



ujam



# VIRTUAL PIANIST

User Guide

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*Virtual Pianist User Guide rev F*

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## Welcome to Virtual Pianist



Thank you for purchasing (or trying) a title in our *Virtual Pianist* series - a line of products designed to enable everyone to produce great piano tracks.

### What is Virtual Pianist?

The piano is one of the most versatile instruments ever invented, and so are the people who play it. Obviously, there is no standard piano or pianist, for there is a large range of piano applications, musical genres, piano types, player personalities and more. A classical piano is a different make and model, setup and tuning than a pop piano. A classical pianist will use completely different playing techniques, ideas and articulations than a pop pianist. Therefore, each *Virtual Pianist*, while offering a quite broad palette of sounds and playing styles, will focus on a certain type of piano and player.

There was only one mission statement that we followed throughout the entire innovation and development process: “If we do it right, anybody – even total non-keyboardists – can produce and perform dynamic, convincing piano tracks while having a ton of fun”.

Therefore, Virtual Pianist is anything but “yet another piano library”. Actually, creating an amazing virtual piano model along with the sound design options that let you always find and tweak that sound you’re looking for, or be inspired by something you didn’t expect, was almost the easy part. And there was a lot of reference, because virtual piano instruments have been around for more than 20 years, and some of our team were involved with the very first of its kind.

The real challenge was to create a player engine that doesn’t sound robotic or boring but actually vivid and inspiring, and that allows for dynamic live tricks such as playing with articulations, fill-ins, ‘busyness’ and other things that bring a piano performance to life. That’s something we hadn’t seen before, but since the UJAM team has so many guitarists,

singers or DJs who don't play the piano but *need* piano, there was a large pool of resources to tap into for finding out what people want, how they want it, and what would make them truly happy. One of my favorite moments along the way was when I showed an early alpha version to a friend who's a classically trained pianist and he replied: *"Wow, this thing makes me play things I'd never think of, and it's almost too easy"*.

We sincerely hope that this will be what *Virtual Pianist* feels like to you as well. Because after all, we're a lot about making music creation easier for people, but even more so, we're about enabling and inspiring new ideas, and to make it a lot of fun along the way.

The entire team hopes you'll enjoy these!

Peter Gorges  
*Founder, UJAM*

## About GRIT



GRIT is our fifth Virtual Pianist. Featuring a rare 1950s Wurlitzer 120 piano, customized to deliver maximum edge, bite and character, Virtual Pianist GRIT is the second electric pianist in the series after VIBE.

It is the perfect instrument for anyone who looks for an electromagnetic keyboard with a rugged character and a strong voice. GRIT is at home in 60s soul to 70s funk, in 80s glitz to 90s indie roughness, and adds organic drive even to all-electronic, ambient or cinematic music.

“Everyone of us has too many electric pianos as it is. But no one has this one” adds Derek von Krogh, Virtual Pianist co-creator. “I’m so happy we found this customized Wurlitzer 120 because it’s so much edgier than the standard Supertramp piano you hear everywhere. I’ve always been a “Wurlitzer, not Rhodes guy” because I liked its honest, gritty working-class attitude. But GRIT stands out because this historic mode is grittier than anything I’ve ever heard - a gem in any collection”.

[GRIT Product Page](#)

## About RELIC



RELIC is an upright piano chosen for its unique, imperfect character. This instrument isn't polished to perfection; instead, its charm lies in its authentic, well-worn sound.

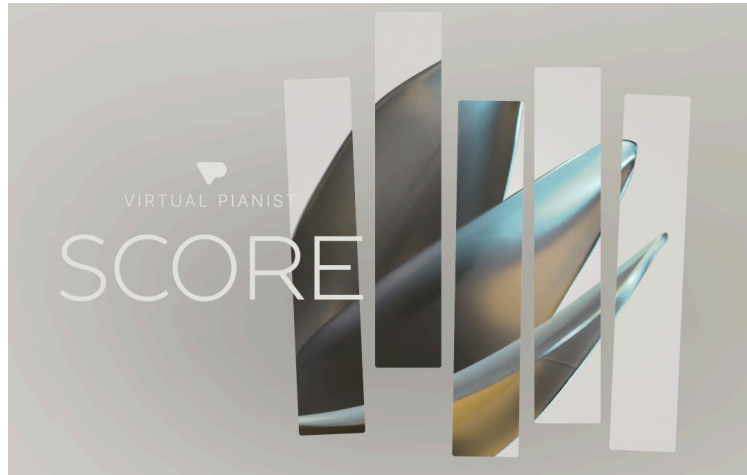
If SCORE is akin to a Hans Zimmer soundtrack, RELIC embodies the soul of an old Beatles record. Such imperfect instruments are frequently used in modern pop music to infuse life and character into digital productions. The upright piano's compact sound spectrum makes it incredibly mix-friendly, and it often inspires different playing styles compared to a grand piano.

Our team went to great lengths to capture RELIC's essence, collaborating with a master piano tuner to find the perfect balance of imperfections. The built-in Player, featuring bespoke performances by Derek von Krogh, ensures every phrase and preset clicks beautifully.

RELIC also includes custom Finishers and Ambiences, allowing you to transform your sound from retro to spacey and back again. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, into Pop, Indie, Singer-Songwriter, or EDM, Virtual Pianist RELIC will inspire and enhance your musical creations.

[RELIC Product Page](#)

## About SCORE



SCORE is - as the name indicates - our idea of a piano-playing composer creating music and themes to picture.

Before we started this project, the song we all played in our head was American Beauty by Thomas Newman - intimate, lush, haunting, beautiful, emotional - a sound that touches hearts and souls. It defined the core signature of this piano when compared to its sisters VOGUE and VIBE, and we built the sound palette of SCORE around that.

When trying to describe the emotions and atmospheres that SCORE will enable you to create, there's almost too many words that come to mind: Moody, dreamy, dark to eclectic, atmospheric and emotional to even surreal and psychedelic - the whole toolkit for inventing little worlds is there. Of course, SCORE is a perfect companion for any kind of music - ambient, pop, even rock and EDM - whenever you're looking for a beautiful performance on a prime grand piano, give it a try!

[SCORE Product Page](#)

## About VIBE



VIBE combines a smooth studio keyboard player with a vintage electric piano, with sounds and styles you can put to great use in all kinds of music from 60s jazz to today's electronic and ambient music. Again, while the piano model itself is a great representation of that classic keyboard instrument made famous by players such as Stevie Wonder or Herbie Hancock, we've put a lot of focus on the player engine and the Styles.

No matter whether you play piano or not, you will find yourself creating great electric piano tracks with ease. A range of live performance options, piano setup Characters and plenty of bespoke Finisher and Ambience effects are all perfectly optimized for the electric piano.

Don't miss the extra attention to advanced voicing options we've developed with VIBE. Set a key, select a chord voicing mode via the new button and be impressed by how elegantly VIBE creates electric piano chord voicings from even individual note inputs.

[VIBE Product Page](#)

## About VOGUE



VOGUE is a combination of a modern pop grand piano and a bandleader-kind of pianist, both of which you'll find on the big stages and in world-class studios around the globe.

VOGUE is perfect for you if you produce modern band music – from pop ballads to rock anthems to EDM club hits – but it doesn't stop there.

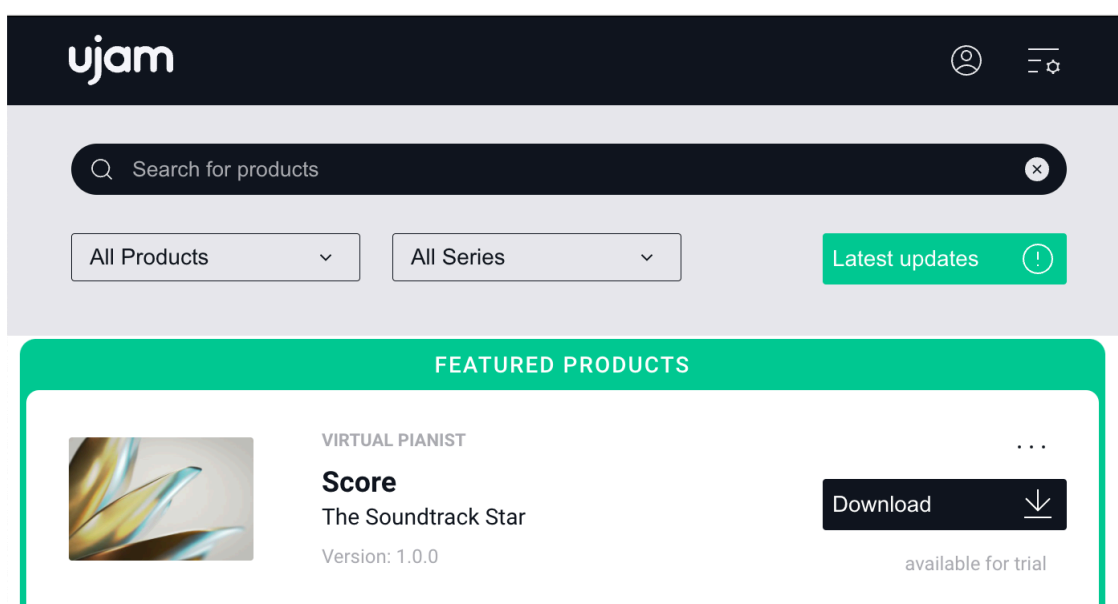
Using and abusing the sonic and musical possibilities, VOGUE will make you produce great results in genres as far from mainstream piano as Ambient, Film Score, Hip Hop or Alternative. In the end, it's not about following schemes. It's about an inspiring musical idea or song performance and a well-engineered and designed piano sound to go with it. You'll find all of that combined and ready at your fingertips in VOGUE. Just try it!

