

CONCERT STRINGS USER GUIDE
Kontakt 2.2



Already known for creating the most playable high quality string sample libraries, Kirk Hunter Studios outdoes itself with the playability *and* sound of the new string ensembles in Virtuoso Series Pro! The string ensembles in Virtuoso Series Pro are designed to be extremely "human" with a broad, lush tone. But they are never "washed out" or muddy. From beautiful sweeping legatos to aggressive and biting marcatos, your musical palette will be considerable. And due to the flexibility of the Kontakt scripting features, and innovative programming such as IntevaLive, you'll be able to get an amazing amount of variety from a surprisingly small sample footprint.

These strings were recorded closer to the microphone than the strings in Emerald. Although the instruments' placement on the stage still follows traditional concert seating, it is less obvious. The sound has more of a "wrap-around" effect with a "wide" feel. The idea was to capture both a large cinematic sound without compromising the ability to hear the intimacy of the actual players.

List of Sampled Instruments

Concert Strings (with and without mute fx) 9GB* K2

18 Violins

10 Violas

9 Cellos

6 Basses

Concert Strings Combinations



*The fact that Kontakt 2.2 Scripting is used extensively in VS Pro makes us able to have a much smaller footprint in terms of samples than is possible with conventional sample players. (For example, the EXS24 version of VSPro Concert Strings is over 20 GB!)

So even though the size is much smaller than the EXS24 version, there is no compromise in sound or playability whatsoever.



Although the strings were created with the following articulations, many more variations and combinations can be achieved with the innovative programming of the instruments' user interface! These articulations may not necessarily appear in the instrument directory, but on the keyswitched (k) instruments' interfaces.

Articulation Abbreviations - CONCERT strings

Adagio	adagio - slow with very slow "swell-in" time
Detache	detache - slight bow change sound at the beginning of each note
Harmonics	harmonics - note sounds very glassy created by softly touching the string
Legato	legato - smooth attack, faster than adagio used for smooth or slurred phrases
Marcato	Marcato - fastest and hardest attack
Pizzicato	pizzicato - plucked string
Pzz Brtk	"bartok" pizzicato - plucked hard enough that the string hits the fingerboard
Spicc	spiccato - short note played by bouncing the bow off the string
Sl or Sld	section slides to a target note (portamento)
Stc	staccato - very short crisp notes (Depress the sustain pedal for fast upbows via release trigger. This is very useful for playing very fast repeated notes!)
Trm	tremolo
Trh	half step trill
Trw	whole step trill
Viv	vivo - faster than "legato" but slower than "marcato" - used for lively phrases
VelMarcato	velocity marcato - sharper attacks the harder you strike the note

The following vibrato abbreviations appear in the instrument directory.

Vibrato Abbreviations - all strings

av	All vibrato - the instrument contains all levels of vibrato
hv	Heavy vibrato
lv	Light vibrato
nv	No vibrato



IntervalLive

In real music, an interval is when a note is played followed by another note. If the notes are long and sustained rather than short and staccato, there is an audible "chunk" of sound in between these notes. Being able to simulate this "chunk" makes the interval itself sound very real and musical.

Let's use an example of a French Horn section playing a middle C (source note), and then smoothly playing the G (destination note) a fifth above.

Between the C and the G, if you listen closely, you'll hear other audible parts that are neither the C nor the G. In this case, this "chunk" of sound is most audible at the lower and upper end of the interval itself, not in the middle. So, you'd hear mostly the D just above the C (launch) and the F just below the G (approach). Alternately, if you were to create a portamento where equal amounts of sound between the C and G could be heard, that "chunk" would not sound believable.

- Online Audio demo of vivo french horns in EXS24 without intervalLive - [click here](#)
- Online Audio demo of vivo french horns in EXS24 with intervalLive - [click here](#)
- Online Audio demo of adagio french horns in EXS24 without intervalLive - [click here](#)
- Online Audio demo of adagio french horns in EXS24 with intervalLive - [click here](#)

IntervalLive is completely polyphonic and requires that you raise or lower the pitch wheel depending on which direction you want the interval to go.



Round Robin

Unless otherwise specified, all Virtuoso Series Pro instruments use Round Robin. This means that you'll never get the same note played twice in a row. It greatly reduces the robotic "machine gun" effect you would get when playing repeated notes WITHOUT the Round Robin feature.



Kontakt Instrument Details



Immediately playable - A Sustain String Instrument in Kontakt2.2



The String Instruments in the Kontakt version of Virtuoso Series Pro are amazingly flexible. The Concept in the Kontakt version was to create as many articulations as possible all in only ONE instrument. This makes navigating for different sounds and instruments a whole lot easier! Everything is right there on the interface ready for you to create.

