Sylvan Volume 1

An Impact Soundworks Instrument
for Kontakt Player 7.8.1+
Instrument Version 1.0.0

Product Manual

Introduction

We're always looking for new voices to inspire us.

For **Sylvan Volume 1**, we called on the imagination and evocative style of fantasy/folk singer **Jordi Storm**, whose voice is also featured in our **Special Reserves: Sylvan Vocal Layers**. The resulting sample library is a marvelous collection of 144 wordless phrases that can be seamlessly integrated into existing tracks or used as a starting point for new compositions.

Sylvan Volume 1 captures Jordi's signature vocal style, inspired by nature, folk traditions, and the fantastic. Here he makes full use of his impressive range, from the textural bass tones of his lower register to the soaring sweetness—and even a touch of falsetto—of his upper register. The phrases feature a broad span of different syllables using both vowels and consonants, but no 'worded' lyrics to distract from the emphasis of your music.

Just as we did with our popular vocal libraries **Allura** and **Charisma**, we focused on making this collection as usable and inspiring as possible. Each performance is presented in multiple keys and can be synced to your track's BPM for maximum flexibility and ease of use. They're clearly tagged and easily searchable, covering multiple modes and time signatures. And if you don't want to use the Kontakt engine, you can even use the included WAV files directly in your DAW.

Let Jordi's haunting voice add atmosphere and presence to your scoring, whether you're setting the scene for fantasy, horror, adventure, or something entirely new!

— The Team at Impact Soundworks

Installation

Please see our installation guide here.

About Sylvan Volume 1

Sylvan Volume 1 includes 144 ethereal male vocal phrases in a variety of keys, tempi, and modes.

Presets & Snapshots

Sylvan Volume 1 uses Kontakt's native 'Snapshots' feature to handle presets. These Snapshots are grouped by phrase type, loading all phrases of [that name] at once.

Page 1: Main

NB: *Virtually every control on the interface can be MIDI learned! Simply right* `click` *and then move the desired MIDI CC to create a link.*

Global Controls

Volume

Controls the overall level of the virtual singer.

Formant

Controls the apparent 'body size' of the virtual singer.

NB*: Use in conjunction with the* `Fine Tune` *knob to achieve the desired performance timbre.*

Fine Tune

Controls the tuning of the virtual singer.

NB*: Use in conjunction with the* `Formant` *knob to achieve the desired performance timbre.*

Dynamics

Controls a gentle pre-FX lowpass filter on the virtual singer. Maximum value is 'wide-open', while a lower value results in a darker tone. *Controlled by* `CC1` *by default.*

Expression

Controls the pre-FX gain scaling of the virtual singer.

Performance Controls

Performance Name

This button selects from the various phrases of **Sylvan Volume 1**. `Click`ing on the active performance name toggles a new popover—a browser—on the UI's bottom third:

The left half of this browser contains tags by which the options on the right half may be narrowed down. `Click`ing on a non-active tag selects it, while `click`ing on an active tag deselects it.

NB: The selection system is intelligent and will disable (grey-out) unavailable tags when certain other options are selected. For example, with `Harmonic Minor` selected, `OH`, `EE`, and `EH` become unavailable:
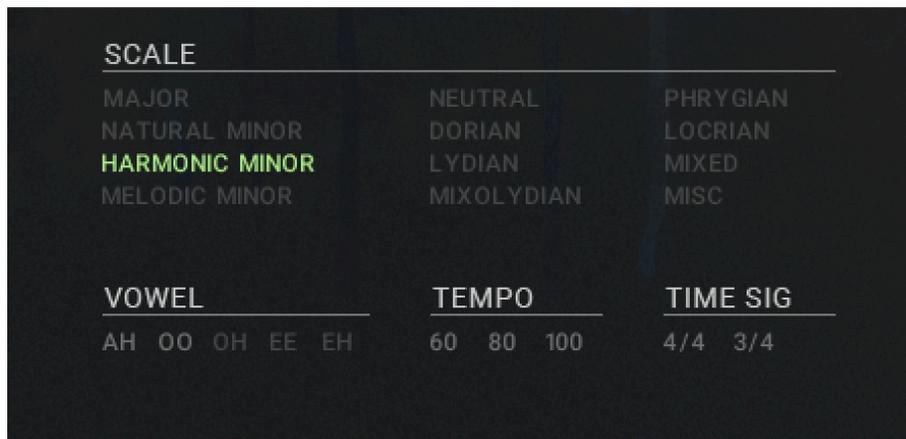
Scale

Choose between phrases in a variety of different musical moods.

