v1.0

A Full-featured Demo Pack for the Olympus Symphonic Choir

We're proud to bring you the wondrous wonder of wonderfulness of Olympus Mike-ro Solo, the ultra-premium virtuoso tenor solo vocal library for Kontakt. This righteous tower of awesome brings cutting edge vocal technology and pristine vocal acrobatics together into a glorious package of amazing musical perfection. Ok, maybe.

Actually, this is just a fun little pack that shows a little of the behind the scenes fun we have as we research new functionality and sampling methods. When you're dragging a full symphonic choir into a hall to record and seconds really count, it's a good idea to have an idea of what you want them to do with your time well before you roll tape. Soundiron's official in-house trained monkey Mike Peaslee tends to fancy himself a bit of a singer. He probably falls somewhere roughly in the tenor range, we guess. Since nobody else wants to do it and he's literally willing to do anything on command if somebody's recording it, we tend to use him as a human guinea pig for vocal recording tests. He's our Johnny-On-The-Spot whenever we need to try out new systems and theories during pre-production.

What you'll find here is a collection of 5 poly-sustain chants, with Latin and Slavonic Russian content, along with common vowel sustains that we recorded during the production of our Olympus Symphonic Choir. These tests helped to inform our original approach to editing, recording and programming processes for solo voice in a hall environment. The first two sustains are partially improvised long Latin phrases rooted at 130 bpm. The next three are standard Slavonic words taken from the common liturgical texts of the Angelic Salutation, each recorded at 100 bpm. Lastly, we include the accompanying vowel sustains Ah, Eh, Oh and Oo. All content was sampled chromatically, to allow full key-range coverage.

"Poly-sustains" are a unique type of sustaining lyrical articulation is sung at a root tempo (100 and 130 bpm in this case), with the first syllables song to a natural rhythm before proceeding to a pure sustaining vowel that can be held infinitely. The final syllable is played as a release sample when the note is released. The choir sings throughout the polysustain in unison on a single pitch. We then record at whole step intervals over the entire interval range of the choir.

Each instrument preset includes a built-in selection of 10 classic room/hall reverbs and 10 unique special FX reverbs to allow you to take the sound in entirely new directions. There's also a 3-band EQ, simulated polyphonic intelligent legato and total performance shaping for two independent polysustain/vowel selections at once with fully independent performance controls such as layer stacking or crossfading, range cross-fading, pan, attack, release, syllable start offset

positioning, key-range and key-switch selector options for each layer. The integrated legato system allows you to play legato phrases with interval ranges up to 15 half-steps, with independent legato phrasing for layer 1 and 2. When playing the Polysustain chants using the Tempo-synching preset, you can even play phrase-synchronous legato melodies that allow the chant to proceed continuously as you change notes in real-time. You can even simulate custom tremolo and emphasis by using midi key aftertouch on any aftertouch compatible midi controller and sequencing environment.

Lastly, we've included several custom effect presets with the help of engine and scripting manipulation to produce evolving ambient and FX pad instruments to expand your creative options. All kidding aside, the powerful programming features you'll find in this library are very similar to what you'll experience with our flagship Olympus Symphonic Men's and Women's Choral Collection (Mars + Venus), Mercury Symphonic Boychoir and Requiem Light choral libraries. It also makes a great companion library to our simple Olympus Micro Choir, an efficient and great sounding full-featured choral starter pack in its own right.

We hope you have fun with Olympus Micro! Don't forget to check out the full collection and our full line of powerful professional choral scoring solutions!

SOUNDIRON
OLYMPUS MIKE-RO SOLO v1.0
A Spiffy Little Solo Tenor Vocal Library!

OVERVIEW

5 Kontakt nki presets (unlocked Kontakt 5 open-format)
96 Samples
178 MB Installed
24bit / 48kHz stereo PCM wav samples (non-compressed)
Powerful custom performance interface

Please Note: The <u>full</u> version of Kontakt 5.0.3 or later is required to use all presets included in this library. The Kontakt Player and the Libraries browser tab <u>do not</u> support this open-format library. You must have the full retail version of Kontakt.

