

User Guide

Song Cues Player (2.0)



General Description:

Song Cues is a digital music player for customized playback of Apple Music playlists. Users can cue songs to fade-in, fade-out, start later, or end earlier, and they can customize how their playlists are shuffled. In contrast to current mixing apps, this app provides a hands-off listening experience, applying cues and settings that the user has pre-defined. It does not modify files in your music library.

How it works:

Once Song Cues is installed on a computer, the app will show the Apple Music playlists that are also on that computer. The user can then create cues and playlist settings for customized playback through the app. Ownership of songs is required to make cues. However, unowned songs are also playable and all additional features and settings will apply.

Issues this app addresses:

- (1) Songs that the user might prefer to start later or end earlier. Common examples include live recordings that have a long duration or talking intros or outros, electronic music tracks with long runways for mixing, and hidden tracks.
- (2) Songs that the user might prefer to fade in or fade out. Common examples include live recordings where audience applause is not faded between songs, tracks within continuous DJ mixes, and songs that have a cue to end early.
- (3) Songs that were recorded a notch too soft or loud.
- (4) Endless music when the user might prefer to hear songs in smaller chunks.
- (5) Inflexible playlist settings when the user might want to adjust the likelihood that certain songs will play.
- (6) Hearing the same song twice when switching playlists in the same session.
- (7) Hearing multiple versions of a song in the same session.

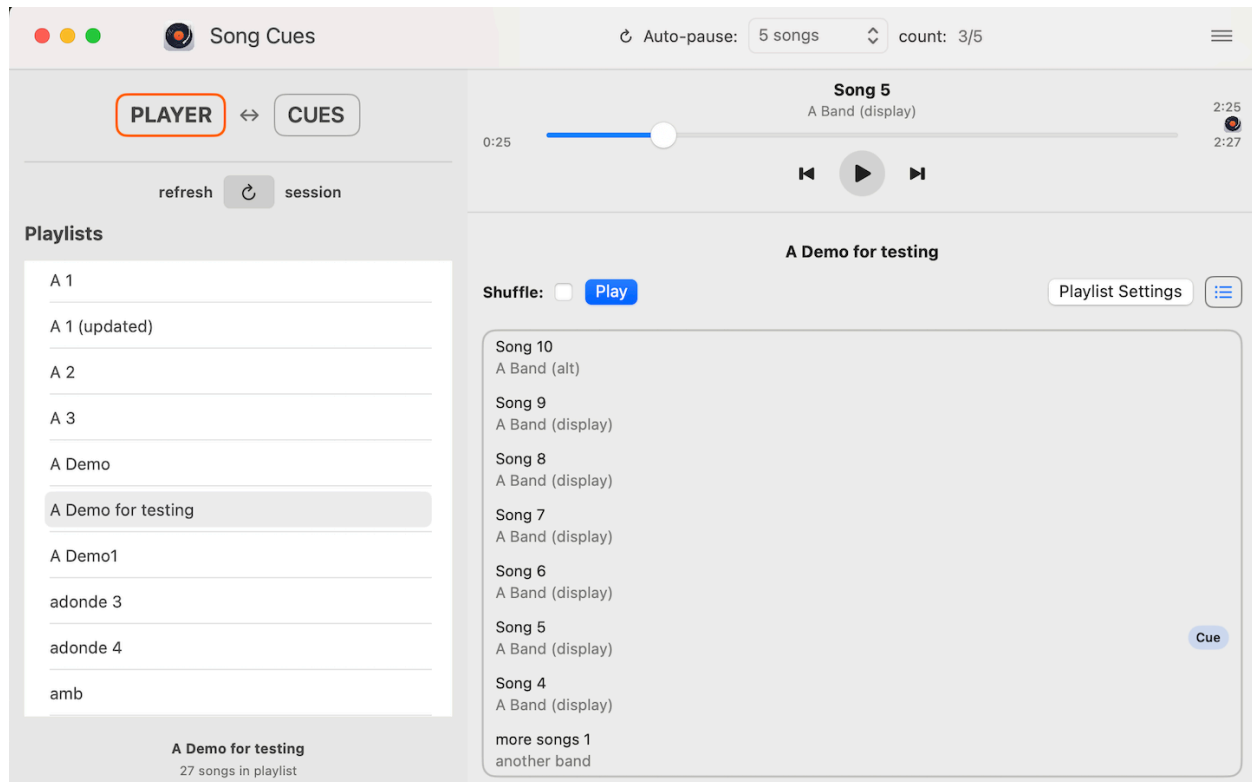
Audio Quality:

Song Cues utilizes MusicKit to play songs that do not have cues and AVAudioEngine to play songs that do have cues. More detailed information about the audio quality of MusicKit and AVAudioEngine is available online.

User interface:

- Player page

The layout of the Player page is designed to be similar to that of Apple Music. The main differences are the buttons for added features, including a toggle switch to the Cues page at the top left, a refresh session button below that, an auto-pause bar across the top, and a playlist settings button in the playlist area. The features are discussed in more detail below.



