

Streson

SAMPLING

RHODOPE
ETHNIC BULGARIAN CHOIR



ABOUT STREZOV SAMPLING

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

We have been sampling since December 2012 when we started out with Storm Choir 1 and throughout that time we learned and incorporated a lot into our products. Our team is passionate about sample libraries because at the end we are the first customers of the products – we are composers and arrangers working around the world. Our headquarters is based in Sofia, Bulgaria where we record the fantastic musicians and singers that breathe life into the tiny .wav samples that we later include into Kontakt.

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 used some tuning inside Kontakt and manually edited all single tones in the instrument trying to make it as balanced as possible. However our **main goal** is to keep the depth of the instrument dynamics. We embrace candid, lively samples that include some natural imperfections.

A MESSAGE FROM GEORGE STREZOV

Thank you for buying Rhodope 2!

This uniquely sounding library is very special for us because it shows to the outside world the heritage and traditions of Bulgarian folklore music. There are various different folklore regions in our country and overall it's a vast fountain of inspiration – we tried to capture the most interesting timbres and effects that you can hear with this fantastic style of singing.

*What you will hear within this library is three years of doing various test patches and a couple of months of actual work – truth be told throat singing has always proved to be extremely hard for **musical** sampling. We pushed things really hard to make Rhodope fluid and playable right out of the box. Hope you'll enjoy it as much as we do!*

*Kindest regards,
George*

Rhodope 2 is the new chapter in the Ethnic Bulgarian choir series – it combines techniques tested for three years (since the first release of Rhodope 1 Syllabuilder). We recorded the “Cosmic voices” choir with conductor Vanya Moneva – 20 beautiful singers who did their best at capturing the musical soul of the library.

ABOUT RHODOPE 2

Being in development for more than 3 years the final chapter of Strezov Sampling's Next Generation Choir Series is at hand.

Starting with WOTAN, the lowest and probably most powerful men choir ever sampled, FREYJA the first sampled choir to focus on the beauty of the female voice, and ÁRVA that has two children choirs at your fingertips, RHODOPE 2 gives you the possibility to use a truly unique library that combines powerful scripting and playability with the timbre of the Ethnic Bulgarian choir.

Including the revolutionary Syllabuilder Engine (first introduced with WOTAN), True Polyphonic Legato as well as the brand new Agile Legato, which allows you to play polyphonic legato with every syllable inside the library, RHODOPE 2 benefits from every little secret discovered in more than 4 years long journey which resulted in producing the most playable and realistic sounding choir libraries ever made.

RHODOPE 2 is made of a couple of patches, giving you polyphonic true legato with Ah and Eh vowels, the powerful Syllabuilder 3.0 patch, whispers, shouts, clusters and FX. All those colours can be used in both fantasy/orchestral setting, as well as contemporary dance music. RHODOPE 2 also has unique legato scripting, combining polyphonic true legato sampling with our very own Syllabuilding approach.

The Syllabuilder Agile Legato not only allows the user to play legato with every syllable available in the library, but also features intelligent voice leading enabling polyphonic writing within just one patch. In other words: hold down a chord in the left hand, play a melody with your right hand and have it all connected with legato transitions. This powerful feature is controllable by the most common of all midi cc controllers, the sustain pedal.

TRUE LEGATO PATCHES

In addition to the Agile Legato Rhodope 2 again also features polyphonic true legato patches (Ah and Eh), which gives you tons of flexibility when it comes to writing legato lines.



The GUI is pretty easy to use – to the left you have the three microphone positions (Close, Decca and Hall) with the option to purge (ON/OFF button at the top), Solo or Mute them. You can increase/decrease the volume by tweaking the sliders and at the bottom (*currently at “Default” state*) you have the option to map different outputs.

The buttons to the right allow you to turn legato on and off, to remove overlapping notes (**great for monophonic melodic lines**), to turn of releases and tweak the external reverb.

