



An Impact Soundworks Sample Library  
Designed for Kontakt 4

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Artwork: Constructive Stumblings

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the world of **Vocalisa: Slavic Women's Choir**. This library was conceived to provide composers access to a never-before-sampled musical tradition – the traditional vocal ensembles of Bulgaria and other Slavic regions. This choral sound is different from a traditional Western Classical choir in its use of tight harmonies, piercing vowels, and extensive ornamentation to produce a haunting, ethereal sound. Popularized in albums such as “Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares”, as well as soundtracks such as Xena: Warrior Princess, Ghost in the Shell, Alone in the Dark, and others, we are delighted to finally bring this unique sound to your compositional palette!

With such nuance and unusual performance methods, sampling this vocal ensemble in a traditional way would have been a missed opportunity. Instead, we did months of research on this style of music, carefully taking note of the most frequently-used syllables, ornaments, and vocal effects. Similarly, because there is such a wide range of choral sizes in this tradition, we also made sure to record in sections as well as the full choir; This allows users full control of the performing forces. We also included whole-tone and semitone clusters, which adventurous users can use to replicate the natural change in timbre when performing the tight dissonances endemic to Slavic music. And lastly, to allow for impressive dynamics as well as stylistic versatility, we made sure to record a full range from the quietest *sotto voce* pianissimo to the loud brassy fortissimo that Slavic choirs are known for.

This all comes together with a gorgeous user interface designed by Constructive Stumblings and engineered by Mario Kruselj. Keeping in step with our motto “designed with composers in mind”, we emphasized immediate playability and usability, as well as easy access to more robust editing for advanced users. We provided two different methods of phrase-building – “Grid Mode” lets users simply type in syllables and ornaments into patterns, which can be saved into presets. “Keyswitch Mode”, meant for more advanced users, puts direct control of syllable and ornament triggering into users hands, with sustain pedal-triggered “smart-switching” between syllables to allow the most seamless performances.

We hope you will enjoy the unique sound of Vocalisa in your productions!

# INSTALLATION & SETUP

Vocalisa requires Kontakt 4.2.4 (full version) or higher. It is not compatible with Kontakt Player!

Once you have downloaded the separate RAR files, verify that all but the last one are the same size. Then, using a program like WinRAR (PC) or UnRARX (Mac), extract only Part 1. The resulting "Vocalisa" folder should be approximately 2gb. This is where the instrument resides in its entirety; feel free to move it anywhere on your computer.

Loading the patches is a simple matter of dragging them from Kontakt's browser into the main Kontakt window. This can also be done using Kontakt's Quick Load or Database feature.

Vocalisa does not require any registration or activation.

## OVERVIEW

All Vocalisa patches are contained in a single folder, listed numerically by section and type:

1a Full Choir Master  
1b Full Choir Clusters  
1c Full Choir FX

2a Sopranos Master  
2b Sopranos Staccato  
2c Sopranos FX

3a Mezzos Master  
3b Mezzos Staccato  
3c Mezzos FX

4a Altos Master  
4b Altos Staccato  
4c Altos FX

5a Soloist Master  
5b Soloist FX

### **Master Patches**

These patches contain all sustain syllables and pitched ornaments. The available syllables are "EH", "SHTEH", "OH" (Soprano, Mezzo, and Alto sectionals only), "MAH", "SVAH", "YAH", and "REE". For ornaments, we have mordents (  ), turns (  ), wholenote rises (  ) (Soprano, Mezzo, Alto and Soloist only), and a rising pitched shout on the syllable "yik!" (  ). All ornaments have 3x round-robin.

### **Staccato Patches** (Soprano, Mezzo, and Alto sectionals)

These patches contain staccatos with three velocity layers and 5x round-robin. Users can switch between "Dum" and "Yah" using C1 and C#1 keyswitches respectively.