[VOGUE Product Page](#)

## Installation

The [UJAM App](#) handles installation for the Virtual Pianist plug-in and titles and handles activation on your system.

### UJAM App



*Virtual Pianist SCORE in the UJAM App*

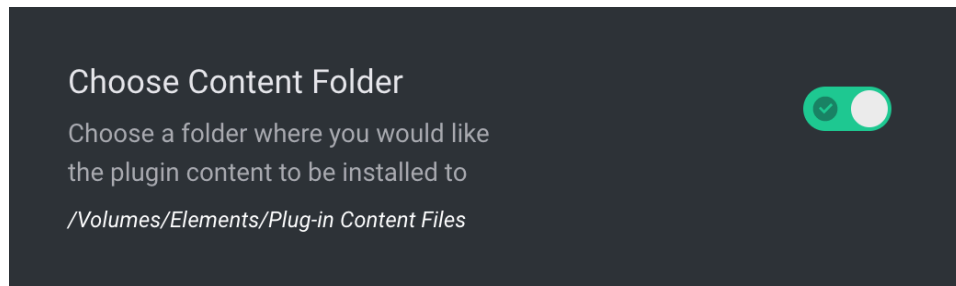
Installing *Virtual Pianist* from the UJAM App is easy – it doesn't matter if you've purchased it or are just starting a trial. The UJAM App displays all available *Virtual Pianist* titles. You can choose one, a few, or all titles from here.

With the installation of your first Virtual Pianist title, the UJAM App will also install the *Virtual Pianist* plug-in frame which hosts the titles.

Look for "Virtual Pianist" in the UJAM section of your DAW's instruments. After loading that, select a title (like VIBE).



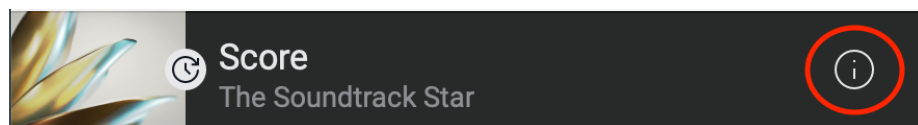
## Content Location



*UJAM App Settings*

In the UJAM App's settings, you have the option to select a custom location for the plug-in content files, for example if you prefer keeping your files on an external drive.

## Plug-in Information



Clicking on the circled "i" near the top of the user interface of your *Virtual Pianist* opens the Information page where you can find detailed information about your plug-in's build as well as links to the Acknowledgements, Product Page, Support, User Manual and License Agreement.

## Additional help

- [Downloads](#)
- [Installation](#)
- [Activation](#)
- [Troubleshooting](#)

## Quick Start

Before we look at things in more depth, let us first explore how to play, tweak and create with *Virtual Pianist*, as that may be all you need for now. This super-short section will show you how to get started in minutes.

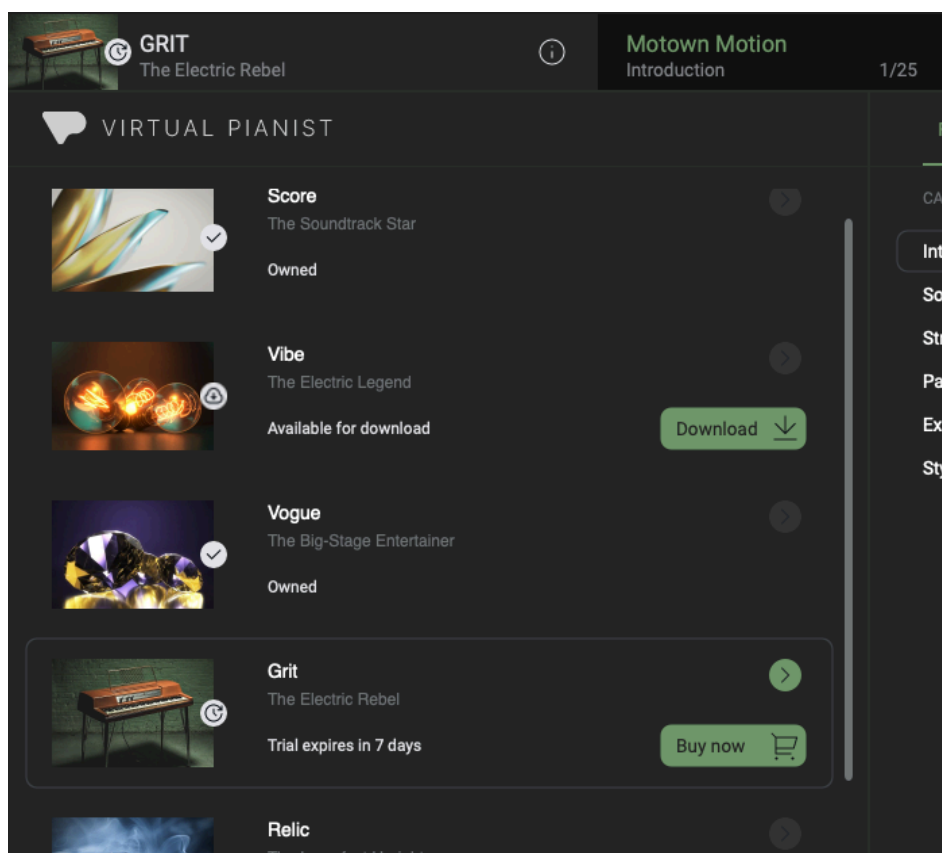
## Where's My Piano?

Can't find the virtual pianist you just installed in your DAW or on your drive?

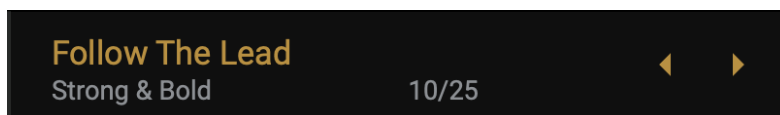
Look for "Virtual Pianist" (which is the virtual instrument plug-in) and after loading that on a track in your DAW you can switch between titles like GRIT, SCORE, etc.

When opening the *Virtual Pianist* plug-in, you'll notice that a title will load by default - this depends on which titles you have installed and activated.

Clicking on the title banner at the top of the window lets you switch titles, install titles you own, start free trials or even purchase a title. Click the banner again to return to the controls.



## Tour the Presets



Click into the top center area to open the *Global Preset Browser*, or simply click the arrows to step through the presets.

In the *Global Preset Browser*, you can take your time jumping around between *Presets* from all categories. Just double-click a preset to go back to the relevant title's main page.

## Zoom Your Window



You can resize *Virtual Pianist's* user interface either by clicking the *Resize* button in the top-right corner of the user interface, or by dragging the little hashed triangle in the bottom-right corner.

## Play For Yourself

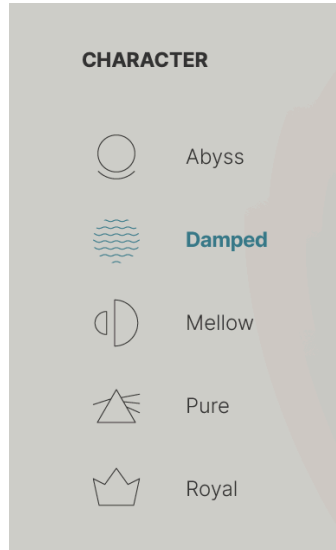
*Instrument* mode acts like a real piano, and is a good way to hear the sound shaping options.

Set the little switch on the left side (right above the keyboard) to *Instrument*:



Now the 'pianist' is taking a break and you can sit down and play a few notes while turning some knobs and switches so you can really hear what everything does. Don't worry, it doesn't matter how well you play at this point, just hitting a few notes or chords is enough – we'll go all virtuoso later!

## Choose Your Character



Click your way through the Characters on the left side of the user interface to explore the range of sounds you can get out of your Virtual Pianist. They're ordered top to bottom from soft sounds to more aggressive sounds.

## Set the Mood



Underneath the center graphic you'll find a slider labeled Dark/Light. Play around with it and listen to what it does to the overall sound of your *Virtual Pianist*.

## Effects For Affect



Now let's move to the right of the beautiful center visual and check out the effects.

