

ART VISTA

Welcome to Art Vista's

VIRTUAL GRAND PIANO

Art Vista Virtual Grand Piano 2.1

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Thank you for purchasing Art Vista's Virtual Grand Piano 2. The instrument is based on extensive recordings of a *1960 Hamburg Steinway model "B"* in a medium size hall. Version 2 introduces a new interface and a completely revamped instrument. Custom-made presets for the most common keyboard controllers now offer an absolutely authentic piano touch, no matter which keyboard you are using. New features like musical pedal sounds and push-button access to a wide range of useful presets are now available directly from the main interface. Virtual Grand Piano 2.1 also offers a large number of ways to control and customize the piano's sound.



Main Presets

The main preset is: 1. Virtual Grand Piano. There are also included three presets with smaller footprint: 2. Virtual Grand Piano Dry, 3. Virtual Grand Piano Light, and 4. Virtual Grand Piano Light Dry.

Custom Keyboard Response

When Virtual Grand Piano 2.1 is loaded, a screen will ask you to choose a controller keyboard. The instrument has been optimized for a large number of popular keyboards. There are also generic "hard", and "soft" presets for the keyboard response.

Loudspeaker Presets

Next, the screen will prompt you to choose a loudspeaker setup. Professional and project studios should here select "Studio Monitors." If you are using VGP with computer speakers to play at home, you can use one of the two computer speaker presets. Choosing "Custom EQ" will allow you to use a three-band parametric equalizer to create your own frequency response.

Playing Styles

Next, select your preferred playing style. There are 13 presets available from the main interface: Folk/Jazz, Jazz Trio, Rock Ballad, Film Score, Pop Piano, Funk Piano, Gospel Piano, Vintage Jazz, Vintage Pop, Vintage Rock, Vintage Soul, Psychedelic, and Classical. For custom presets, there are also six user presets available, based on playing styles presets 2-7.

Microphone Position (Mic Pos.)

Emulates the position of the microphone relative to the bass strings of the piano. A high value indicates that the mic is positioned to minimize bass frequencies from the lower strings.

EQ

Controls the amount of mid- and low frequency content from all strings. A high value indicates that some of the mid and low frequencies have been cut.

Width

The stereo width of the recorded piano may be reduced, or expanded. If a specific placement is desired in the stereo field, a slight reduction combined with panning (slider) will make it possible to place the instrument at a certain location.

Tape

Emulates the analogue saturation produced by older recording techniques, magnetic tape etc. A small amount will usually be sufficient, and extreme settings may cause distortion.

Compression

VGP offers three compression presets: Soft, Medium, and Hard. Compression can be used for custom sounds, but is not necessary for a natural presentation.

Reverb

The Reverb button will turn on the reverb and light up when engaged. The button right above it changes function to switch the reverb settings view on/off. You can change the amount of reverb send: "Reverb", the size of the room: "Size", and the amount of stereo effect in the reverb tail "Stereo." The last knob in the reverb settings control display ("Pedal") has a separate function: Amount of pedal noise. (See next paragraph)

Pedal Sounds

The Pedal Sounds button will turn on and off the pedal noises caused by depressing and releasing the sustain pedal. The Pedal Sounds are "musical" in the sense that they will adjust to the musical context of the performance. The general strength of the Pedal Sounds can be adjusted with the knob "Pedal" accessible from within the reverb settings view. (See the paragraph "Reverb" above.)

Hall Ambience

This button switches on and off the release samples from the recordings. These release samples are the recordings of the room ambience following the release of each note. Engaging the Hall Ambience will place the piano in the true acoustic context of the medium size hall where it was recorded. If this ambience is not desirable, one can opt to use the preset "2. Virtual Grand Piano Dry" instead, as it will demand less resources from the computer, and yield a larger polyphony.

Room

This window allows you to scale the amount of real hall ambience included at the release of a note.

Exciter

The exciter is an effect that will focus the sound projection of the piano. The depth of the true stereo perspective will be slightly reduced and the higher frequencies slightly exaggerated to create sound that projects out from the speaker.