SYLLABUILDER ENGINE 3

When it comes to virtual choirs there are basically two approaches: Phrasebuilding (StormChoir series) and Wordbuilding (Rhodope series).

Rhodope 2 combines the simplicity and sample recording of phrasebuilding with the advanced editing functions of wordbuilding. This allows you to have amazing sounding results within seconds, but also to build and create new sample content with only few mouse-clicks.

Create complete choral patterns inside the GUI or connect different syllables and morph them to add motion to your choir arrangements. Save and Load complete lyric presets to quickly get yourself into the actual composition or enhance your setup with predefined quick words. All samples have their natural attacks included.

However if you want to tighten them up the Syllabuilder Engine allows you to set custom attack, release, volume and offset values for each field independently. Something first introduced by WOTAN Male Choir and before that greatly missed in all phrasebuilding choir libraries.



Write Words

To 'write' a few words quickly choose an empty position on the dashboard and click on any syllable in the list to the left.

The editor will automatically switch to the next empty position, so you can repeat the above procedure as many times as you want.

If you want to 'write' a few Stacato words quickly choose an empty position on the dashboard and hold down SHIFT key on your keyboard while clicking on any syllable in the list to the left.

SHIFT + LMB shortcut is only available when an empty position is selected.

Edit Words

To edit words (syllables), you must first select one of the available positions on the dashboard.

Any changes made from now on will be applied to the current selection until you select another position.

You can tweak all the settings like Attack, Release, Volume, Offset or even change the syllable itself.

Syllable Options

Use the 'Sustain / Staccato' switch to change the articulation on the go.

Use Attack, Release, Start Offset and Volume to set the syllable according to your preferences or to adjust the transition in combination with Connect and Morph modes.

Legato

Click on any button to the right of the Legato sign to change the legato duration for the selected syllable (used only at the beginning of a new note/chord).

If no selection is made the legato is switched off.

Connect Mode

To connect multiple syllables click on the circle between the syllables. Then you can play them with a single note/chord on the keyboard.

In this mode you can use the Rhythm Controls to adjust the specific length each syllable will be held for before jumping to the next in the sequence.

Rhythm (connect mode)

Click on any note to the right of the Rhythm sign to change the duration of the selected syllable in connect mode.

This will help you to create various choral patterns and to sync the lyrics to the dynamic of your project.

Morph Mode

Morph mode on the other hand allows you to crossfade between different syllables, thus creating new words!

To morph two (or more) syllables click twice on the circle between them until you see the crossed button.

Rhythm (morph mode)

To control the morph between two (or more) syllables use their Rhythm options.

The Rhythm of the first syllable control the timing when the first morph will start.

The Rhythm of the second (third, etc.) syllable controls the duration of the morph between the syllable and the previous one in the sequence.

Words Keyswitches

If you want to use a word (or a phrase) more than once in your track, you don't need to type it twice.

Just attach it to a keyswitch.

To do this, simply select its sequential number (counting from 1) using the corresponding knob in the upper left corner.

It will be easier to press the word keyswitch from your keyboard first if you don't want to count the words that you have written.

The corresponding knob in the upper left corner will turn yellow.

By dragging the keyswitch knob you will see the gray note (below the syllables in the dashboard) jump between words, showing you which word is currently selected.