1. Auto-pause

This feature will pause the music after five or ten songs, at which point the user can play another five or ten songs by pressing play again. Its default setting is Off.

The auto-pause counter displays the current number in sequence (eg., 1/5, 2/5, ...). The user can restart the sequence by pressing the refresh button next to "auto-pause". The app will apply a fade-out to the last song if the user owns that song.

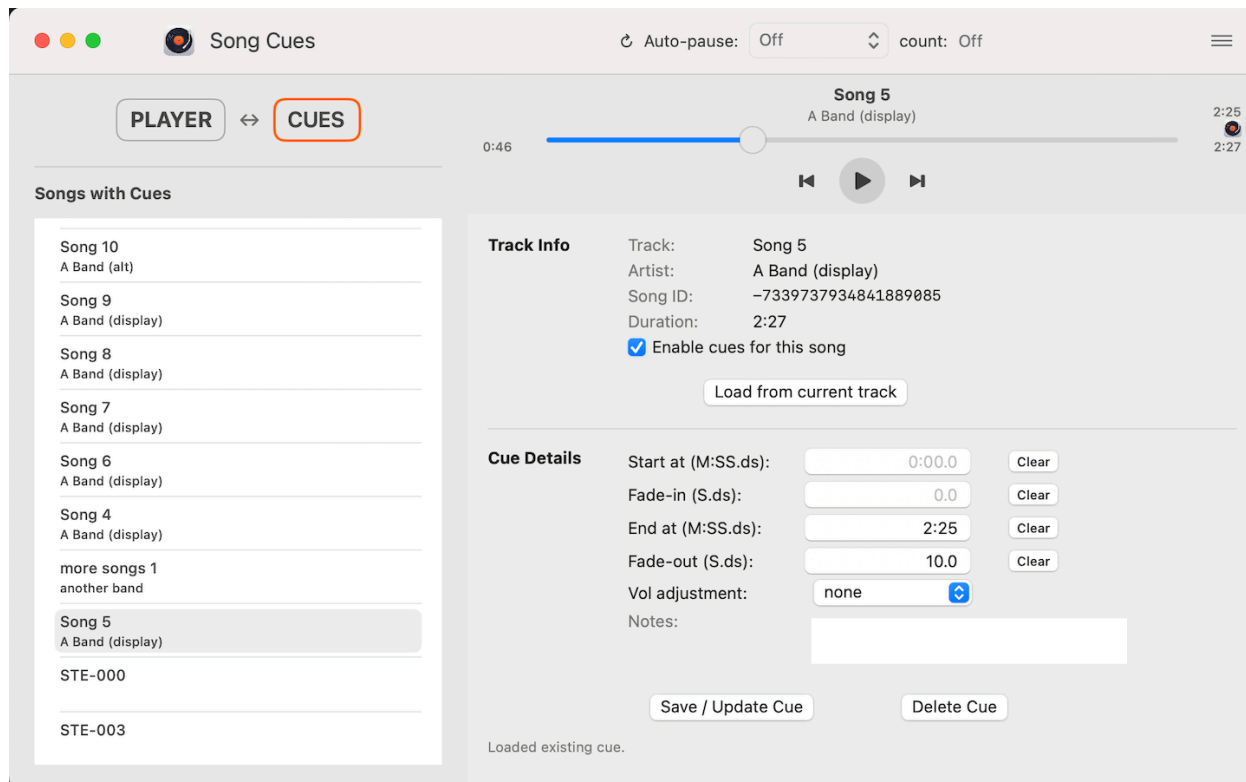
2. Sessions

When the listening mode is set to shuffle, the sessions feature allows the user to switch playlists and not hear the same song twice. The "refresh session" button will begin a new session. If the user wants to hear the same song again during the same session, he/she can click the back button, or can temporarily switch off shuffle mode.

- Cues page

1. Track info:

The user can see track info by pressing "Load from current track" while a song is playing or by selecting from the list of songs with cues.



2. Cue Details

- "Start at" and "End at":

This allows the user to start a song later or end it earlier. Acceptable formats include M:SS (eg., 0:35 or 2:35), :SS (eg., :35), and may include deciseconds (eg., 0:35.0, 2:35.5, :35.7). If nothing is entered in the field, it will remain grayed out and will not apply a cue there.

- "Fade-in" and "Fade-out":

Fades can be up to ten seconds long. They can be entered as whole numbers (eg., 5), and may include deciseconds (eg., 5.5).

- "Volume adjustment":

This allows adjustments of one small increment louder or softer. The difference is more noticeable when adjusting down.

- "Delete cue": This only deletes the cues for a particular song. It does not delete the song.