Here is how it plays "out of the box":

- Select an articulation by either clicking one of the buttons, or selecting it by keyswitch. It's easy to tell what key to press because the name of the button itself tells you the proper key.
- You'll hear a moderate amount of "human" pitch and vibrato correction in the violins. This is the way real musicians in a string section play! (In the Concert Strings Combinations instrument, we had to limit most of this "human" correction to the violins since attempting to do the same throughout the full range of the string orchestra maxed out voices in Kontakt2.)
- Round Robin throughout. When you play a repeated note, you'll never hear the same sample played. This greatly reduces the dreaded "machine gun" effect, and gives you downbows followed by upbows automatically.
- If you raise or lower the pitch wheel (after you've played a note, and just prior to playing a following note), you'll get intervals bridging the gap. This is a very realistic effect.

•If you raise the Mod Wheel while holding down a note, the volume and intensity will increase. This is essential in creating string phrases.



Interface Button Definitions

When you first load the instrument, you'll see the knobs have various settings. This factory default setting has the "Touch Marcato" articulation. It is the same as you would hear if you clicked the "VelMarcato" button (or activated it by using the correct keyswitch note). These convenient buttons allow you to go quickly to a preprogrammed setting of 8 articulations. You can either click them to audition its sound, or you can access it by keyswitching. (The actual name of the buttons have the name of the exact note to play to engage it via keyswitching. Therefore, for example, the button named "VelMarcato_B0" will be triggered by hitting the lowest B on an 88-note keyboard. Further, the "Legato_C1" button is triggered by C1 on your keyboard, and so on... The button tells you where to key it!).

Interface Buttons

VelMarcato

Smooth and slow as you play softly. Fluid legatos with a little more vibrato as you play a little louder (violins, violas, cellos, str combinations). As you play even louder, you'll notice a gradual increase in attack until a full solid marcato with robust vibrato is heard at your loudest playing.

Detaché

Similar to "Legato", but with more bow change noticed. If "With_Aggr" is selected, the sound will be heavy and full. If "With_Spicc" is selected, the sound will be lighter and more crisp.

Legato

Easily play smooth lead lines with this setting. You can edit this with the "LegAttk" knob to either lighten or thicken the legato attack.

Vivo

Use this setting for lively phrases. If "With_Aggr" is selected, the sound will be heavy and full. If "With_Spicc" is selected, the sound will be lighter and more crisp.

Marcato

This setting gives you very aggressive and fast attacks. If "With_Aggr" is selected, the sound will be heavy and full. If "With_Spicc" is selected, the sound will be lighter and more crisp.

Adagio

This setting gives you wonderful slow swelling strings, perfects for emotional underscoring.

With_Aggr

Any of the articulations that use a staccato sound (VelMarcato, Detache, Vivo, Marcato, Sfz and Custom [if you create a staccato sound]) will have a heavy aggressive sound if this button is checked.

Sforzando

Select this button for a sforzando effect. If "With_Aggr" is selected, the sound will be heavy and full. If "With_Spicc" is selected, the sound will be lighter and more crisp.

Custom

If the instrument has a "Custom" button, then you can use this to create your own custom settings throughout all of the knobs. If there is no "Custom" button, then deselect until all the buttons are grey and none are "orange". In this state, you can customize and save.

With_Spicc

Any of the articulations that use a staccato sound (VelMarcato, Detache, Vivo, Marcato, Sfz and Custom [if you create a staccato sound]) will have a lighter staccato sound if this button is checked.



User Interface Knob Definitions

Note: If you click the knob, the display will show you the midi controller number that creates the articulation.

LegAttk

The instrument contains an array of legato and semi legato samples along with marcato samples. This knob alters the aggressiveness of the legato samples only. So if you lower this knob all the way to 0, you'll still have a nice smooth legato. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations. To make a very slow swelling sound, set the value of the "LegSpeed" knob to about 40.