New, Load, Save, Ins, Del

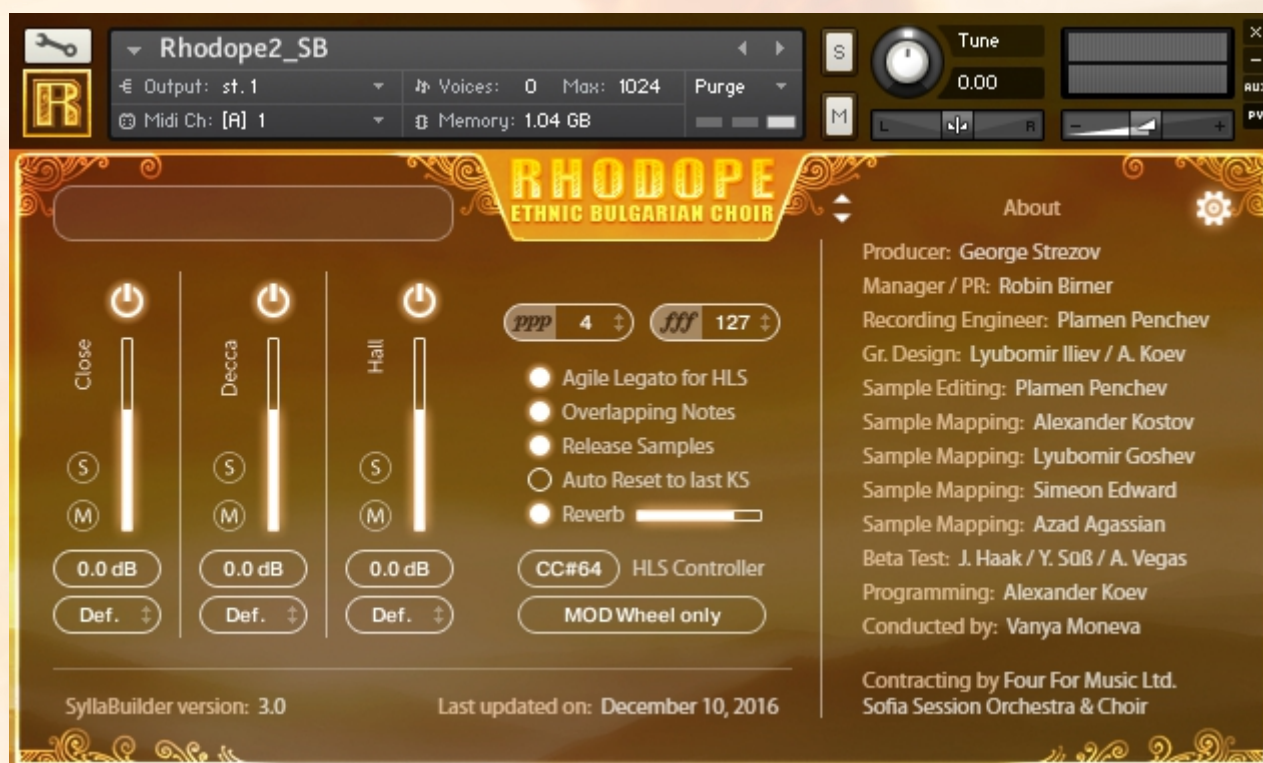
Make sure you use the “Save”, “Load”, “New”, “Insert” and “Delete” buttons on the interface – they will save you a lot of time and those can also help you create your own lyric templates!

Insert / Delete Shortcuts

You can quickly Insert or Delete syllables in the dashboard using keyboard modifiers while clicking on any of the available positions.

CTRL + LMB = Delete syllable

ALT + LMB = Insert syllable



Agile Legato

In Hold Last Syllable mode (assigned to Sustain pedal by default) the transitions between notes are handled by our new Agile Legato.

It is fully polyphonic and it is equally useful for both solo melodies and harmonic content.

You can switch the Agile Legato off for compatibility with your older projects or other choir libraries.

Hold Last Syllable / Word

If you wish to hold the last syllable in a word for a series of notes, use the sustain pedal! (or assign a controller yourself by using the MIDI learn function in the Options tab)

If you wish to hold the last word for a series of notes, press and hold the dynamic keyswitch F1 (yellow).

Overlapping notes

Feel free to use the polyphonic legato – when the “Overlapping Notes” is switched ON you can have one voice holding a pedal “Tul” syllable (for instance), while the other voices are still progressing throughout the lyrics.

Auto Reset to last KS

If switched ON the sequence will automatically reset to the last used word keyswitch if you pause more than 20 ms.