### **Sectional FX Patches** (Soprano, Mezzo, and Alto sectionals)

These patches contain various unpitched shouts, breaths, and unpitched consonants, with up to 4x velocities and 5x round-robin:

C1 = Shout "Kje"  
D1 = Shout "Yah"  
E1 = Shout "Dum"  
F1 = Shout "He"  
G1 = Glide "Yee"  
A1 = Breath (tiny)  
B1 = Breath (short)

C2 = Breath (long)

C3 = Consonant "T"

D3 = Consonant "S"

E3 = Consonant "Shh"

F3 = Consonant "Ky"

G3 = Consonant "H"

### **Full Choir FX**

This FX patch contains breaths, loud chatter "gossip", handclaps and foot stomps, with up to 5x velocities and 5x round-robin:

C3 = Footstomps

D3 = Handclaps

E3 = Loud chatter "gossip"

F3 = Breath (tiny)

G3 = Breath (short)

A3 = Breath (long)

### **Soloist FX**

This FX patch contains short and long breaths for the soloist, with 5x round-robin:

B3 = Breath (short)

C4 = Breath (long)

### **Full Choir Clusters**

This patch contains sustained wholetone and semitone clusters on the "EH" syllable, switchable via keyswitch:

C1 = Wholetone cluster

C#1 = Semitone cluster

# USER INTERFACE

Vocalisa's UI contains up to three pages depending on the patch:

## **Performance Page** (Master patches only)

Here users can switch between "Grid Mode" and "Keyswitch Mode" for inputting syllables:



**Grid Mode** – Users click the corresponding typewriter buttons to add elements to the current grid pattern. Multiple patterns are selectable via the dropdown menu and via keyswitches, and each pattern repeats itself back to its beginning once it has reached its final entry. Patterns can be copy/pasted and cleared with the "Edit Options..." dropdown. The red backspace key will delete the rightmost entry from the pattern grid.



**Keyswitch Mode** – Users manually select syllables and ornaments via the keyswitches listed above. Note that the Full Choir and Soloist do not have all of the ornaments and syllables as the sectionals, and the Soloist’s “Yik!” is a different, more elaborated performance.

Keyswitch Mode has an additional function – while depressing the sustain pedal and holding a single note, pressing a keyswitch will reattack the note(s) on the keyswitch’s corresponding syllable or ornament. This allows for smooth transitions between syllables when holding a single note. It’s especially useful on ornaments as they are programmed to use a sample offset when triggered this way, allowing for a much smoother transition.

## Mixing & Effects Page

Here users can easily fine-tune Vocalisa with a variety of effects and mixing tools. Clicking an effect's button will turn it on or off:



**Compressor** – A gentle 1:2.5 compressor with 500ms release time. Default is OFF

**Equalizer** – A very wide-band EQ. Default is OFF

**Stereo** – This engages Kontakt's stereo enhancer, to either increase or decrease width. We recommend trying a 50-75% increase in width for an even more epic sound! Default is OFF

**Natural Release** – This button can be used to truncate or completely mute the natural release tails. Default is ON

**Reverb** – We have included five high quality IRs for use with Vocalisa; Their length and wet/dry mix can be modified in the UI. Default is OFF

### **Syllable Tweak Page** (Master and Staccato patches only)

This page displays each syllable in the patch, and allows advanced users to quickly modify their volume level, offset time (higher values = more offset = quicker initial consonants), and brightness. This is an important tool for getting the most fluid performances possible in Vocalisa:



## **CREDITS**

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## **TROUBLESHOOTING AND FEEDBACK**

Have you used **Vocalisa** in a project recently? Got an awesome track you'd like to share? Drop us a line ([admin@impactsoundworks.com](mailto:admin@impactsoundworks.com)) and we might post it on our website! Or, tell the world at our Facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/ImpactSoundworks>

We encourage all our users to share and promote their work. Word of mouth is the #1 way people find our samples, so it also helps us to produce more great libraries for you!

For any technical support issues regarding the library, don't hesitate to email [support@impactsoundworks.com](mailto:support@impactsoundworks.com).

You can also visit our friendly user community and support forum on KVR Audio:

<http://www.kvraudio.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=176>

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