CREDITS

Produced and Recorded by Mike Peaslee & Gregg Stephens
Edited and Programmedby Mike Peaslee
Scripting and Systems Design by Chris Marshall
Documentation by Michael Peaslee
Photos by Jen Peaslee
Artwork by Constructive Stumblings

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ABOUT THIS LIBRARY

Fidelity

This library was recorded in wide stereo at 48kHz/24bit, in a lush and natural hall environment. Because it is a real-world space and cannot be perfectly controlled, you may hear a few human artifacts like breaths, scuffs and other noises. And so it goes. We've learned over the years that you can't take the life out of the sound if you want the sound to be alive.

Accessibility

All of the sample content and impulse files are included as standard non-encrypted PCM wav files and standard open-format Kontakt presets to allow you easy access to manipulate, reprogram and customize the sounds however you prefer. We know that it's important for many users to be able to go beyond the limitations of any one sampler or preset structure, so we've kept this library's directories and files open for advanced users. As a professional, you may have your own workflow or format requirements, and we trust that you'll respect our hard work and won't share this content with anyone who hasn't paid for it.

Keep in mind that to use and/or edit the Kontakt presets, you'll need the full retail version of Native Instruments Kontakt 5.0.3 or later. Please be aware that the free Kontakt "Player" and any other version or form of Kontakt that came bundled with any other library or software product (other than NI's "Komplete" package) will not support this library. The free Kontakt Player is NOT a full version of Kontakt and cannot load or play standard open-format Kontakt instruments or libraries.

Please read all instrument specs and software requirements before purchasing this or any other Soundiron products to see the full list of software requirements, features and format compatibility for each library.

While you can reprogram the samples or presets to other formats, we always recommend using Kontakt for best results, since it widely considered the industry standard and easily the most powerful sample programming and playback platform on the market. However, if you wish to convert or reprogram the wav files and instrument presets into any other sampler or softsynth format, including free and open-source standards like SFZ, then there are a variety of great tools that you can use to customize this library, such as Extreme Sample Converter and Chickensys Translator. Just be aware that not all settings and properties will translate accurately, reliably or even at all from one instrument or audio format to the next, due to vast differences in standards, behaviors, structures and capabilities that each platform relies on.

System Requirements

The full retail version of Native Instruments Kontakt 5.0.3 or later is required to use this library. Please be aware that many instrument and multi-instrument programs in this library are extremely ram/cpu and hard disk-streaming resource intensive. We recommend that you have *at least* 4GB of system ram, a dual core cpu and at least a 7200 rpm SATA hard disk before purchasing this or any other Soundiron library. Large sample sets like those found in this library may load slowly and may cause system instability on older machines. We highly recommend using a 64 bit OS to take full advantage of this library.

Preset Loading

Once installation is complete, you can browse and load the included .nki presets using the Files or Database tabs in the Kontakt Browser, or through the main File load/save menu. Please allow presets to finish loading completely before loading a new one. You can't use the Libraries view to load standard open-format Kontakt Instruments like this library. Only locked "Powered-By-Kontakt" Libraries are visible to that propriety browser view. The "Add-Library" function also does not support this product or any other open-format Kontakt library. This library doesn't require any special activation.

Batch Re-Saving

If you move or change the directory structure within the main folder of this library, you may see a "missing sample" warning box when loading the presets into Kontakt. This can generally be corrected by using the "Batch Resave" command, located at the bottom of the drop down menu you'll see if you click on the main File menu at the top of Kontakt. Then select the folder you would like to resave. Select this library's main folder and then if Kontakt asks you where to find the missing files, select that same main folder again and press OK to continue. That will update the file-paths stored in the instrument. The scripted file-paths for the impulse files will not self-update however, so the reverb impulse loading drop-menu on the Tone / FX script tab will no longer work in many cases. To repair the impulse menu file-paths, please restore the library to its original structure.