You can progress throughout the lyrics by successfully connecting the notes/chords in legato mode or by using a word keyswitch.



Quick Words Browser

Use the button in the upper right corner to open the “Quick Words” browser.

Click on any word in the browser and then use the dashboard to select an insert position.

Be careful - if there are too many words on the dashboard, a few syllables at the end may be lost.

Delete Presets (QWB)

There are two types of presets in the browser: factory (gray) and user presets (white).

User presets can be deleted if you don't need them anymore.

Just click on a preset and use the “X” sign on the right to delete it.

Save Words (QWB)

You can save separate words for later use with “Quick Words” browser.

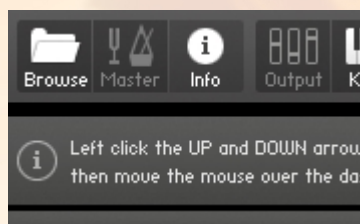
To do this click on “Quick Save” button and then pick a word from the dashboard by clicking on any of its syllables.

Refresh QWB

Every time you open the “Quick Words” browser (or use “Quick Save” button) it will refresh the presets from the disk.

If you have more than one instance of the library in your project you can even transfer words between them without reloading the library or your project.

Just save the word in presets using “Quick Save” button and then simply reopen the browser (close and open) in the other instance.



KONTAKT Info Pane

If you get stuck with the interface, open the KONTAKT Info Pane.

Move your mouse over a GUI element and the Info Pane will show you a brief explanation.

This will help you get familiar with the library's interface.

COMPATIBILITY

Version 3 now features compatibility among all of our choirs included in the Next Generation Choir Series meaning you can exchange lyrics and presets, thus saving an incredible amount of time.

This allows you to have amazing sounding results within seconds, but also to build and create new sample content with only few mouse-clicks.

Create complete choral patterns inside the GUI or connect different syllables and morph them to add motion to your choir arrangements.

Save and Load complete lyric presets to quickly get yourself into the actual composition or enhance your setup with predefined quick words. All samples have their natural attacks included.

However if you want to tighten them up the Syllabuilder Engine allows you to set custom attack, release, volume and offset values for each field independently.

Something completely new and **greatly missed** in all phrasebuilding choir libraries.

- *Authentic Ethnic Bulgarian choir recorded in Sofia Session Studio*
- *Recorded "tutti"*
- *Polyphonic True Legato "Ah" and "Eh" patches*
- *Special layer of 'shake' sustain singing for all patches*
- *Cluster and FX patches*
- *Additional content for whispers and shouts*
- *Sustain (1xRR) and Staccato (2xRR) samples*
- *3 mic positions - Close, Decca, Hall + custom convolution reverb*
- *The powerful Syllabuilder engine 3.0 with CONNECT and MORPH modes that allow you to create your own sample content within Kontakt*
- *Ability to Load and Save your lyrics, built-in preset manager*
- *Fully compatible with Wotan, Freyja and Árva*
- *Integrated manual*

LICENSE AGREEMENT

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PATCH LIST:

Rhodope2_SB (Syllabuilder patch with sustains, staccatos and optional whispers/shouts)

Rhodope2_Whispers_&_Shouts (separate patch for whispers and shouts)

Rhodope2_Ah_Legato (polyphonic true ah legato patch)

Rhodope2_Clusters_&_FX (dedicated FX patch)

Rhodope2_Eh_Legato (polyphonic true eh legato patch)

CREDITS

Recording engineer: Plamen Penchev

Conceptual Design & Scripting: Alexander Koev

Graphic Design: Lyubomir Iliev

GUI Design: Lyubomir Iliev & Alex Koev

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Beta testing: Jan Haak / Yannick Süß / Abel Vegas / Simeon Edward

Contracting by Four For Music Ltd.

**With the fantastic voices of “Cosmic voices” choir with conductor
Vanya Moneva!**

Produced by George Strezov