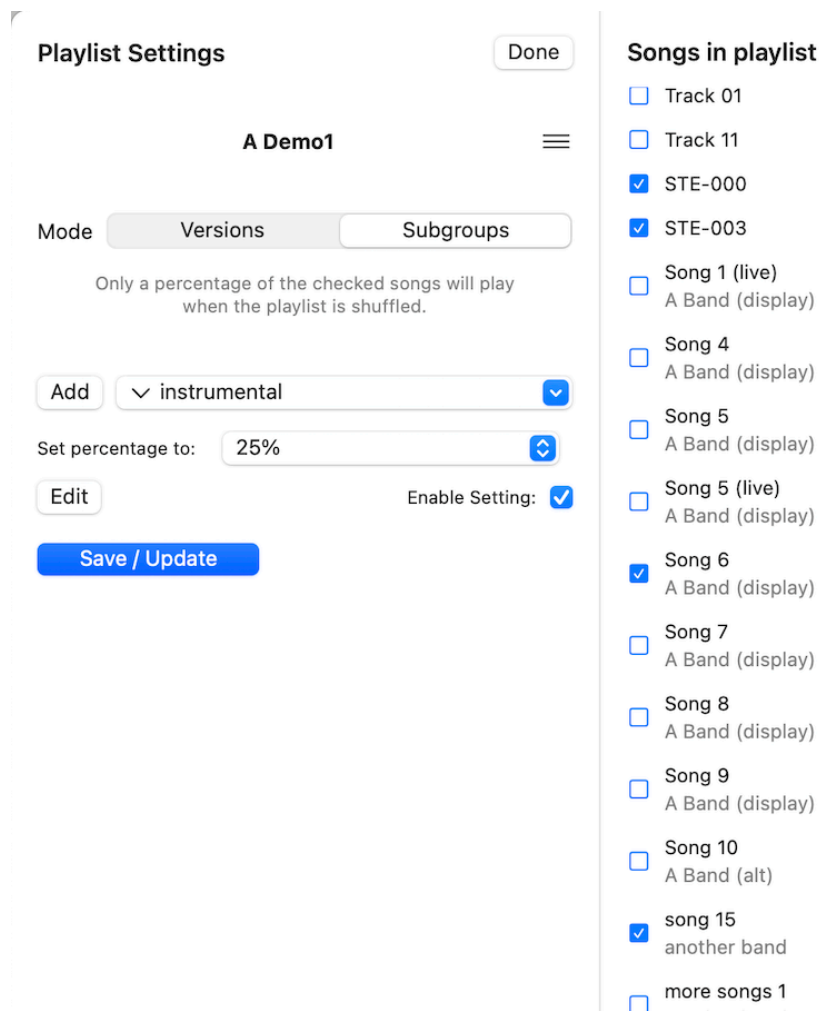
- Playlist settings page

1. Versions:

This allows the user to designate multiple versions of a song so that only one version will play when the playlist is shuffled. To do this, click "New", write the name of the song, check the applicable songs from the list of songs below and click "Save / Update".

2. Subgroups:

This allows the user to create subgroups so that only a percentage of those songs will play when the playlist is shuffled. To do this, click "New", write the name of the subgroup, check the applicable songs from the list of songs below, set the percentage to 0, 10, 25, 50, 75 or 100, and click "Save / Update". The percentage rounds up (eg., if there are 5 songs in a subgroup set to 50%, 3 of those songs will play in a shuffle). This feature also works in conjunction with the Sessions feature. (see image below)



Backing up and Importing:

Cues can be backed up as a JSON file and can be imported. This will save time when switching computers, updating the app, or downloading the app on multiple devices, including iPhones. When importing cues, users have the option to Add (keep existing cues and add new cues from the imported file), Merge (keep existing cues, add new cues from the imported file, and update cues if they have changed), and Replace (overwrite all cues with the imported file). Backing up existing cues is recommended before importing. These options can be found in the dropdown menu on the app header on every page.

Playlist Settings can also be backed up as JSON files and imported in this iOS version. A playlist settings file only pertains to that playlist. When importing playlist settings, the imported settings will overwrite any existing settings for that playlist. Therefore, it is recommended to backup current playlist settings before importing other settings. These options can be found in a different dropdown menu on the Playlist Settings page, below the app header.

Privacy Statement:

SongCues does not upload your playlists, cue data or playlist settings to our own servers. Cue data and playlist settings are stored locally on your device. When you choose to back up cues or settings, the file is created on your device and then shared only to the destination you select (for example, iCloud Drive, Files, email, or another app). SongCues uses Apple frameworks, including MusicKit and MediaPlayer, to read your Apple Music/iTunes library and playlists and to play songs from your library. For locally available cued songs, SongCues uses Apple's AVAudioEngine framework to play the audio on your device. Any communication with Apple Music or your Apple Music/iCloud Music Library is handled by Apple under your Apple account and Apple's privacy practices. Your device and iCloud backups may also include SongCues data, managed by Apple as part of your normal device backup settings.

Frequently asked questions:

The website SongCues.com will be the place for email feedback and frequently asked questions.



Create Cues for Your Songs