:

This image shows a page of sheet music for the song "Luck Be A Lady" from the Broadway production "Guys and Dolls". The music is by Frank Loesser. It includes a piano introduction marked "Moderato" and "mp". The vocal melody is written in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "They call you Lad-y Luck but there is room for doubt At times you have a ver-y un-lad-y-like way of run-ning out, You're on a date with me the pick-ings have been lush And".

Rating: 3/5 stars

Reason: Clear, easy to follow, has chords, but is a low-contrast scan. If this was the only option, it would be fine and could be converted into a high-contrast document using a scanner/Genius Scan.

This image shows a page of sheet music for the song "Luck Be A Lady" by Frank Loesser. It includes a baritone part and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked "Moderato" and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "They call you Lad-y Luck but there is room for doubt At times you have a ver-y un-lad-y-like way of run-ning out, You're on a date with me the pick-ings have been lush And".

Rating: 1/5 stars

Reason: High-contrast and includes the melody. However, the melody is written in bass clef (would be better in treble), there are no chords, and the scoring is pretty sparse if you have a live pianist playing your music. If this is the only free option, and you're choosing between this and a paid option, I'd recommend just paying for it.

This image shows a page of sheet music for the song "Luck Be A Lady" by Frank Loesser. It includes a piano introduction marked "Moderato" and "mp". The vocal melody is written in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "They call you La-dy Luck but there is room for doubt at times you have a ver-y un-la-dy-like way of run-ning out, you're on a date with me, the pick-ings have been lush and".

Rating: 5/5 stars

Reason: Clean, high-contrast, includes chords, not cut off in any places. This music is from MuseScore, which I like because it is very easy for me to transpose it if we move the music to a different key. This would be my first choice of music, and is included in my subscriptions, so you can send me a link and I can download it for you.

LUCK BE A LADY
from GUYS AND DOLLS
By FRANK LOESSLE

Moderately

Rating: 4/5 stars

Reason: It's pretty clear and includes chords, but is slightly cut off on the side and top. This has been scanned in from a physical book (I can tell from the typeface that the book is a Hal Leonard MT Anthology) which is always very reliable, but the MuseScore copy (above) is essentially the same and easier to read.

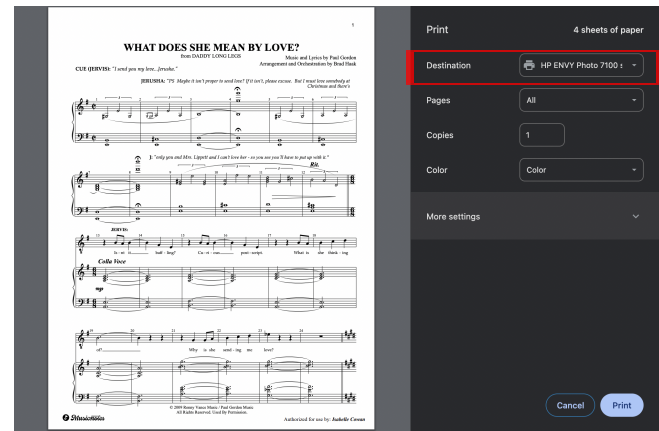
**Chords appear as the little grids above the staff with letters above them. What you're seeing is the chords for guitar with the diagram (the grid) to show the guitarist how to play the chord; however, I use the chords on the piano as well for in-lesson accompaniment.*

If you've conferred with me and we've discussed that Musicnotes is the only option for finding a reliable copy of your music, purchase the music from Musicnotes and then follow the following instructions **to create a PDF of your music**:

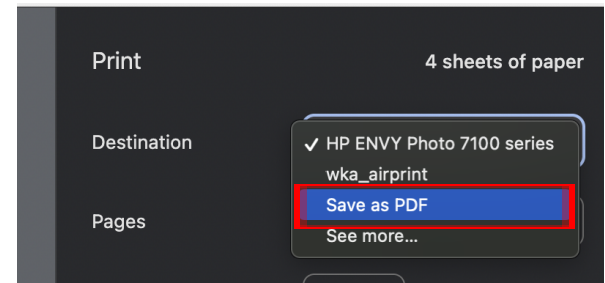
1. Get to a page where you see the option to print your sheet music. This can be through the "Order History" dashboard, the "Print My Sheet Music" dashboard, or the page Musicnotes takes you to right after purchasing your music. Press the **PRINT** button.

2. You will likely be directed to a screen that looks like this —>
Once again, select **PRINT** (you are not actually going to print your document with this step).

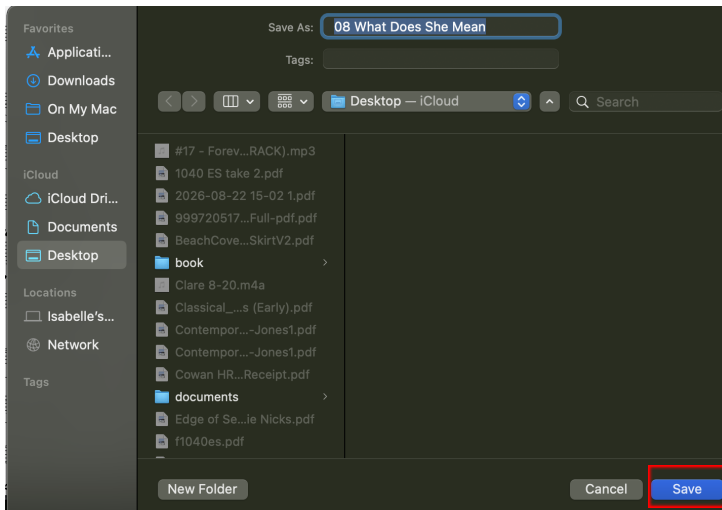
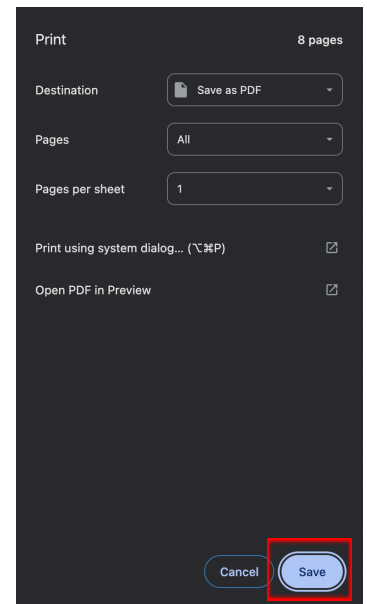
-
-
3. You should now be directed to another pop-up window that looks something like this:



Go to the “destination” drop-down menu and change the setting from your printer to “Save as a PDF.”



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4. Now the light blue button at the bottom right corner will say “save” instead of “print.” Press the “save” button.
5. Almost done! You’re at your last pop-up window! You will now have the option to rename the document and save it to your desktop as a PDF. Now you have a PDF document that you can save and print/share as many times as you would like.



Note: this is the process I would use on Google Chrome browser. I’m guessing it’s very similar on Safari as well, but please reach out with any questions.