- First, you'll want to enable the Finisher by clicking on the 'power' button to the left of the Finisher module. This multi-effect module provides sound design options optimized for your Virtual Pianist, ranging from subtle to crazy.
- Set the Amount knob to at least 50% to ensure that you can easily hear the effect
- Now click the left and right arrows under the Finisher's Mode Name to skip through Modes, or click on the Mode Name to browse through the Modes in categories

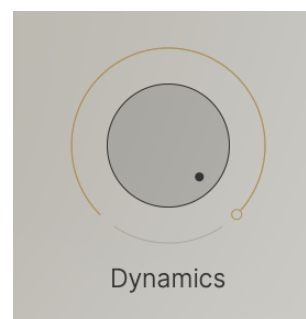
Deactivate the Finisher again and do the same with the Ambience section.

- The Ambience module gives you a variety of ambient FX ranging from simple delays and reverbs to crazy combinations and everything in between!

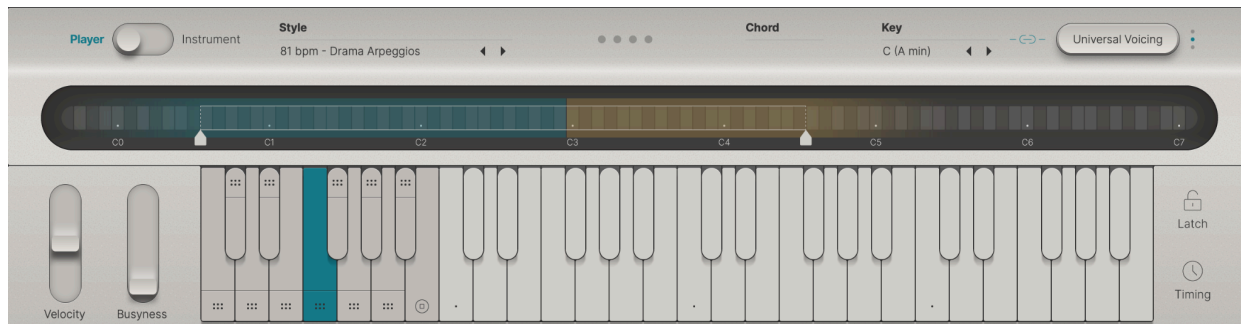
## Dynamic Behavior

If you're a skilled player, you may want to adjust the velocity sensitivity of your *Virtual Pianist*.

You'll find the *Dynamics* control under the *Master Tab* menu. For the full dynamic range, leave the knob at the maximum value. As you decrease it, there will be less dynamic range giving it a more artificial but powerful feel.



## Enter: The Pianist



*Pianist Section*

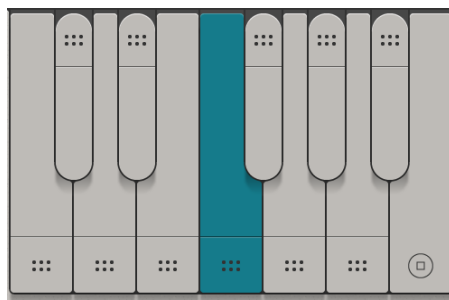
Most of the hard work and brain grease in the development and creation of *Virtual Pianist* went into creating realistic piano performances via the *Phrase Player* engine. Try it for yourself and see if we did a good job...

- 1) Set the switch on the left above the keyboard to *Player* mode.
- 2) Press a key in the lower octave to choose a Phrase
- 3) Press a key on the right to play the phrase

## Chords From a Note

In *Player* mode, Virtual Pianist will play chords as they are the basis for all of the complex riffs and arpeggios that the pianist is able to perform.

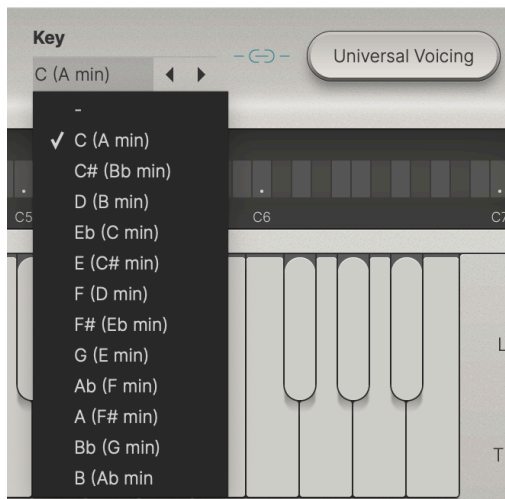
The on-screen keyboard has a separate *Control Section* - it's the leftmost octave with the marked keys (from C1 to B1 on your MIDI Controller or editor).



*Control Octave*

The 'playable' range of the keyboard starts at C2.

## Pick a Key



In *Virtual Pianist*, it is very important that you set a key in the *Key* selector to unlock the full potential of the Pianist engine! By selecting a key, the Pianist is able to make informed voicing decisions, allowing for a much more realistic and interesting piano performance!

The other added benefit of having a *Key* selected is that the player will be safely limited to the key of your song. No matter what notes you press in the *Chord Range* afterwards, *Virtual Pianist* will only play chords that sound good within the key's scale - particularly handy when you're not a skilled keyboardist!

## Left Hand, Right Hand

In the *Control Octave*, the keys C1 to A1 select phrases for the selected *Style*. In general, these phrases increase in intensity as you travel up the keyboard (A1 being the most intense). The 3 less intense *Phrases* (C1 to E1) select phrases that only use the pianist's right hand, while the 3 more intense *Phrases* (F1 to A1) select phrases that use both of the pianist's hands, for maximum intensity! Experiment with seamlessly moving between intros, verses, choruses and breakdowns by using these intensity variations alone!

The B1 key will stop the pianist, killing whatever phrase is currently playing (whether it's triggered manually or via the *Latch* function). The last played notes will ring out for as long as the Stop key is held.

When you hover over a key in the *Control Octave*, tooltips will show you what that particular key will trigger.

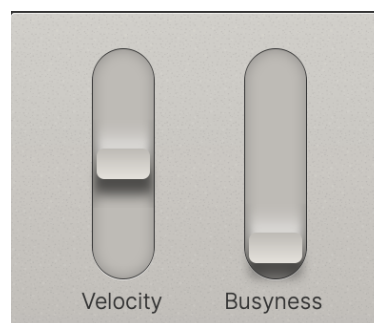
## Spice it Up

The black keys in the *Control Octave* add spice to the pianist's performance. C#1 and D#1 control low chord and high chord one-shots, respectively. You can trigger these at any point of a playing Phrase!

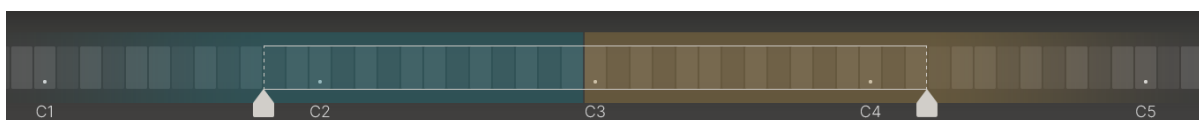
F#1, G#1 and A#1 add *Fills* to the active *Phrase*. Don't worry about the timing - the engine is intelligent enough to play the *Fills* only at correct times, regardless of when you trigger them.

## Conduct Your Pianist

How hard a pianist presses the keys is an obvious defining factor of the perceived intensity of the performance. You have extensive control over this so-called *Velocity* by using the pitch bend wheel! If you like, try recording a short piece and then overdubbing the wheel after the fact. Also, *Busyness* is an amazing feature for creating variation by adding in faster notes - just turn up the *Modulation* wheel (labeled *Busyness* on the user interface). You'll notice extra notes start to fade in. Unlike the fills triggered by the black keys of the *Control Octave*, the *Busyness* feature is a good way to add variations very dynamically and in any place, even the middle of a bar.



## Play Range



The second stylized keyboard above the *Pianist Keyboard* is called the *Realtime Note Display*. Inside it, you'll find two white handles. While playing a note or chord, drag these handles and notice how the virtual left hand and right hand ranges (separated by different tint coloring) of the playback are expanded or reduced.

*Note: Selecting a new Style or Global Preset will cause these sliders to reset to their defined ranges for that specific Style or Preset.*



## Reference

This Reference section of the User Guide is a complete encyclopedia of all features and parameters of *Virtual Pianist*. We recommend you read it to make the most of your new *Virtual Pianist* - it's not too long!

## Working with Global Presets

*Global Presets* in *Virtual Pianist* will save, load and change all settings on the user interface with a few exceptions:

- Player/Instrument Mode Switch
- Velocity and Busyness wheels
- Sync Mode
- Swing
- Latch
- Key

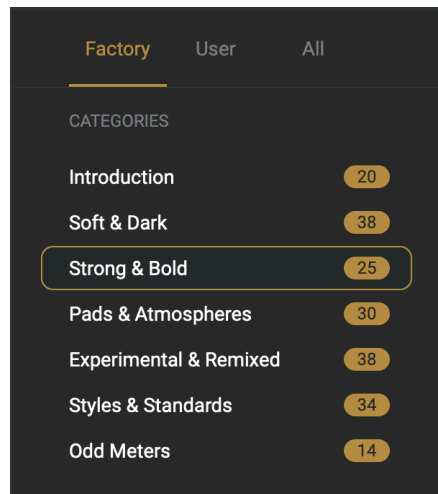
Or, the other way around: You can save a complete *Virtual Pianist Preset* including the *Character, Effects, Style, Dynamics, Tune, Dark/Light Slider, Humanize, Speed, and Master Volume*!