Front Panel Controls

This instrument has a variety of special front panel performance controls that allow deep real-time performance customization. You can see each control's internal midi CC assignment by hovering your mouse over many of the controls and looking down at the "hint" text displayed in the Info bar at the bottom of Kontakt. To turn on the Info bar, press the "i" button at the top of Kontakt.

To assign midi CC automation to any knob, simply right-click (PC) or Command-Click (Mac) on the knob and then click the Assign Midi CC button that appears. The next midi controller you move will automatically be assigned to the control. You can access more automation features in the "Auto" tab window on the left side of Kontakt. Or, you can also "drag-drop" controller and host automation numbers from the "Auto" browser on the left side of Kontakt onto this or any of the other automatable controls to lock a control to a host or midi CC envelope. Once assigned to a controller, you can adjust the automation behavior for each controller down at the bottom of the "Auto" automation browser window.

After customizing any of the controls, you can save your own custom presets by using the File Save/Load menu at the top of Kontakt. Just choose a new preset name and save it in the same Instrument folder location to insure that Kontakt can locate all necessary files the next time you load it. All custom control knob settings will be saved with the instrument preset.

Layer 1 & 2 Selection Menus

Many presets allow for two simultaneous and independent performance layers, allowing you to play back two different articulationss at the same time and adjust each one differently as you wish. For example, one can select the poly-sustain for each layer by clicking the Layer 1 and Layer 2 drop-down menus and selecting from the list of available vowels and polysustains. To conserve voices or when you don't need both layers, you can disable either layer by pressing the small button to the side of each drop-down menu. This will also darker the control area of the disabled layer.
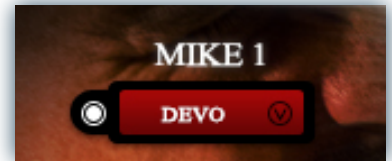
Blend Controls

In presets with 2 Layers there is an included Blend functionality. When active, the Blend Slider (or CC94) can be used to crossfade between both layers (if both layers are active). The small radial button next to the Blend Slider can be used to enable and disable this functionality. When disabled, both Layers will play overtop of each other.

Key Range

You can adjust the playable note range for each section layer by using the Key Range controls down at the bottom. This determines the note interval that the section can sing at. You can artificially extend the range all the way down to a subsonic C-1 and all the way up to a shrill chirping C7 if you wish. One can set the upper and lower range boundaries in two ways: changing the value in the value edit box or pressing the corresponding "SET" button then pressing a key on the midi keyboard. Users can reset the key range to the choir's natural range by CTLR+Left Clicking on the "Key Range" label itself.

Swell (CC72 & CC73)

The Swell knob allows smooth dynamic volume adjustment of the respective Layer from a low *pp* to a high *ff*.

Attack (CC74 & CC75)

The Attack knob shapes initial note attack to make the start of each note harder or softer. When used in conjunction with the "Offset" knob, this can be used to create some interesting pad-like effects. Please note the functionality of this knob varies between preset types. See each preset type's respective page for details.

Offset (CC78 & CC79)

The Offset knob sets the playback start position of the sample. Please note the functionality of this knob varies between preset types. See each preset type's respective page for details.

Release (CC76 & CC77)

The Release knob sets the room decay time of the release sample after a note is released. Higher values represent a larger room, while smaller values can produce an almost dry sound.

Rel Vol (CC90 & CC91)

The Rel Vol knob controls the volume of release samples only. This can be used to fine-tune how loud or quiet the room decay is when a note is released. To turn of playback of release samples altogether, use the small radial button just to the left of the Rel Vol label. This control isn't included in the staccato preset.

Pan

The Pan knob sets the stereo left ("L") to right ("R") pan position for each layer.
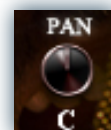
EQ Controls

The EQ tab contains a three-band equalizer. This special panel can be found in all of the instrument presets. You'll find this control window in the center column of the GUI. To open the window, click the EQ label. To enable the EQ effect in the signal path, click the On button below the EQ tab label.