Vowel

Choose between up to five common vowel timbres.

Tempo

Choose between performances originally performed at 60 beats per minute (slow), 80 beats per minute (medium), or 100 beats per minute (fast).

NB: Even when 'locking to host' [covered below], these tempos will still be valuable in determining the 'feel' or 'vibe' of the performance. It is also usually more naturalistic to shift tempo as little as possible, though YMMV; you may enjoy greatly speeding up a slow performance or drastically slowing down a fast one!

Time Sig

Choose between performances in common or triple meter.

Checkmark

Loads the selected sound and closes the browser. Double-`click` also closes the browser.

Cross

Closes the browser without loading the selected sound.

Speaker (Auto-Preview):

When enabled, sound is previewed on single-`click`, and double-`click` loads the sound and closes the browser. When disabled, selected sound is loaded on single-`click`, while `Ctrl`/`Cmd`+`click` previews the sound. In addition, holding `Alt`/`Opt` will route the preview through the Effects Rack. *Enabled by default.*

Waveform View

Returning now to the rest of the Performance Controls proper, this view shows the waveform shape of the currently-selected performance. A green `Start` bar selects the starting sample of the performance; default is the very beginning of the waveform.
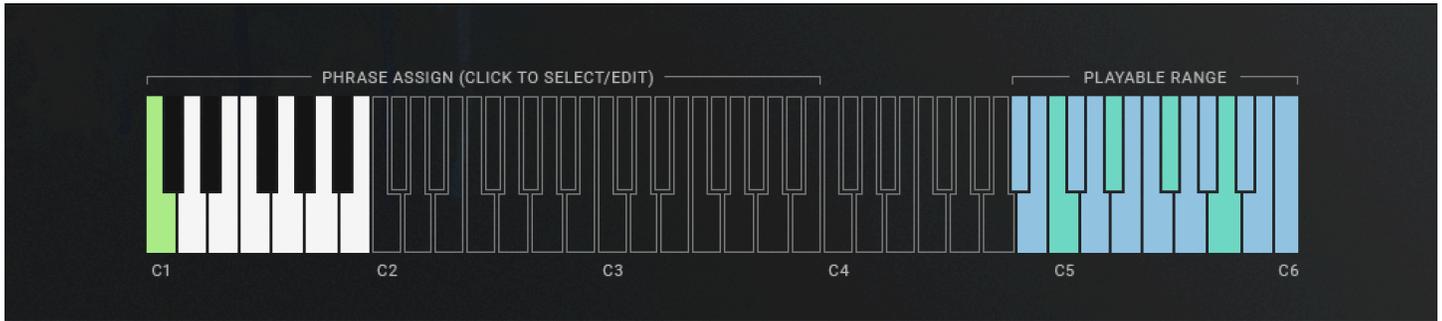
Lock To Host

Toggles performance playback tempo between 'free-form' or set to the DAW's. *Disabled by default.*

Speed

When `Lock To Host` is disabled, determines the playback speed of the 'free-form' performance. *Enabled by default.*

Keyboard Controls

Phrase Assign

Select a given key (`C1` to `B3`, inclusive) to edit. `Alt/Opt+click` unloads the loaded performance soundsource from the key. Double-`click` opens the performance browser on an already-mapped key. A **white** key has a performance mapped to it; an **empty** key does not.

Playable Range

Select a given **pelham blue** or **robin's egg blue** key (`A♯4` to `C6`, inclusive) to change the root pitch of the performance. **Robin's egg blue** keys represent the originally-recorded pitch centers of the performances; **pelham blue** keys represent pitch-shifted performances.