## Switching Titles

While in the *Browser*, you can click through the Pianist *Title* icons to switch between *Virtual Pianists*.

If you switch to a different Pianist and load a preset afterwards, *Virtual Pianist* will switch to the new Pianist interruption-free.

## Browser Filters and Categories

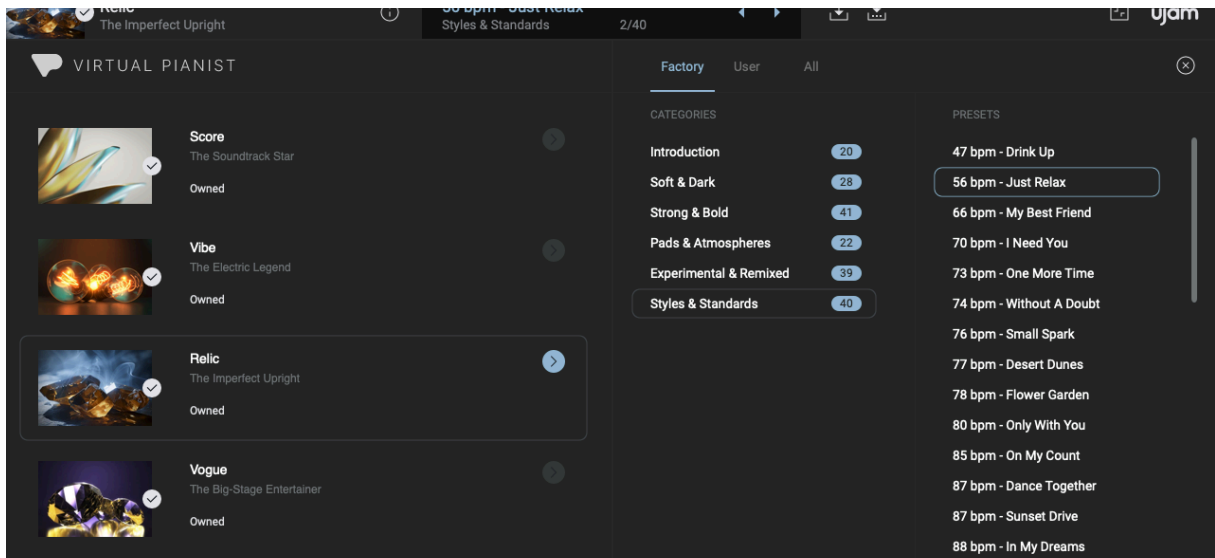


*Global Presets* in *Virtual Pianist* are structured into *Filters* and *Categories* as follows:

- *Filters*: 'Factory', 'User' and 'All'
  - Clicking 'Factory' shows only *Presets* that came with *Virtual Pianist*
  - Clicking 'User' shows only the *Presets* you saved (in a freshly-installed *Virtual Pianist*, the User list will be empty)
  - 'All' displays both 'Factory' and 'User' *Presets*
- *Categories*: in each Pianist, *Presets* are sorted into custom categories such as 'Soft & Dark' or 'Pads & Atmospheres'
- The little numbers to the right of the *Category* names show how many *Presets* each *Category* contains
  - This is particularly helpful with the 'User' filter activated - this way you can avoid browsing empty categories

## Loading Presets from the Browser

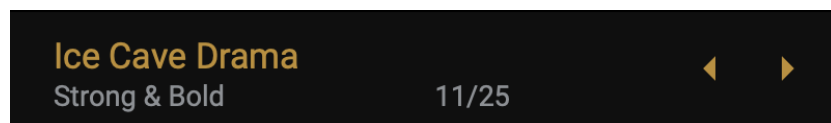
Clicking on a *Global Preset* name in the *Preset Display* at the top center of the user interface will open the *Browser View*:



Here you can browse to your heart's content, and exit the browser by:

- Double-clicking on a *Preset Name* to load the *Preset*, or
- Clicking the 'x' in the top right corner to exit with whichever *Preset* is selected

## Stepping Through Presets



If you want to just skip back and forth through *Presets*, click the arrows to the right of the *Preset* name in the top display.

The display will always show you the current *Category* and the currently selected position within that *Category* (e.g. 3/29 means the 3rd out of 29 *Presets* in that *Category*).

## Saving Presets



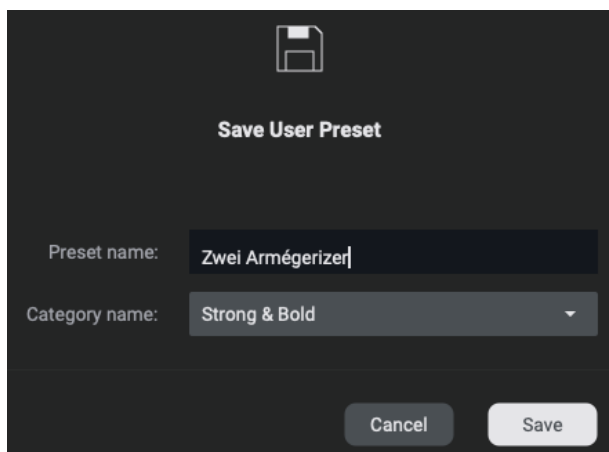
Save (left) and Save As (right) buttons

The saving functionality of *Virtual Pianist* makes it a breeze to manage and create your own *User Presets* and stay organized!

### Creating/Overwriting User Presets

Click the left Save icon right next to the *Preset Display* to save an altered *Factory Preset* to a *User Preset* or to overwrite a *User Preset*.

If creating a *User Preset* from a *Factory Preset*, you will be asked to enter a name, as *Factory Presets* cannot be overwritten. It will also give you the option to select a *Category* for your new *Preset* to live in.

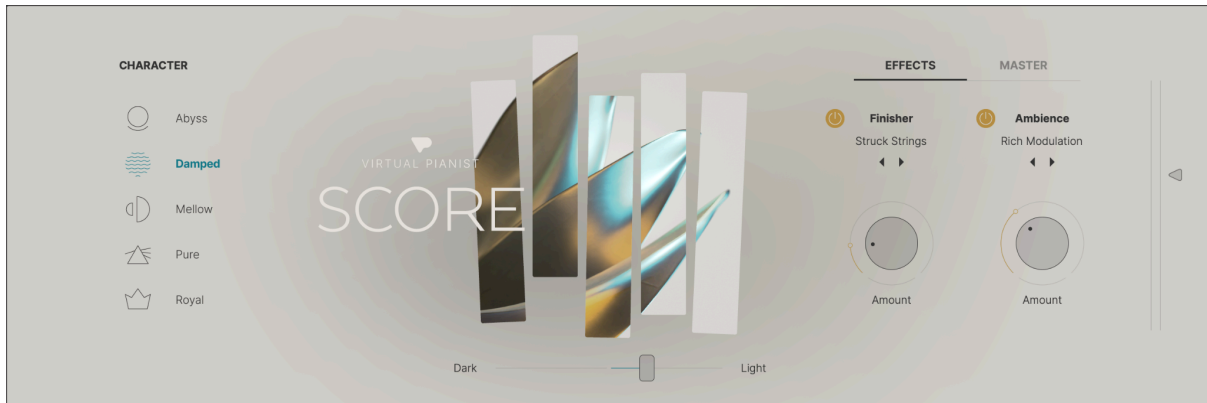


*Note that the available Categories are the same as the Factory Preset Categories. When browsing through the "All" Filter, both Factory and User Presets will be combined and displayed in these same categories.*

### Saving Presets Under a Different Name

When you've altered a *User Preset* and want to save the result under a different name, click the right Save As icon. You'll be presented with the known dialog for entering a new name and selecting a *Category*.

## Piano Section



The *Piano Section* is the large area containing the *Characters*, the key visual, and the *Effects* and *Master* tabs - as opposed to the *Pianist Section* on the bottom of the user interface which contains the *Player/Instrument* parameters as well as the *Interactive Keyboard*.

### Character

When recording a piano, the piano itself is only the first part of the equation. Other important factors are: piano setup (tuning, adjustment, etc), microphone types and placement, room characteristics, and any audio processing such as equalizing and compression. In *Virtual Pianist*, all of these factors are combined into *Character* presets that offer 5 distinct piano models ranging from soft-natural-ambient to hard-artificial-direct. The tables on the following pages provide guidance as to what each *Character* represents and how you can make the most of these.