LO Gain
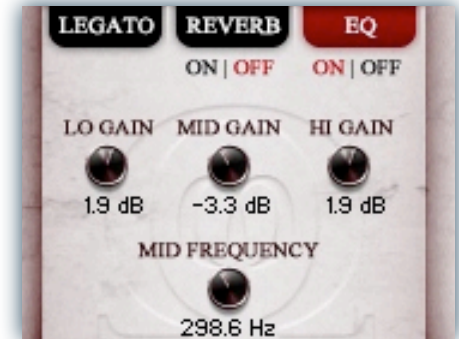This knob sets the amount of gain for the bass frequency band.

Mid Gain
This knob sets the amount of gain for the mid frequency band.

Mid Frequency
This knob sets the frequency for the mid band.

HI Gain
This knob sets the amount of gain for the treble frequency band.

Convolution Reverb Controls

We've incorporated our custom convolution impulses into each instrument preset, with full control over all available convolution effect parameters. You'll find this control window at the top right corner of the GUI. To open the window, click the REVERB label. To enable convolution reverb processing in the signal path, click the On button below the Reverb label.

Dry
Sets the amount of un-effected "dry" gain that is passed through the effect.

Wet
Sets the amount of effected "wet" gain that is passed through the effect.

Size
Sets the simulated room size of the convolution.

Low Pass
Sets the low frequency cut-off of the impulse response, allowing you to dull and darken the sound.

High Pass
Sets the high frequency cut-off of the impulse response, allowing you to remove rumble and low end.

Delay
Sets the amount of pre-delay time before the wet signal is returned

Impulse menus
These menus allow you to select from a wide variety of custom convolution reverb impulses that we've personally captured or created for you, separated into experimental FX impulses and simulated real-world spaces.

FX Drop-down menu
This menu allows you to select one of 10 special effect convolutions. Selecting an impulse from this menu overrides and unloads any currently loaded impulse from the Spaces menu.

Rooms Drop-down menu
This menu allows you to select one of 10 natural environmental space convolutions. Selecting an impulse from this menu overrides and unloads any currently loaded impulse from the Effects menu.

Legato Controls

This simulated legato system allows you to tie notes together as you play an uninterrupted melody. In natural instruments, notes blend together slightly as a performer changes between pitches. This creates a natural smoothing effect. In complex poly-phonetic and multi-syllable content like the Polysustains, this effect is simulated to give them a more life-like quality. As a special added feature for the polysustains, the sequence of syllables will continue fluidly as you play your legato melody, without interrupting the phrasing. For best results, try to place your note transitions close to syllable transitions. You'll find this control window at the center column of the GUI. To open the window, click the Legato label. To enable legato, turn on at least one of the two Legato layer on/off buttons below

To automatically trigger legato transitions in your performances, enable the legato system by turning on the legato on/off button for the layer you would like to use. Then, play a note and hold it. Now play a new note close to it on the keyboard without letting go of the old note until the new note has started. This short time overlap tells the program that you wish to perform a legato transition instead of releasing the old note and starting the new note. You can play simultaneous melodies at once for each of the two section layers as long as you stay within the defined key range of each layer.

Legato 1 On/Off
This button turns legato on/off for Layer 1 (or the Men in the combo presets).

Legato 2 On/Off
This button turns legato on/off for Layer 2 (or the Women in the combo presets).

Range
This knob controls the interval range within which a legato transition will occur. When used with Polyphony, any legato transition played greater than this setting will trigger another legato position.

Speed
The Speed knob controls the speed of the pitch bend when it is enabled. When turned all the way down, the bend is slow; turned all the way up, the bend is fast. Slower legato speeds sound the smoothest, but if you want to play faster melodies, we recommend using higher speed settings.

Bend
This knob controls the intensity of the simulated legato bend. Setting this knob to 0 turns the bend off completely.