Page 2: FX
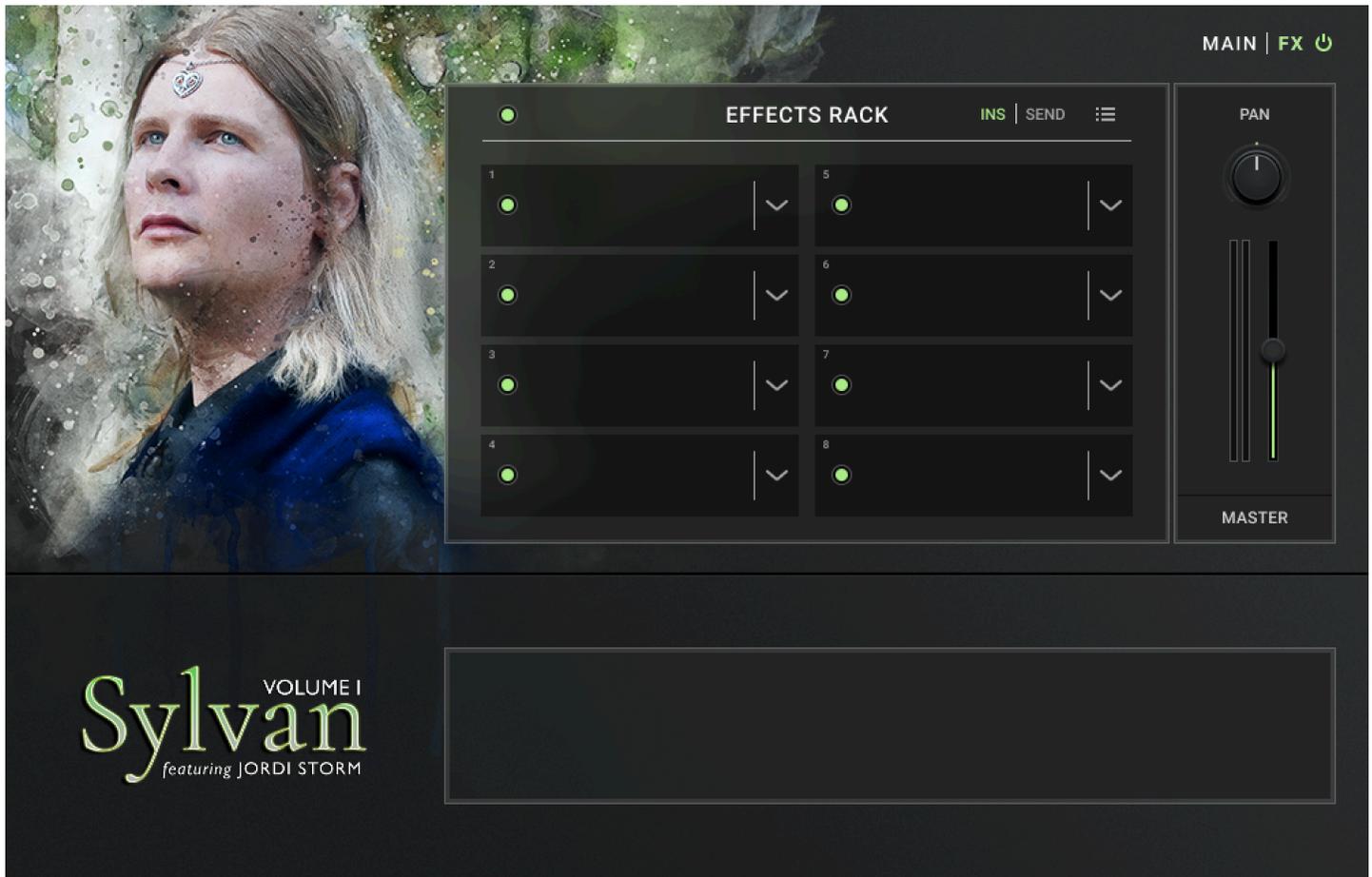
Global FX Enabled

Directly to the right of the `FX` tab (and visible on both the `FX` and `MAIN` page views), this Power Button toggles whether the full custom FX rack processing is enabled.

