

SAMPLE LIBRARY BY

*Strezon*

# STORM CHOIR

EPIC CHAMBER CHOIR

USER MANUAL  
V1.0

PRODUCED BY OLIVER CODD AND JASPER BLUNK

## About Strezov Sampling

STREZOV SAMPLING © is a division of STREOV MUSIC PRODUCTIONS LTD—a company created by George Strezov—orchestrator, composer, and orchestra/choir contractor in Sofia, Bulgaria.

## About Storm Choir

Storm Choir is a 12-piece chamber choir comprising six men and six women from some of Bulgaria's finest choirs, including the National Radio Choir, Sofia Philharmonic Choir and the Academic Choir.

Our goal was to capture the detail and intimacy that can be found in a smaller ensemble, while at the same time delivering a *larger-than-life* performance. The singers were recorded in position (women on the left, men on the right) in a small hall in Sofia. The subtle natural ambiance of the space brought the samples to life without compromising the tonal clarity. We used 4 mic positions to afford users full control of the spatial balance, all of which are included in the interface.

We aimed to capture the FFF dynamic range exclusively. Storm was not intended as a 'be all end all' choir library, but rather to target one area of choral performance, and do it really well. We are very excited to release Storm Choir. Enjoy!

Please see below for additional details on the interface and a complete articulation/patch list.

## Disclaimer / Philosophy

We would like to note that, in our pursuit for more lively and natural samples, we tend to avoid a few things that are considered commonplace. We do not reduce noise in our samples. We tune only gently, as needed, and we do not loop or normalize—we prefer to retain the natural dynamics. We embrace candid, lively samples that include some natural imperfections.



## Interface



1. **Stack:** Double tracks the choir, emulating a larger ensemble.
2. **Tighten:** Tightens the attacks via a Time Machine 2 speed ramp.
3. **Sequence Chant:** Automates the choice of syllables. The chant sequence is identical in both men/women and marcatos/staccatos, allowing you to play them in conjunction. We also added a cyan keyswitch on F0 that lets you reset the chant sequence, allowing for more control over it
4. **Release:** Turns on or off release samples.
5. **Sample Offset:** Starts note at specific time into the sample, allowing you to create new vowels (e.g. "Rraw" becomes "Aah").
6. **Syllable Selector:** Syllables are controlled via red key switches. You can change the keyswitch by double-clicking it and editing the corresponding note, or simply click on a syllable.
7. **Mic Mixer:** Consists of faders that control 4 mic position levels. Pan option for close mics.
8. **Purge buttons:** The blue on/off buttons purge all samples from the corresponding microphone perspective, allowing you to save RAM from unneeded perspectives.



## Installation / System Requirements

Native Instruments Kontakt 4.2.4+

5 GB Hard drive space ( 2,3 for the zip and ~2,5 for the unzipped folder)

### Articulation List

Storm Choir – Women – Marcatos.nki

Storm Choir – Women – Staccatos.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Marcatos.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Staccatos.nki

### Patches

Storm Choir – Women – Marcatos TM.nki

Storm Choir – Women – Staccatos TM.nki

Storm Choir – Women – Marcatos.nki

Storm Choir – Women – Staccatos.nki

Storm Choir – Women – Marcatos Lite.nki

Storm Choir – Women – Staccatos Lite.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Marcatos TM.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Staccatos TM.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Marcatos.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Staccatos.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Marcatos Lite.nki

Storm Choir – Men – Staccatos Lite.nki

## Notes

**T M** means Time Machine. Time Machine patches are loaded entirely into RAM. Using these patches will allow you to use the “tighten” feature, enabling you to change the attack times of the choir.

**Lite** means loading only the samples “as is” in DFD mode, hence using less RAM than the normal as well as the T M patches. However, Lite patches do not support tightening or offsetting the syllable.

Moreover:

Marcatos range from about 5 to 7 seconds and are NOT looped.

Modwheel controls volume and low-pass filter on all patches.

There are no release samples for the staccatos.

The samples are in 48 kHz / 24 bit.



## FAQ

**Q.** Why do the samples have such a loose attack?

**A.** The samples were cut to accommodate the first bit of the natural attack. In order to tighten them, load the Time Machine patches and click tighten. To tighten further, experiment with gradually increasing the sample offset.

**Q.** Why did you record 12 singers?

**A.** A smaller ensemble offers more definition in sound, and works better in chords. We figured there were a lot of choir options with a bigger ensemble already offered in the market.

**Q.** What is singers' range in the library?

**A.** Men go from G2-D4 and Women from C4-A5 in 'Storm Choir'. (To avoid confusions, middle C=C4)

**Q.** Why is there only 1 dynamic layer?

**A.** Storm Choir is specifically geared towards louder and more epic material (although you can give the illusion of dynamics via the mod wheel). We decided to focus on getting the FFF dynamic really nailed versus trying to focus on multiple dynamics, this time around.

**Q.** Do you plan on making updates?

**A.** Yes, we are excited to hear your feedback and comments and will provide updates for the library.

## License Agreement

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## Credits

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Art & Brand Direction: Ryan Strong  
Engineering: Plamen Penchev  
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Thank you to our singers:

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**Best,**

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