

ENSEMBLIA

Manual Version 1.5

What is Ensemblia?

ENSEMBLIA is the sound of a modern chamber orchestra that lets you easily write organic and truly natural music. A selected range of classical instruments combined with a fine mix of unique sounds are ready for your cinematic suspense, drama and comedy or even to give a special spice to your pop and R'n'B tracks.

Ensemblia was built to easily create beautiful polyphonic chamber arrangements and textures while you are just playing chords or single notes. We didn't recorded phrases, a powerful 16step arranger will do it.

Ensemblia can layer up to 7 instruments at the same time and gives you a quick access to a broad range of timbres and tone colors while playing. A special voicing engine will split your notes and chords automatically into separate voices and lets you individually assign them to each particular instrument.

Building Ensemblia we aimed to create a modern minimalistic ensemble sound inspired by composers such as Michael Nyman, Philip Glass or Steve Reich. Ensemblia is a really helpful and inspiring tool for composers.

What is new in Ensemblia 1.5?

The Sound

The sound of new 1.5 version has been greatly improved. Now it is overall brighter and more natural.

New Instruments

Ensemblia 1.5 has 6 instruments more than the previous version. Beside a new *Double Bass* in legato, pizzicato, staccato and spiccato, we added some instruments of our recent library such as the short, long and tremolo version of the *Bowed Guitars*, the short version of *Tuba* and *Bass Trombone*, the *Magnus Organ*, a *Sawtooth synth* and the Electric Piano of the *EK-470 mkII*. Finally we exchanged the sample set of the *Baritone Ukulele*. Ensemblia 1.5 has now 17 instruments! This makes it more versatile for a wider range of styles.

More Presets

33 new Presets: Ensemblia 1.5 has now 83 presets split into 52 shorts and 32 longs presets - previous: 51 shorts (30) and longs (21)

Improved Interface

Ensemblia 1.5 now has a freely adjustable humanize button and a 3 band parametric master EQ. The presets are split in 3 (or 4) categories and are arranged much clearer. Furthermore we cleaned up the arranger view. Now only the used instruments are displayed.

Free Assignable Slots

Ensemblia 1.5. is now equipped with freely assignable slots, which enables you to set and define your own individual instrument mix. Simply select what you want to use from the new instrument view.

Instrument view

Ensemblia 1.5. has a new instrument view where you can select your favourite instrument or articulation. You can now choose from an amount of 35 instruments and articulations split into 20 shorts and 15 longs - previous: 23 shorts (15) and longs (8)

Separate Outs

You can now use Ensemblia 1.5 with flexible routing options. Just assign each instrument to a separate out and create your individual mix inside your DAW.

Tempo

Ensemblia 1.5 now provides swing/ shuffle mode. Available is the eighth and sixteenth swing/ shuffle tempo.

Improved Engine

We have generally improved the arranger script which allows you now to play the arranger more fluently in „synced“ mode. This implies that we also fixed the issues of occasionally play aborts while changing the lowest note.

Which instruments are included ?

We recorded a violin, a viola, a cello, a double bass and a horn in several articulations such as spiccato, staccato, pizzicato and long notes (normal, ponticello, harmonics) – all in up to 5 velocity layers and 4 round robin variations. Besides that, we added a lot of instruments out of our recent library. Here you find the complete instrument list

Longs:		Shorts:	
Violin (arco, ponti, harmonic)		Violin	(spicc, stacc, pizz)
Viola		Viola	(spicc, stacc, pizz)
Cello		Cello	(spicc, stacc, pizz)
Double Bass	* new *	Double Bass	(spicc, stacc, pizz) * new *
Horn		Horn	
Bass Trombone	* new *	Bass Trombone	
Tuba	* new *	Piano	
Psaltery		Marimba	
Bowed Guitar (arco, trem)	* new *	Bowed Guitar	* new *
Shruti Box		Alto Bells	
Magnus Organ	* new *	Ukulele (updated Ukulele Trio)	
EK 470 e piano	* new *	Saw Synth	* new *

Longs and Shorts

Ensemble comes in two separate patches: „longs“ and „shorts“. The instruments can be spread over 7 slots - each of them provides separate mixing and editing options in order to compose the ensemble at your own requirements.

Both patches are delivered with different tabs: a master view where you can choose presets and set several global parameters and a mixer view where you can mix and edit all 7 instruments. Furthermore, the „shorts“ patch is containing an additional arranger view that lets you define and built up polyphonic 16 step patterns.

The Voicing

Both patches are equipped with a voicing engine that lets you easily spread certain voices to particular instruments. While playing notes or chords Ensemble automatically analyzes your playing and splits all incoming notes into 5 voices which are low – midlow – mid – midhigh – high. You can separately assign these 5 voices to each instrument at your own requirements.

The Arranger

Finally, we added the arranger. It is a powerful 16 step ostinato engine that sets the velocity, the voicing and the octave for each step and instrument separately. The arranger plays the flexible pattern using only notes and chords that you are holding down. As a result you get versatile and inspiring musical patterns and riffs playable in all ranges and speed variations. There are no pre-recorded phrases! Optionally you can play in- or off-sync.