## GRIT Characters

	Description	Great for...
Gentle	Dark and soft. The narrowest sounding of the Characters, even at highest velocities it won't play the high dynamic range of the piano.	Softer passages, background parts, ambient sound design.
Cozy	Still soft but a bit brighter with wider mids, dynamic range is shifted up slightly.	Ballads, for more prominent parts in ambient tracks, also for unobtrusive vocal comping.
Solid	This represents the recorded piano as is - no sound or dynamic curve tweaking.	Pretty much anything that doesn't need a special character. Also the best Character to play MIDI parts made for other pianos.
Gritty	More focus on the upper part of the dynamic range - this begins to show the gritty quality that Virtual Pianist GRIT has over conventional Wurlitzer pianos.	indie with an energetic vintage crunch. Expect brighter and bolder tones.
Hyped	As the name indicates: Exaggerated "twang" and bite from almost only the top dynamic range. This is a sound unattainable with conventional Wurlitzers and a proud key feature of Virtual Pianist GRIT.	Standout melodic or rhythmic parts that cut through or make a statement. Use with distortion for guitar alternatives.

## RELIC Characters

	Description	Great for...
Subtle	Dark, soft and sweet. The widest sounding of the Characters.	Dreamy passages and quiet parts.
Round	A well-rounded piano that is not too bright. This Character is somewhat modest and understated.	A universal yet dark tone, good for Pop and R&B.
Full	This is the most "normal" of the Characters - clean and sober. It showcases the full range of RELIC's spectrum.	Pretty much anything! It's quite universal and pretty much great for anything!
Room	This Character focuses more on the mids and embraces the beauty of the surrounding room.	Indie and everything that calls for vintage vibes. This one is on the brighter side.
Tonk	Bright, brilliant and bold. It has a lot of bite and lets the beautiful imperfections shine in all their glory.	Powerful parts that demand a lot of energy and cut through the mix easily.

## SCORE Characters

	Description	Great for...
Abyss	Ultra dark and fluffy. The widest sounding of the Characters.	Dreamy passages or parts with fewer notes - also if you want a lot of impressive stereo feeling, this one's for you!
Damped	A damped piano that is not quite as dark and not nearly as wide. This Character is instead somewhat modest and understated.	Killing any semblance of pomposity in a piano part.
Mellow	A good middle ground between the world of dark and bright pianos. Still not nearly as shiny as normal Pop pianos, but also not too dark to be used with low key ranges.	Pretty much anything! This one is quite universal, just a bit on the darker side.
Pure	This is the most "normal" of the Characters - clean and sober.	Pretty much anything! This one is quite universal, just a bit on the brighter side.
Royal	Bright, wide and proud. This Character can pull even the most introverted piano part back into the world of shiny Pop music.	Pop/EDM anthems or any part that is particularly crowded in the low key range.



## VIBE Characters

	Description	Great for...
Soft	Darker and a bit more 'rotten', with a slight 'tape-ish' saturation	'Maximum warmth' stuff such as triphop and moody music
Round	The most transparent regarding the natural sound of the recorded piano	A universal and successful tone, good for Pop, Rock, R&B, pretty much anything!
Bell	Emphasis on the 'bell-ish' nature of the piano. More transparent and brighter than the natural sound	Ballads and other general flirting attempts.
Bark	A midrange-y sound known to the late 70's, made famous by the late mark 1 and early mark 2's of a rather iconic brand	70's sound, the dirty funk riff styles, strong accents, unison lines etc.
Hype	Somewhere between FM synthesis and other artificial electric piano sounds	Late 80's stuff, modern fusion, pop music - anything that needs a bit of an 'edge' over the natural sound.

## VOGUE Characters

	Description	Room	Great for...
Emotion	Dark with a lot of warmth, resonant - almost blurry, ambient	Wooden room	Cinematic, Ambient, Intimate
Ballad	Full-bodied with crispy transients. Warm, yet direct. Can stand out in a mix or against vocals.	Bright stage	Romantic, Pop, Background
Concert	Full concert grand greatness - big, dynamic, wide and glitzy	Large studio	Vocal accompaniment, prominent piano in an ensemble (orchestra, band)
Power	Slightly artificial. All controls set for power and attitude. Strong transients and high frequencies.	Hard, subtle ambience	Pop and rock band settings, rhythmic accents
Plastic	Fully artificial, almost digital. Set up for brightness and strong transients.	Bouncy artificial room	Riffs and themes in modern and retro electronic music genres

## Finishers and Ambiences



The *Effects Tab* contains two separate effect modules: a *Finisher* multi-effect with creative sound design modes, and an *Ambience* section containing various delays and reverb effects, as well as interesting combinations of the two. Every *Finisher* and *Ambience* FX mode is always custom-tailored and optimized for each specific *Virtual Pianist* title!

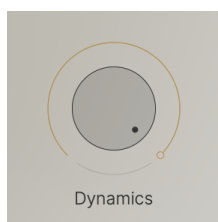
Using these effects is pretty straightforward:

- Disable or enable the *Finisher* or *Ambience* modules via the circular buttons to the left of the section labels
- Step through *Modes* using the arrows or click on the currently selected *Mode*'s name to open the drop-down menu, where you can browse through the FX organized into categories
- Turn up the *Amount* control to dial in the effect. Both knobs go up to 100% wet - i.e. at their maximum position you will only hear the effect signal

## Master Tab

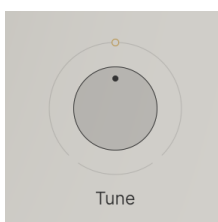
The *Master Tab* lets you adjust two global controls of the piano:

### Dynamics



The *Dynamics* knob adjusts the sensitivity of the piano model to key velocity - i.e. whether the piano gets softer the softer you hit the keys, or the lower the MIDI velocity values it receives. When you turn it all the way down, the piano will always sound loud and lack dynamics. The more you turn it up, the softer the piano will be at lower velocity values, and the more dynamic range it will have.

### Tune



The *Tune* knob lets you tune *Virtual Pianist* up and down by up to half a semitone (50 cents). The cent scale is how you usually tune an instrument in a DAW. If you should want to tune *Virtual Pianist* to specific frequencies, here's a reference:

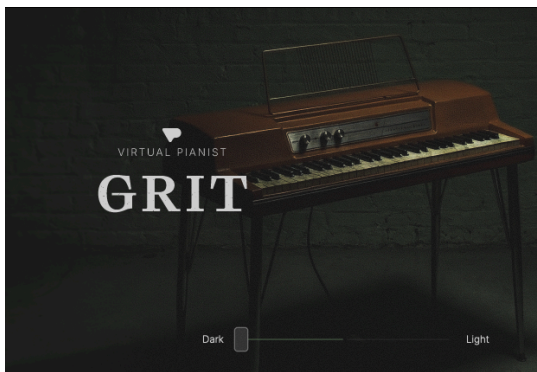
Frequency	Tune
435 Hz	-20 cents
436 Hz	-16 cents
437 Hz	-12 cents
438 Hz	-8 cents
439 Hz	-4 cents
440 Hz	0 cents
441 Hz	+4 cents
442 Hz	+8 cents
443 Hz	+12 cents
444 Hz	+16 cents
445 Hz	+20 cents

## Volume, Level Meter

The large *Master Volume* slider on the right of the *Piano Section* lets you adjust the output volume of *Virtual Pianist*. Combined with the built-in level meter, it helps maintain an optimal level going into subsequent audio processors or mixer channels.