Stereo - Surround

The Stereo and the Surround buttons switch between two-channel stereo, and 5.1 surround sound. When surround sound is chosen, an additional button appears below. It will allow you to switch to views of a 4-component surround mixer, and the settings controls for the **surround parameters**:

Size: Varies the size of the surround field.

LFE: Changes the Low Frequency Effects channel level.

Divergence (Diverg.): Alters the focus of a sound source in the surround system. Setting the knob to 0% will cause no volume changes on any of the loudspeakers. Setting the divergence to 100% will enhance each sound source's directional focus.

Output: Changes the surround module's overall level.

X_Axis: Shifts the sound source's position from left to right on the x-axis.

Y_Axis: Shifts the sound source's position from up to down on the Y-axis.

Angle: Changes the sound source's angle.

Distance: Alters the sound source's distance to the surround system center.

Attenuation

The Attenuation control will put a pad of a few dB on the upper octaves of the keyboard.

Recording Styles Folder

The VGP presets in the "Recording Styles" folder have been programmed to emulate the recording styles of pianos heard on famous recordings by various artists from the 1950's until today. The styles have been emulated from recordings by:

Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Norah Jones, Diana Krall, Donny Hathaway, Chet Baker, Jan Johansson, Ray Charles, John Lewis, Bobby Timmons, Billy Preston, Keith Jarrett, Jackson Browne, Leon Russell, John Legend, Arthur Rubinstein, Bill Evans.

Special Effects Folder

These presets have been created by using signal processing such as chorus, flanger, delay etc. and includes patches such as "The Sunken Cathedral," "Space Piano," and "Delay Piano."

VGP Legacy Folder

These presets provide backwards compatibility with VGP1. Some presets from the previous version of Virtual Grand Piano were not possible to recreate accurately within the new interface framework of VGP2. Therefore they are provided as separate presets. Among these presets you will find the "Rock Piano," and the "Light Piano," which are the least resource-demanding presets, if you have a computer that just barely meets the minimum specifications.

Maximum Voices (Max)

This setting in the upper Kontakt2 Player window sets the maximum allowed polyphony. For most presets the default setting is 62 voices. However, the user can adjust this setting with the arrows that appear next to the number when the mouse pointer is positioned to the right of it. The preset: "2. Virtual Grand Piano Dry" has a default Maximum Voices setting of 127.

Midi CC Automation

Basic Presets and Recording Styles Presets:

Instrument Volume	cc7
Instrument Pan	cc10
Microphone Position	cc20
EQ - Gain	cc21
Reverb Send	cc22
Stereo Width	cc23
Tape	cc24
Reverb Room Size	cc26
Reverb Color	cc27
Reverb Damping	cc28
Reverb Stereo	cc29
Reverb Return	cc30
Reverb Pre-Delay	cc31
Interior Inst. Volume	cc39
Interior Inst. Pan	cc42

NOTE: The Recording Styles presets have Reverb Room Size assigned to Knob 1 (cc20).

Special Effects Presets:

CHORUS PIANO

Reverb Send cc17

Chorus Speed cc22

Chorus Phase cc23

Chorus Depth cc24

DELAY PIANO

Delay Damping cc17

Delay Feedback cc22

Delay Time cc23

Delay Pan cc24

FLANGER PIANO

Flanger Feedback cc22

Flanger Speed cc23

Flanger Depth cc24

PHASER PIANO

Phaser Feedback cc22

Phaser Speed cc23

Phaser Depth cc24

MULTI EFFECT PIANO

Phaser Feedback cc22

Phaser Speed cc23

Phaser Depth cc24

UNDERWATER PIANO

Chorus Depth	cc17
Phaser Feedback	cc22
Delay Feedback	cc23
Delay Time	cc24

VIOLIN PIANO

Attack	cc20
Curve	cc21
Reverb Send	cc22
Phaser Speed	cc23
Phaser Depth	cc24

SPACE PIANO

Attack	cc20
Curve	cc21
Chorus Depth	cc22
Delay Feedback	cc23
Delay Time	cc24