SlideUp

When you play an ascending phrase and want to create an interval, you must raise the pitch wheel. (Raising it higher mixes in more of this interval whereas raising it less mixes in less of it.) This knob changes the level of the upper portion of this interval that is nearest the target note. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

StartVib

This changes the "wildness" in both pitch and vibrato at the beginning of the note. Higher values make the sound more "heavy". Note: in the full string combination instruments, this only applies to the violins. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

SlideDn

When you play a descending phrase and want to create an interval, you must lower the pitch wheel. (Lowering it more mixes in more of this interval whereas lowering it less mixes in less of it.) This knob changes the level of the lowest portion of this interval that is nearest the target note. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

LaunchUp

When you play an ascending phrase and want to create an interval, you must raise the pitch wheel. (Raising it higher mixes in more of this interval whereas raising it less mixes in less of it.) This knob changes the level of the lower portion of this interval that is nearest the source note. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

SusVib

This knob determines the amount of vibrato of the sustained portion of the note. Lower values make less vibrato. It does not control the vibrato of the beginning of the note which is controlled by the "StartVib" knob. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

AttkSens

At default, the louder you play, the more you'll hear robust marcato samples. If you should want to hear the marcato samples even if you play softly, simply click the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button) and lower this knob to a value of 0. Or you can set it anywhere you like according to your taste.

LaunchDn

When you play a descending phrase and want to create an interval, you must lower the pitch wheel. (Lowering it more mixes in more of this interval whereas lowering it less mixes in less of it.) This knob changes the level of the highest portion of this interval that is nearest the source note. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

LegSpeed

This knob controls the attack sharpness of ONLY the legato layers. Once you lower this knob to values below 45, you'll get a really useful slow swell. You must select the "Custom" button before you can hear changes with this button.

Release

By increasing the value of this knob, you can get a very realistic effect of varying concert hall sizes. Greater values make larger rooms. This knob is globally editable so you can make changes using not only the "Custom" button, but any of the other articulations.

You must select the "Custom" button before you can hear changes with this button.



This knob controls the level of the marcato samples. After you click the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button), higher values cause the marcato samples to sound louder.

You must select the "Custom" button before you can hear changes with this button.



After you click the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button), this knob will either strengthen or soften the attack of the marcato samples. Higher values make more crisp attacks.

You must select the "Custom" button before you can hear changes with this button.



Customizing

You can edit and save the instrument with a custom setting for convenient referencing using the "Custom" button as described above. (If an instrument does not have a "Custom" button, then deselect buttons until all the articulation buttons are grey and none are showing "orange".) The instrument will then defer to the current values shown on all knobs. For example, if you were to have selected "Sfz" first, and then selected "Custom", the sound would still be set to "Sfz". Since you chose "Sfz", then at this point, you would be working with the *Sfz* sound. (You can start with any articulation, then choose "Custom" to alter that particular sound.) Once you are satisfied with your customizing, you can save the instrument. However, remember that clicking any of the articulation buttons (or selecting by keyswitching) will reset all non globally editable knobs and delete your custom settings, so be cautious.

(A Note About Globally Editable Knobs. You should note that some of the interface knobs' settings can be customized even if you have selected one of the 8 articulations and NOT selected "Custom". These "globally editable" knobs are, "LegAttk", "StartVib", "ApprchUp", "ApprchDn", "LaunchUp", "LaunchDn", "SusVib", and "Release" and do not change when any of the 8 articulation buttons are selected. Therefore, if you change the values of any of these knobs, there is no "factory reset". So be careful when saving the instrument with different values for these particular knobs.)



Tips

When you load the instrument, its playability is already very intuitive. However, you may wish to make some changes. Here are some tips:

Desired Change

Instructions

-I love the vibrato being so heavy and passionate, but I want a lighter, more "refined feel.

Lower the "StartVib" knob to reduce the heaviness of the vibrato until you get the desired effect.

-I want only legato without the marcato at loudest levels.

Select the "Legato" button, or Select the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button) and lower the value of the "MrcLev" knob to 0.

-I want to keep the marcatos, but I want them to be louder or softer.

Select the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button). Raise or lower the value of the "MrcLev" knob to the desired effect.

-I like the marcatos, but I have to play too hard to hear them.

Select the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button). Lower the value of the "AttkSens" knob.

-I want to hear marcato even when I play very softly.

Select the "Marcato" button, or Select the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button) and lower the value of the "AttkSens" knob to 0.

-I like the legato, but I want to play faster, yet without the bite of the marcatos.

Select the "Detache" or "Vivo" Button. Or, Select the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button) and experiment with the "AttkSens" and "MrcLev" knobs.

-I want to play with a little more liveliness at lower volumes than the default setting, but I don't want the marcato to come in when I play loudly.

Select the "Vivo" button, or Select the "Custom" button (or deselect all buttons if there is no "Custom" button) and lower the "AttkSens" knob to 0, and lower the "MrcAttk" knob until you get the desired "liveliness".

-The legato is nice, but I hear too much bow at the beginning of each note.

Lower the "LegAttk" knob until you get the desired effect.

-When I raise the pitch wheel, the slide sound is too loud.