## Dark vs Light



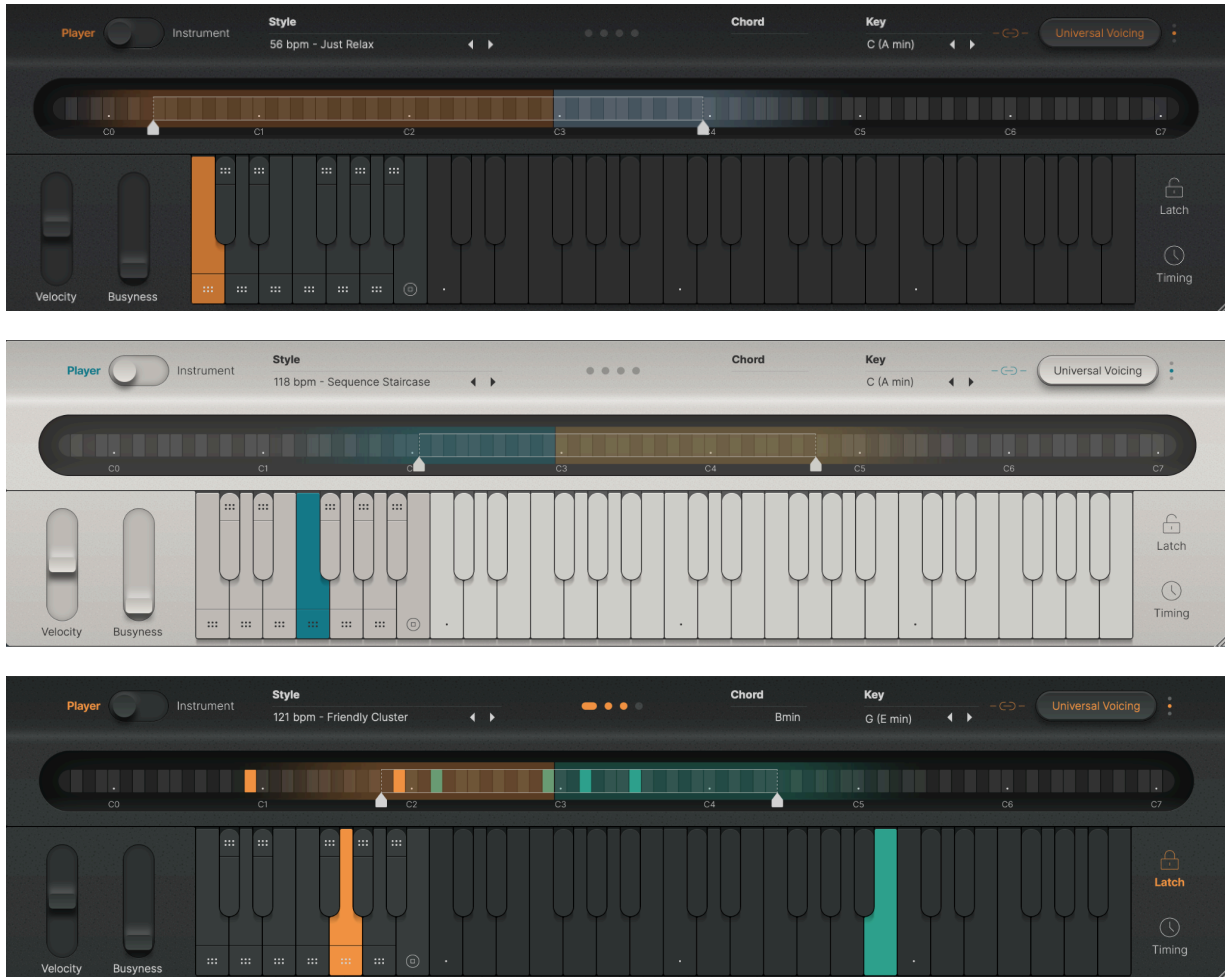
*Slider at full Dark vs Light position*

The *Dark/Light* Slider underneath the beautiful visual renderings of *Virtual Pianist* lets you tweak the overall aesthetic of the piano sound – which is also reflected in the graphics.

This slider controls a combination of multiple piano-optimized filters, so at any position it retains the essence of the piano while taking away or adding frequencies across the spectrum.

You can use it statically for the entire track, or dynamically via automation for making bright, powerful choruses stand out against dark, subtle intros.

## Pianist Section



*Pianist Sections of RELIC (top), SCORE (middle) and VIBE (bottom)*

The *Pianist Section* – the bottom area of the user interface, is where you play and perform on the piano that you set up in the *Piano Section* above.

The *Pianist Section* offers two basic operation modes:

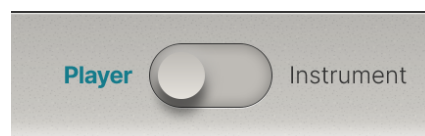
- *Player Mode* – where you get to take a seat in the producer’s chair, telling a versatile, professional pianist what to play for you
- *Instrument Mode* – where *Virtual Pianist* is a virtual piano instrument that you can play like any regular piano

## Player Mode

This mode has been designed to create a range of rhythmic, arpeggiated and artistic piano performances that you can control without being skilled on the keyboard. It takes as little as holding one key. How much more control you want to take is totally up to you - you can play complex chords, you can control the density and intensity of the phrase in various ways, throw in fills and of course change the entire musical style in the middle of the road.

We went to great lengths to create an intuitive toolset that allows you to play, vary and dynamically control the Pianist's performance whether it be live, while editing or via overdubbing.

Here are the controls in the order that you should look at them in:



## Playing Chords

The basis of everything and the start of any performance is choosing the Chord. You do this by pressing one or more keys in the note area of the *Interactive Keyboard*, which is the range from C2 upwards on your MIDI keyboard or in the MIDI editor.

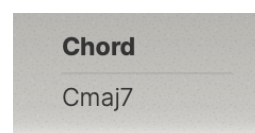
Unlike in *Instrument Mode*, the Pianist will always use chords at the core of the performance when in *Player Mode*. *Virtual Pianist* has powerful chord recognition that provides easy and intuitive ways of playing chords:

- Press one key to create 5th intervals
- Press two keys to create min, sus2, sus4, b5, aug, 6, 7, maj7 chords
- Press three or four keys for *Virtual Pianist* to detect the most similar chord (available chords reference chart to follow)

Note: This is the behavior that the Player will follow if no Key is set! See the 'Setting a Key' section to learn how the behavior can change.

## Chord Display

When a chord is detected, it will be displayed by the *Chord Display* which is located directly above the C4-C5 octave of the *Realtime Note Display*.



Take a moment to experiment with combinations of keys, chords and bass notes and watch the *Chord Display* so you can get a feel for the chordal options that *Virtual Pianist* has to offer.

## Chord Reference

Here is the list of all supported chords, with fingering schemes in C.

Note: Gray italic letters mean the key is optional. For example, you can play only C and B, or you can play C, E, G and B - in both cases a Cmaj7 chord will be detected. Have a look at the following table:

Chord	Keys			
5	C		<i>G</i>	
maj	C	<i>E</i>	G	
6	C	<i>E</i>	<i>G</i>	A
7	C	<i>E</i>	<i>G</i>	Bb
maj7	C	<i>E</i>	<i>G</i>	B
b5	C	<i>E</i>	Gb	
aug	C	<i>E</i>	Ab	
min	C	Eb	<i>G</i>	
min6	C	Eb	G	A
min7	C	Eb	G	Bb
mMaj7	C	Eb	<i>G</i>	B
m7b5	C	Eb	Gb	Bb
dim	C	Eb	Gb	
sus2	C	D	<i>G</i>	
sus4	C	F	<i>G</i>	
7sus4	C	F	G	Bb
min11	C	Eb	G	F
add9	C	E	G	D
madd9	C	Eb	G	D

*Note: When the user input is ambiguous and could be interpreted into multiple different chords, the engine will pick the chord with the lowest root note, e.g. If you input C D G, a Csus2 will be interpreted. But if you input G C D, a Gsus4 will be interpreted.*



## Bass Notes in the Left Hand

When you play a note that's more than 7 semitones (usually a 5th) lower than the lowest chord note, it will define the bass note for the left hand.

You can even play an octave in the low range as long as the highest note of that octave is more than 7 semitones lower than the lowest chord note.

## Phrases and Variations

The *Control Octave* is the leftmost octave of the *Pianist Keyboard* when in *Player Mode*. It is also the octave from C1 to B1 on your MIDI keyboard or MIDI Editor.

This octave doesn't play any notes or chords, but rather lets you control the performance of the Pianist. Selecting phrases changes the intensity of the performance and which hands are actively playing.

The notes C1, D1 and E1 control three right-hand-only phrases, and notes F1, G1 and A1 add a left hand part, while from left to right the intensity of the phrasing also increases across all 6 Phrases.

You can always check the assignment of a key switch by hovering over it with the mouse, displaying a tooltip.

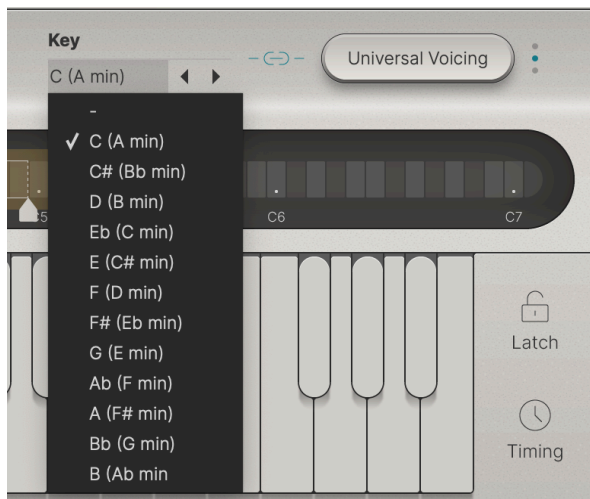
Here's an overview:

Key	Hand(s)	Intensity
B1	Stop	
A#1	Fill 3	
A1	Both	6
G#1	Fill 2	
G1	Both	5
F#1	Fill 1	
F1	Both	4
E1	Right only	3
D#1	High Chord	
D1	Right only	2
C#1	Low Chord	
C1	Right only	1

To select Phrases and add variations:

- Press a white key to select a *Phrase*, or hit the *Stop* key to stop the player.
- Hit C#1 or D#1 to throw in a *Low Chord* or *High Chord* one-shot.
- Hold F#1, G#1 or A#1 for as long as you like and a *Fill* will be added to the phrase. *Fills* automatically align with the currently playing performance, so sometimes you'll need to wait for a beat or two before the *Fill* kicks in.