Effects Rack

The Effects Rack section has two page-selecting tabs at the top right: `INS` and `SEND`. For each:

Rack Toggle

The button on the top-left toggles whether the respective page's effects chain is enabled.

Bullet Menu (`INS`)

Initialize Insert FX Chain	Resets `INS` page to default.
Save Insert FX Chain	Saves custom Insert FX chain in `INS` page.
Load Insert FX Chain	Loads custom Insert FX chain in `INS` page.

Bullet Menu (`SEND`)

Initialize Send FX Chain	Resets `SEND` page to default.
Save Send FX Chain	Saves custom Send FX chain in `SEND` page.
Load Send FX Chain	Loads custom Send FX chain in `SEND` page.

Effects Slots (1 through 8)

Selects a DSP effect. The selected effect's controls (selectable via `click`ing) will appear at the bottom area of the UI. The button to the left of each slot toggles whether that effect is enabled.

Effect Controls (*bottom area*)

Shows the selected effect's controls. *(Chorus pictured above; each effect may look slightly different.)*

Die

Randomizes values in the selected effect's controls.

Initialize Current FX	Resets the selected effect's settings to default.
Save FX Preset	Saves custom values for the selected effect as a preset.
Load FX Preset	Loads custom values for the selected effect as a preset.

Master

Pan Knob

Controls the stereo panorama of the master output.

Volume Slider

Controls the volume of the master output.

Setup & Tweaking

Tips for Getting the Most out of the User Interface

➔ Almost all controls can be MIDI-learned by (1) right-`click`ing the UI and (2) selecting 'MIDI Learn'. You will then need to move the control of your choice (*i.e.*, fader, knob, *et al.*) on your MIDI control surface or in your DAW to establish the link.

   Pro tip*: Once you MIDI-learn something, you should save your modified version of that NKI so you won't have to do it again!*

➔ **Sylvan Volume 1** is fully NKS Compatible and features quite a few existing host-automatable controls. If you have a Komplete Kontrol keyboard or use the Komplete Kontrol application, you will be able to benefit from this functionality!

Tips for CPU & Memory Optimization

If you experience high CPU and memory usage with **Sylvan Volume 1**, there are a number of things you can do to mitigate the issue.

Save CPU and memory by quitting unnecessary applications

For experienced users, this may seem obvious, but it's easy to lose track of how much computing power is being used by seemingly-innocuous applications. For example, it's not uncommon to have a Chrome browser, Discord, Slack, Skype, Zoom, and Dropbox all running at the same time. All of these not only take up RAM, but can also interfere with real-time audio playback by causing pops & crackles.

So, anytime you work on a very intensive DAW project, it's a good idea to close all applications and services you don't need - even if they just run in the background.

Avoid pops and crackles with a higher buffer size

This applies to your DAW settings in general. Typically, every DAW's audio settings allow you to change the 'buffer size' of the playback drivers. Sometimes, this may only be changeable in a separate application, such as with some RME products.

The buffer size (measured in milliseconds or samples, like `8ms / 512 samples`) determines the amount of latency in DAW output and input, inversely correlated to CPU usage. In other words, lower buffer sizes are much more demanding on your CPU than higher ones.

Though it feels great to perform and record MIDI at very low buffer sizes, this is also most taxing on your CPU. Consider increasing your buffer size once you're out of the MIDI recording phase, and on to editing, mixing, and mastering.

Credits & Acknowledgements

Executive Producer: Andrew Aversa

Recording & Performance: Jordi Storm

Sample Editing: Jared Le Doux

Programming: Nabeel Ansari, Mario Krušelj

User Interface & Graphic Design: Paulo Nunes

Marketing: Lauren Liebowitz

User Manual: Kent Kercher

Quality Assurance: Fredrik Häthén

...And a big thanks to our beta team!

Troubleshooting

Having trouble with **Sylvan Volume 1**? Use it in a project you want to tell us about? Drop us a line via our **Contact page** (but be sure to read the FAQ first!)

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