Either raise the pitch wheel less OR
Lower the value of the "Slide_Up" knob.

-When I lower the pitch wheel, the slide sound is too loud.

Either lower the pitch wheel less OR
Lower the value of the "Slide_Dn" knob.

-After I play a note then raise the pitch wheel, I hear too much of the ascending part of the interval.

Either raise the pitch wheel less OR
Lower the value of the "LaunchUp" knob.

-After I play a note then lower the pitch wheel, I hear too much of the descending part of the interval.

Either lower the pitch wheel less OR
Lower the value of the "LaunchDn" knob.

-I want the sustained part of the sound to have a "creepier" feel to it with less vibrato.

Lower the value of the "SusVib" knob. Note - You can rotate this knob while playing a note to get some really nice "movement" to your phrase.

-Now that I have that "creepy" no vibrato sound, there is too much vibrato at the beginning of the note.

Lower the value of the "StartVib" knob to 0.

-I want the notes to ring out longer and hear more of a hall sound.

Raise the "Release" knob until you get the desired effect.

-When I play staccato (using the Marcato, VelMarcato, Detache, Vivo or Custom articulation), the sound is too heavy.

Either click the "With_Spicc" button, or key it with the appropriate key. This will "lighten" the sound of the staccato.

-When I play staccato (using the Marcato, VelMarcato, Detache, Vivo or Custom articulation), the sound is too light.

-Some of these instruments are rather large. Are there smaller versions?

Either click the "With_Aggr" button, or key it with the appropriate key. This will "thicken" the sound of the staccato.

Look for "lite" in the instrument name. 90% of all *non* "lite" instruments are chromatically sampled (every note recorded). "Lite" instruments use samples for every other note, so they will be roughly half the size.

with the interface knobs, you can vary the "legato" or "adagio" speed quite easily. *av* = *all vibrato*, *hv* = *heavy vibrato*, *lv* = *light vibrato*, *nv* = *no vibrato*.

51_Con_Strings_leg_av.nki

52_Con_Strings_leg_hv.nki

53_Con_Strings_leg_lv.nki

54_Con_Strings_leg_nv.nki



Requirements

Virtuoso Series Pro's largest String Section instruments are quite complex and sophisticated. Therefore, to successfully load the largest and best sounding instruments, we recommend the best possible computer system.

	Minimum Requirements	Recommended Requirements
Kontakt Version	Kontakt 2.2	-
Macintosh	Desktop Systems: Powermac G4 with 2GB RAM running MacOS 10.4.x Laptop Systems: Powerbook G4 with 2GB RAM running MacOS 10.4.x	MacPro Quadcore with 8GB RAM MacBook Pro with 3GB RAM running MacOS 10.4.x
Windows	Desktop Systems: P4 or equivalent running Windows XP with 2GB RAM Laptop Systems: P4 or equivalent running Windows XP with 2GB RAM	Intel® Core™2 running Windows Vista with 8GB RAM Intel® Core™2 Duo mobile processor running Windows Vista with 2GB RAM

Hard Disk	7200 rpm with available space of 10GB for Concert Strings.	-
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Troubleshooting

Symptom

Remedy

I notice voice stealing.

Increase the amount of memory allocated the Kontakt engine. Click the "Options" tab at the very top. Then click "DFD". There you can increase or decrease memory for voices.

I hear voices ending abruptly.

Close the string demo instrument. Then reload. If this does not work, then close the whole multi and reload. If that does not work, then exit or quit Kontakt, and reload.

I'm not hearing the effect of some of the knobs when I try to use them

Some knobs will not work unless you click the "Custom" button first. If the instrument does not have a "Custom" button, then deselect all buttons, and then do your knob editing.

For other issues...

Contact via email listing at www.kirkhunterstudios.com.

**Concert Violins and Violas**

A0 - Turns off "light" staccato, and uses heavy marcato on all applicable articulations

A#0 - Turns off "heavy" marcato, and uses light staccato on all applicable articulations.

B0 - Velocity marcato.

C1 - Legato

C#1 - Detache

D1 - Vivo

D#1 - Marcato if A-1 and not A#-1 had been selected. Staccato if A#-1 and not A-1 had been selected.

E1 - Adagio

F1 - Sforzando

F#1 - Custom user setting

(The following articulations are only in instruments from the "fx" directory list.)

G1 - Tremolo

G#1 - Half Step Trill

A1 - Whole Step Trill

A#1 - Pizzicato

B1 - Pizzicato "Bartok"

C1 - Harmonics

**Concert Cellos**

A0 - Turns off "light" staccato, and uses heavy marcato on all applicable articulations

A#0 - Turns off "heavy" marcato, and uses light staccato on all applicable articulations.