## Key Signatures



You can restrict Virtual Pianist to use only chords that are within the key of your current song. This is how Virtual Pianist behaves depending on the state of the Key parameter:

When no Key is selected:

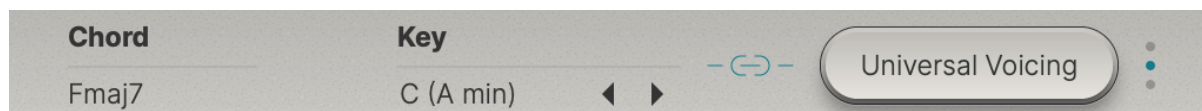
- Single notes in the Chord Range trigger neutral chords (5th chords)
- For the more complex styles that play notes other than notes in the current chord (accidentals, runs, modulations, motifs) those notes are chosen relative to the current chord

When a Key is selected:

- Single notes in the Chord Range trigger more complex chords that work in the key
- For styles that play notes other than notes in the current chord, those notes are chosen so they stay in key where possible.
  - Example: When an Emin chord is played in the key of C and the style wants to play a second (II) interval (or modulate the root note up by one scale step) the key makes sure it plays F and not F#
- When a Key is selected, you have a few different voicing options to select from that further influence the Player's behavior (see next section).

Setting a Key also acts as a safety net if you're not a skilled keyboard player!

## Chord Voicings

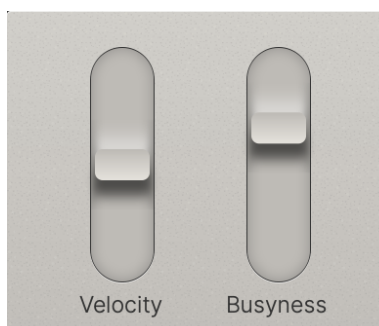


When a key is selected, your *Virtual Pianist* will be able to make informed decisions regarding the voicing of the chords. You'll notice the *Chord Voicing* button is also accessible only when a key is selected. By clicking this button, you can select from three unique voicing options to further control the intelligence and complexity of the pianist. Here's a quick rundown of what the three voicing modes have to offer.

GRIT, RELIC, VIBE and VOGUE	
Voicing	Description
Simplified Voicing	The interpreted chords are limited to simple triads, and there's a bit of clean-up and tightening of the MIDI notes in the Style Phrases. This mode is great for integrating the Phrases into a variety of musical genres.
Universal Voicing	A 'universal' chord voicing that a talented pianist would likely play. It's a bit more involved than simple triads.
Complex Voicing	This voicing mode uses more complicated chord voicings often found in Neo Soul music. This mode is quite impressive if you are not a genius with music theory - let your Virtual Pianist do it for you!

SCORE	
Voicing	Description
Simplified Voicing	The interpreted chords are limited to simple triads, and there's also a bit of clean-up and tightening of the MIDI notes in the Style Phrases. This mode is great for integrating the Phrases into a variety of musical genres.
Universal Voicing	A 'universal' chord voicing that a talented pianist would likely play. It's a bit more involved than simple triads.
Complex Voicing	This voicing mode adds coloring by introducing notes from the minor/major parallels of any given chord, adding a touch of melancholy to major and a certain boldness to minor chords in a given progression.

## Controlling Velocity and Busyness



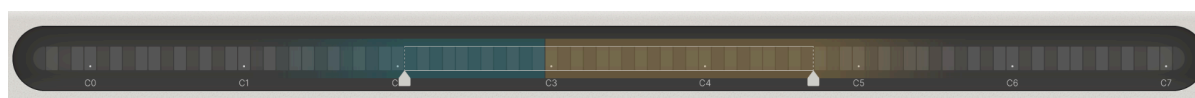
The two virtual wheels to the left of the *Pianist Keyboard* let you gradually control the *Velocity* and *Busyness* of the piano performance:

- Turn *Velocity* up and down to change the intensity – how hard the notes are played.
- Turn up the *Busyness* control, and the Pianist will add even more notes to the phrase

Both are really fun and intuitive to use when overdubbed onto a recorded performance or a track created with Drag'n'Drop (more on this in a bit).

Note: as expected, these two controls can be controlled by the MIDI Pitch Bend and Modulation automation, as well as the actual wheels on your MIDI keyboard if you have one.

## Adjusting the Play Range in the Realtime Note Display



*Real Time Note Display*

The *Real Time Note Display* above the Pianist Keyboard is both a display showing you the actual notes played and a dual slider that allows you to control the lower and higher note range limits for the Pianist.

It's that straightforward:

- Drag the left handle to set the range for the left hand
- Drag the right handle to set the range for the right hand

As a visual guide, the left hand and right hand zones are tinted differently (different colors depending on the selected *Virtual Pianist* title).

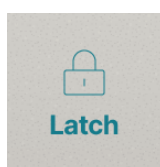
As you can see by the tint fading out at the fringes, the ranges aren't strict, but rather "comfort zones". The actual resulting range is always influenced by the style and displayed

while the player is active, so you have a good reference while dragging the handles.

This is a really intuitive and powerful tool to make the pianist play lower or higher, or with both hands closer to each other or further apart.

Note: Where you actually play on the keyboard also has an effect on the range. If you play notes above C4, this will shift the range of notes upwards.

## Using Latch



*Latch Button*

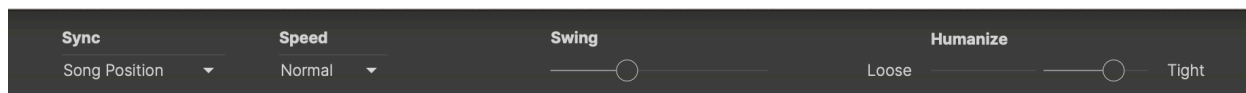
In *Player Mode*, activate *Latch* if you want the pianist to continue to play even after you've released the keys.

This is especially useful when designing presets or fine-tuning your piano sound!

You can also use the *Sustain Pedal* as a temporary *Latch* control.

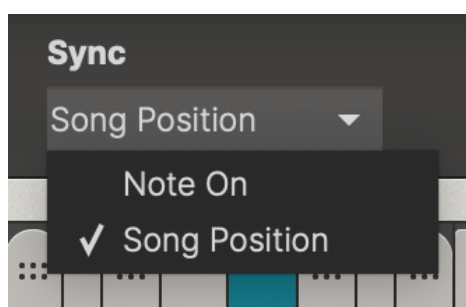
To stop the pianist when it is in *Latch* mode, hit the *Stop* key (B1, rightmost key of the *Control Octave* marked with a stop icon). Alternatively, you can deactivate *Latch*.

## Timing



The *Timing Menu* opens when you click the 'Timing' button to the right of the Pianist Keyboard. It provides four controls that let you adjust the timing of *Virtual Pianist* relative to song position, tempo and other tracks.

### Sync to Keys or DAW

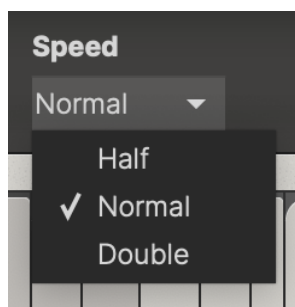


This feature lets you determine whether phrases start playing:

- The moment you hit a note ('*Note On*')
- Quantized to the next 8th song position ('*Song Position*')

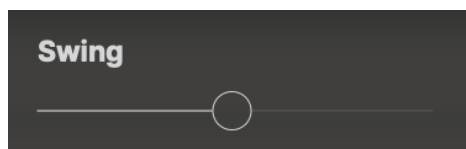
In most cases, you will want to leave this setting at Song Position because then *Virtual Pianist* will always almost magically stay in time with the rest of your tracks e.g. when you're live-recording.

### Doubling or Halving Speed



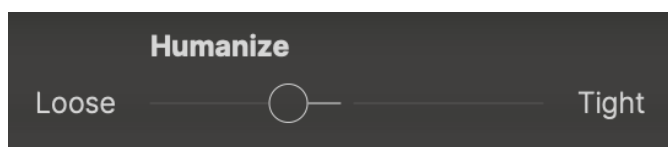
With this menu you can halve or double the speed of the pianist relative to your DAW's tempo. You can get way more out of the selection of styles by trying them at different speeds.

## Adjusting Swing



Use this parameter for syncopating *Virtual Pianist's Phrases*. Technically, moving the slider to the right delays off-beats in relation to the overall grid.

## Human or Robot?



All phrases in *Virtual Pianist* were played by a skilled pianist and therefore aren't perfectly quantized to robotic sterility, but contain very subtle timing variations that create the lively feel. The *Humanize* slider lets you control the amount of those deviations:

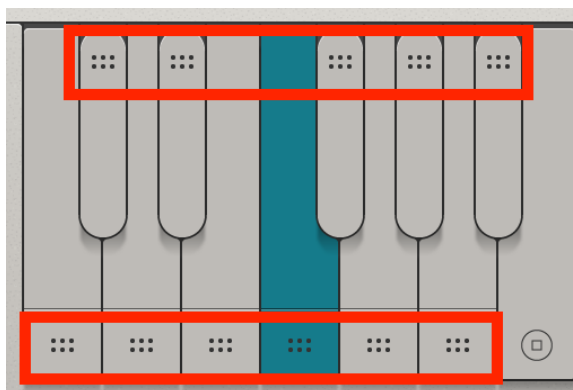
- Move the slider towards 'Loose' to exaggerate the lively feel. This can sound great when combined with other live instruments.
- Move the slider towards 'Tight' to remove any timing deviations - this comes in handy in quantized electronic arrangements.