TIPS:

Tempo Synching
When using the "Tempo-Synch" Preset included in this library, the poly-sustain content are designed to automatically tempo-synch the playback speed of their phrasing to the project tempo settings of most host sequencers. The Polysustains are the first 5 options in the Layer drop-down list. These presets use the "Time-Machine Pro" time-stretching engine built into Kontakt, which may experience CPU spikes and acoustic artifacts and distortion as some playback speeds. The versions of the main preset labeled "DFD" does not tempo-synch the polysustain phrases, and instead use the more resource and memory-efficient "DFD" engine mode. This mode provides a smoother, higher fidelity sound for the Polysustains, but will not synchronize the syllable playback to your tempo.

Custom Control Automation
If you wish to save the knob values in the preset after changing them, save the preset. The values will be loaded the next time you open the preset. To reset a knob to it's default position, simply Right Click on the knob with your mouse (Command Click for Mac). You can also assign any midi controller or host automation envelope to any of the knobs and buttons by using the automation assignment menu on the left side of Kontakt, under the "Auto" tab in the Browser area. Just click on the CC number you want to assign and drag your cursor onto the knob or button you want to automate while holding down your mouse button. Then set the "From %" and "To %" values to the min and max value range you want the automation to stay within. Setting the From % value higher than the To % value will invert the direction of the automation. To remove the automation from a control, press the Remove button at the bottom.

INSTRUMENT PROGRAMS

Kontakt 5 Presets:

All presets included in this library require the full version of Kontakt 5.0.3 or later to use.

Olympus Mike-ro Tempo-synch.nki

This standard instrument includes all of the polysustain and vowel sustain content together in two independently controllable layers, with full section controls for each layer. The first 5 options in the Layer selection drop-downs are the chanted Polysustains, with 2 Latin and 3 Slavonic phrases. The next 5 options are the Ah 1 (piano), Ah 2 (Forte), Eh (Forte), Oh (Forte) and Oo (piano) vowel sustains. Also don't forget - you can simulate custom tremolo and emphasis by pushing down on your after-touch compatible midi keyboard after playing a note. The faster you push, release and repeat the aftertouch pressure, the faster and more intense the tremolo effect.

Olympus Mike-ro DFD.nki

This version of the main preset uses the more ram-efficient and higher fidelity DFD disk-streaming engine. The audio quality is better, but it sacrifices tempo-synching functionality.

Olympus Mike-ro - FX - No Going Back.nki

This is a special effect preset that utilizes a variety of programming tweaks to create a unique multi-layered atmospheric sustaining effect.

Olympus Mike-ro - FX - Tar Sands.nki

This is a special effect preset that utilizes a variety of programming tweaks to create a oozing time slowing effect. You can adjust playback speed of the samples by using the Modwheel (CC1).

Olympus Mike-ro - FX - Infinity Harmonizer.nki

This is a special effect preset that utilizes a variety of programming tweaks to create an artificially harmonized, stretched grain delay chaining effect. You can adjust formant shape of the harmonizing engine by using the Modwheel (CC1).

Notes:

The **nkc** and **nkr** files are used by Kontakt to load certain elements and impulse files that this library requires. These special files cannot be opened directly, but it is important that they be kept where they are so that Kontakt can locate them properly when needed.

The Samples and Instruments directories are stored in relative locations to each other. Therefore, they should not be separated or re-structured. Moving or renaming the folders or their contents can cause presets and samples to fail to load properly. We recommend that you do not alter them unless you are experienced with Kontakt batch 're-saving' and preset editing.

You can load any of the wav samples into any audio environment or program you like to customize, sequence or manipulate the samples, but we recommend creating a back-up copy of the data before you attempt to edit or move any of the library content around.

Version Notes:

- v1.0: Original 2013 release with full UI, 5 polysustain + 5 integrated vowel sustains, plus special FX presets.

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THANK YOU.

Thanks for rocking the Soundiron Olympus MIKE-RO SOLO tenor vocal library, featuring our own Mike Peaslee, live and in concert. If you have any questions, troubles, concerns, comments, love-letters or hate mail, feel absolutely free to send it on over to us:

info@soundiron.com

Much obliged,

Mike, Gregg and Chris

www.soundiron.com

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