B0 - Velocity marcato.

C1 - Legato

C#1 - Detache

D1 - Vivo

D#1 - Marcato if A-1 and not A#-1 had been selected. Staccato if A#-1 and not A-1 had been selected.

E1 - Adagio

F1 - Sforzando

F#1 - Custom user setting

(The following articulations are only in instruments from the "fx" directory list.)

G1 - Tremolo

G#1 - Half Step Trill

A1 - Whole Step Trill

A#1 - Pizzicato

B1 - Pizzicato "Bartok"



Concert Bases

A4 - Turns off "light" staccato, and uses heavy marcato on all applicable articulations

A#4 - Turns off "heavy" marcato, and uses light staccato on all applicable articulations.

B4 - Velocity marcato.

C5 - Legato

C#5 - Detache

D5 - Vivo

D#5 - Marcato if A-1 and not A#-1 had been selected. Staccato if A#-1 and not A-1 had been selected.

E5 - Adagio

F5 - Sforzando

F#5 - Custom user setting

(The following articulations are only in instruments from the "fx" directory list.)

G5 - Tremolo

A#5 - Pizzicato

B5 - Pizzicato "Bartok"



Concert Strings Combinations

A0 - Turns off "light" staccato, and uses heavy marcato on all applicable articulations

A#0 - Turns off "heavy" marcato, and uses light staccato on all applicable articulations.

F#7 - Velocity Marcato

G7 - Legato

G#7 - Detache

A7 - Vivo

A#7 - Marcato

B7 - Adagio

C8 - Sforzando



Installation

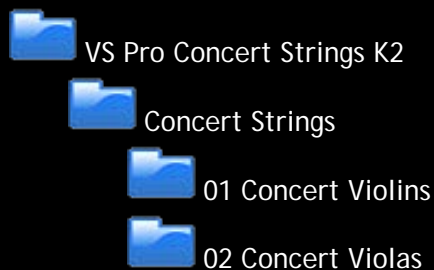
Installation is extremely simple. There are only a few things you need to remember. Here is a step by step instruction:

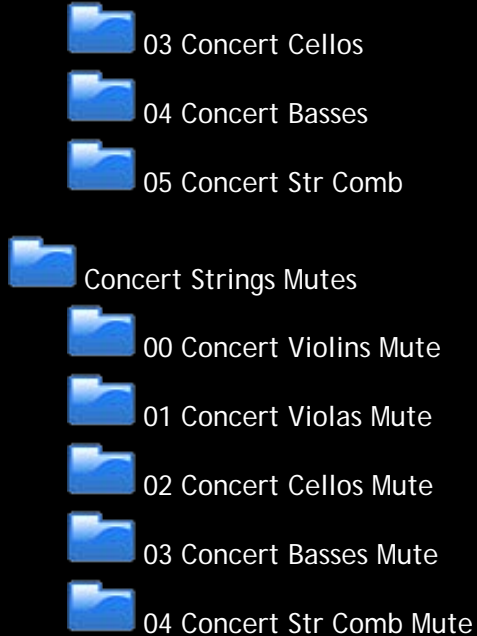
Copying the folders and files to your hard drive.

Simply drag and drop the folders to where you want the library to reside on your hard drive. Here is a suggested directory scheme:

1. After you've made sure you have at least 10 GB of room on the drive, create a folder and name it something like "VS Pro Concert Strings K2" (The name of this folder is not important.)
2. Inside the folder you just created, create 2 more folders and name them something like "Concert Strings " and "Concert Strings Mutes". Naming is again not important here, but the idea is to separate the muted strings from the non muted ones.
3. From Disk 1, drag all the folders along with their contents into the "Concert Strings" folder you just created which is inside the "VS Pro Concert Strings K2" folder that you also created.
4. From Disk 2, drag all the folders along with their contents into the "Concert Strings Mutes" folder you created which is inside the "VS Pro Concert Strings K2" folder that you also created.
5. From Disk 3, drag the "05 Concert Str Comb" folder along with its contents into the "Concert Strings" folder you created which is inside the "VS Pro Concert Strings K2" folder that you also created.
6. From Disk 3, drag the "04 Concert Str Comb Mute" folder along with its contents into the "Concert Strings Mutes" folder you created which is inside the "VS Pro Concert Strings K2" folder that you also created.

When you are finished, your directory should look something like this:





It is very important that you do not change any of the folder names that were copied from the DVD disks. It is also very important that you do not change the relative position of the .nki files to the samples folders. However, you can change the name of any of the .nki instrument files without problems.

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