

PREPARING SUBTITLES FOR BESTLIGHT STREAMLINE SYSTEM

The Bestlight system is based on equipment supplied by Screen Systems and uses .pac subtitle files. EBU .srt files are also suitable.

The following should be observed:

There should be the same number of subtitles in each language and they should correspond to each other. The reason for this is that the operator will cue each subtitle manually by working with only the original language. All other languages will follow the same cueing. A sample of subtitles in different languages can be found at the end of this document.

Maximum line length is 45 characters, including spaces.

Maximum 2 lines per subtitle

German and French style speech marks («») can be used as can Spanish inverted marks (¿!¡)

Check the settings of Microsoft Word, or whichever word processor is used to ensure that it does not substitute different speech marks, apostrophes, hyphens and ellipsis (...) from those entered from the keyboard. If we encounter any problems then we can search and replace characters as necessary.

Plain text files can be accepted too.

Separate each line of a subtitle with a carriage return and separate each subtitle by 2 carriage returns as in the example below

- Listen to me, my friend
- I tell you I'm leaving

What have I done to you
that makes you want to leave me?

Nothing except almost have me killed

To ensure line lengths are not too long use a mono spaced font such as New Courier.

Set up a page with margins or a table that allow a maximum of 45 characters. It will be obvious when line lengths become too long. For example:

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123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345
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You know I need them more than the bread I  
eat
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The line above needs to be split into 2 lines

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You know I need them more than  
the bread I eat
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If supplying plain text files, mark the start and end of any italicised text using < and >.

There is no need to justify the text that will be handled when the text is converted to a subtitle file.

If there is a surtitle system in the opera house those surtitles could form the basis for the translations. However, the translations should be made from the original language libretto. Where the same line is sung repeatedly there is no need to have all the repeats in the subtitles.

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Sample of subtitles from Don Giovanni

	ENGLISH	ITALIAN	FRENCH	GERMAN
1	Come on buffoon, don't annoy me	Eh via buffone, non mi seccar!	Allons, drôle, ne m'importune pas davantage	Geh mir nicht auf die Nerven!
2	No, master, I want to leave you	No, no, padrone, non vo'restar	Non, mon maître, je ne veux pas rester	Nein, ich will nicht bleiben
3	- Listen to me, my friend - I tell you I'm leaving	- Sentimi, amico - Vo'andar, vi dico	- Écoute-moi, mon ami - Je veux m'en aller, vous dis-je	- Hör mir zu... - Ich will nicht bleiben
4	What have I done to you that makes you want to leave me?	Ma che ti ho fatto che vuoi lasciarmi?	Mais que t'ai-je fait pour que tu veuilles me quitter ?	Was habe ich getan, dass du mich verlassen willst?
5	Nothing except almost have me killed	O niente affatto quasi ammazzarmi	Rien du tout ! Quasiment me tuer !	Nicht viel, nur mich fast umgebracht
6	You're crazy, it was just a joke	Va, che sei matto fu per burlar	Voyons tu es fou ! C'était pour plaisanter	Dummkopf, das war nur Spaß
7	I'm not joking, I want to leave you	Ed io non burlo ma voglio andar	Et moi, je ne plaisante pas, mais je veux m'en aller	Ich mache keinen Spaß, ich werde gehen
8	Leporello	Leporello!	Leporello !	Leporello