Of course, you can also use *MIDI Drag'n'Drop* to drag phrases into your DAW and quantize them there in any way you like.



## MIDI Export

### MIDI Drag and Drop



You may have noticed the little areas with six dots that appear on the keys of the *Control Octave*.

By clicking on one of these areas and dragging into a *Virtual Pianist* (or any MIDI) track in your DAW, you can convert a phrase into a MIDI clip.

That MIDI region will contain the phrase of the key you dragged from, with the last detected chord, considering the *Play Range* and *Busyness* setting but not the *Velocity* setting.

Note: When you *Drag'n'Drop* onto the track of the *Virtual Pianist* itself, *Virtual Pianist* will switch to *Instrument Mode* to play back the phrase.

*MIDI Drag'n'Drop* is particularly useful if you:

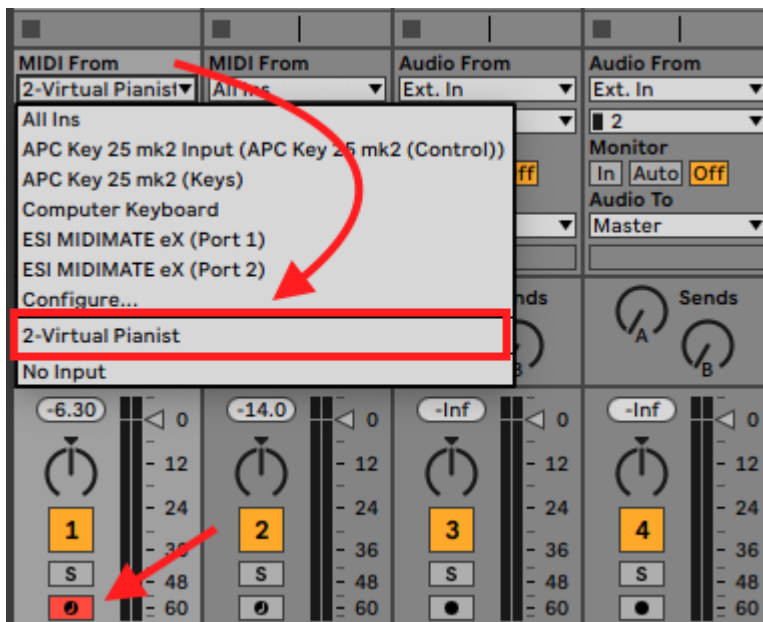
- Want to build a song piece-by-piece
- Wish to combine *Phrases* from various *Styles*
- Want to make detailed edits to *Phrases*

## Direct MIDI Out

The Direct MIDI Out feature allows Virtual Pianist as a software instrument plugin to send MIDI data to other plugin tracks or external devices. By setting Virtual Pianist as the MIDI input source for other Instrument tracks, you can generate sequences with new sounds, trigger MIDI effects, and, in general, blast open the door to creative inspiration .

The exact workflow is a bit different in each DAW, so please refer to your DAW's user manual to learn more about MIDI routing.

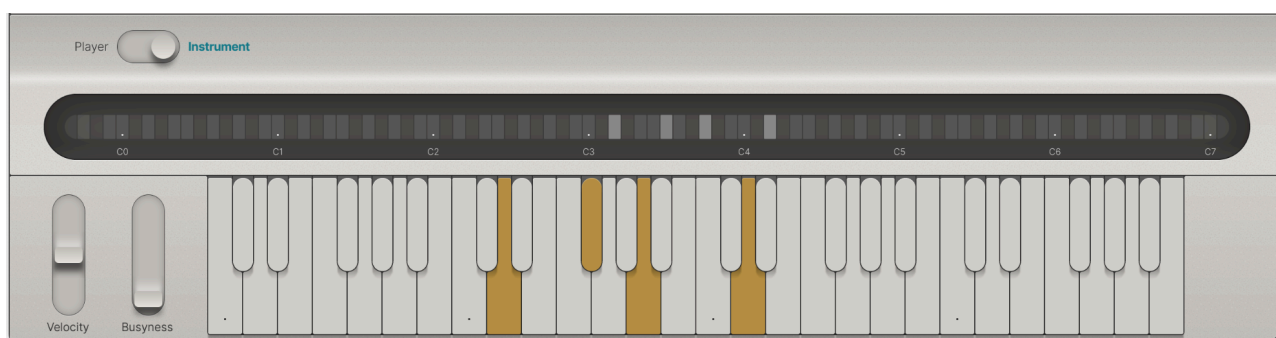
Here is an example of the setup within Ableton Live:



## Instrument Mode



In *Instrument Mode*, *Virtual Pianist* doubles as a virtual piano with great sound design options. In this mode, the Pianist Keyboard is a real, regular piano. You may notice that the *Velocity* and *Busyness* controls are still functional – and a bit different!



*Instrument Mode Layout*

## Velocity

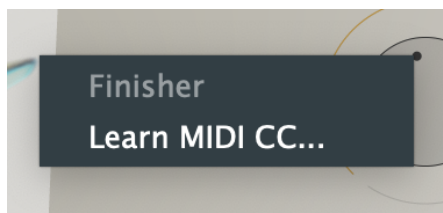
In *Instrument Mode*, the *Velocity* control changes the intensity of notes in relation to the actual note velocities you play or have recorded.

## Busyness

In *Instrument Mode*, this control fades in an 8th note delay transposed up an octave. (In *Player Mode* the *Busyness* control gradually adds more notes matching the current phrase.)

This delay is not an audio effect, but rather in the MIDI - meaning that additional MIDI notes are added. This is a pretty fun feature to mess around with, and it often yields some inspiring results!

## Learning MIDI Controllers



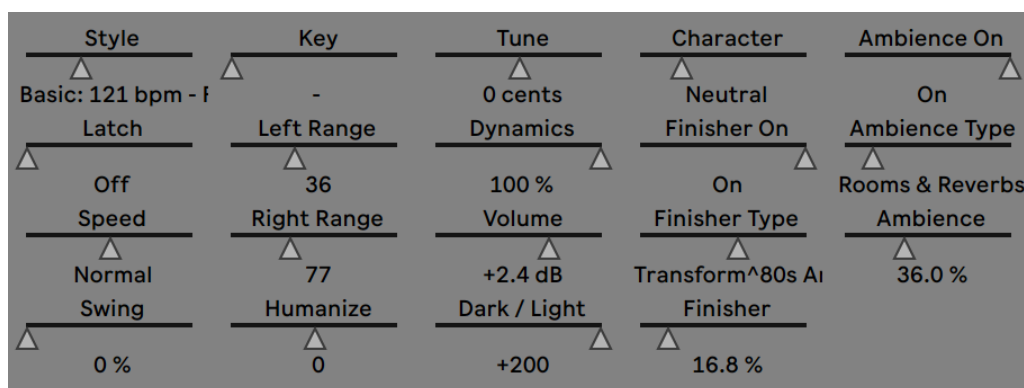
You can map (learn) *Virtual Pianist* controls to hardware knobs on your MIDI controller or MIDI control messages in general.

To do this:

1. Right-click the *Virtual Pianist* parameter you wish to assign
2. Click “Learn MIDI CC”
3. Turn the knob or fader, press the button on your hardware controller (or send the corresponding MIDI message in general)

*Note: Make sure you don’t have a phrase playing while you Learn MIDI, as phrases may contain Sustain Pedal (#64) events and these can get assigned, leading to interesting (but usually unwanted) results.*

## Automating Virtual Pianist



*Virtual Pianist Parameters in Ableton Live*

A large selection of *Virtual Pianist* parameters can be automated in your DAW. Automation will even “survive” switching between Pianists, as Automation is global to the *Virtual Pianist* plugin.

To learn how to set up and create Automation in your specific DAW, please refer to your DAWs user guide.

The Automation menu of your DAW will display *Virtual Pianist*’s parameters that are available for automation.

Sometimes Automation names of parameters may sound ambiguous – you can find out the exact Automation name of a control by right-clicking it on the *Virtual Pianist* user interface.

## Ask Us (Please)

If you have questions about *Virtual Pianist* or other UJAM products, our support team is here to support you.

- Please start a support ticket via [ujam.com/contact-us](https://ujam.com/contact-us)

## Tell Us (Thank You)

Your opinions are not only very important to us – they have influenced, inspired and often initiated entire product series, individual products and features.

Any feedback you'd like to give is extremely welcome – here are a few places to start with:

- Discord [discord.gg/HzFhYhJZjE](https://discord.gg/HzFhYhJZjE)
- Youtube [youtube.com/ujaminstruments](https://youtube.com/ujaminstruments)
- Facebook [facebook.com/ujaminstruments](https://facebook.com/ujaminstruments)
- Instagram [instagram.com/ujaminstruments](https://instagram.com/ujaminstruments)



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