How does Ensemblia work exactly?

The Main Menu

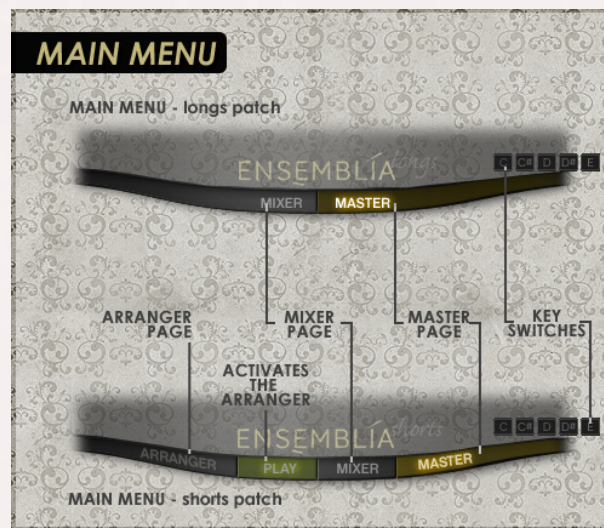
Menu Strip.

Both patches provide several tabs. Just click on the strip below the Ensemblia logo to navigate

Key Switches.

These 5 buttons are representing the 5 key switches C0-E0. By clicking on these buttons you load a snapshot of the current Ensemblia set-up to this key. By doing so you can put several presets or preset variations into particular keys and switch between them on the fly.

Please note: enabling the reverb lock at the master view is preventing possibly noises or clicks while changing presets



The Mixer

This is how the mixer windows look like.



Ensemblia is equipped with 7 instrument slots, each of them is free assignable to a great assortment of instruments which you can select by the instrument view.

In the mixer view you can separately set the volume, pan, solo, reverb, length, octaves, lead (shorts) or legato (longs), voicing (longs) and the output for every slot.

Mixer in detail..

- On enables the slot
- Volume sets the volume
- Solo solos the instrument
- Pan sets the panning
- Reverb sets the amount of reverb
- Output Routing this lets you route the slot signal to an individual out of the Kontakt instrument. Please read the Kontakt User Manual for more information.
Note: The reverb is turned off if the signal is routed to a separate out.
- Instrument shows the name of the recent instrument. By clicking you get to the instrument view, where you can select an instrument for the corresponding slot

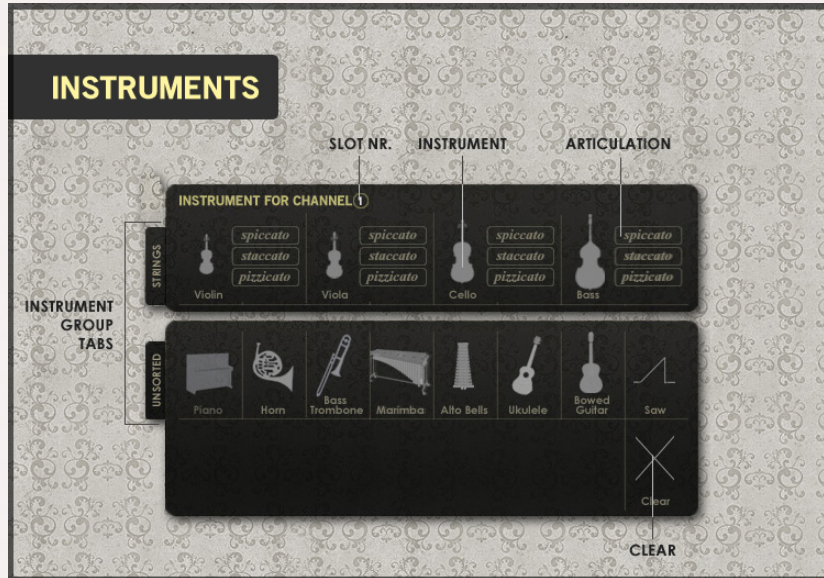
Only available for „shorts“

- Length sets the length (decay/release) of a note
- Lead when enabled you can play this instrument on top while running the arranger.
- Octave shifts the instruments range globally one octave up or down

Only available for „longs“

- Voicing lets you assign certain voices to the instrument (see chapter The Voicing)
- Legato when enabled you can play this instrument in a legato mode which results in a smoother transition between notes.

The instrument view



This is the list of all available instruments and articulation which can be assigned to a corresponding instrument slot – the slot number is shown by the Slot-Nr. Just click on the icon to select your favourite instruments or articulation; by clicking „Clear“ the slot will be unloaded. Note: You can only once select an instrument or articulation

The instruments and articulations of the „shorts“ version are arranged in two different groups which are easily accessible by clicking on the corresponding tab buttons at the left side of the window.

The Voicing



The VOICING ON/OFF knob activates a powerful engine that lets you easily spread the voices of your playing separately to particular instruments.

While playing notes or chords Ensemble automatically analyzes the pressed keys and splits all incoming notes into **5 separate voices**: low – midlow – mid – midhigh – high. The voices are represented by circles. By clicking on a circle you assign the corresponding voice of your playing to this instrument.

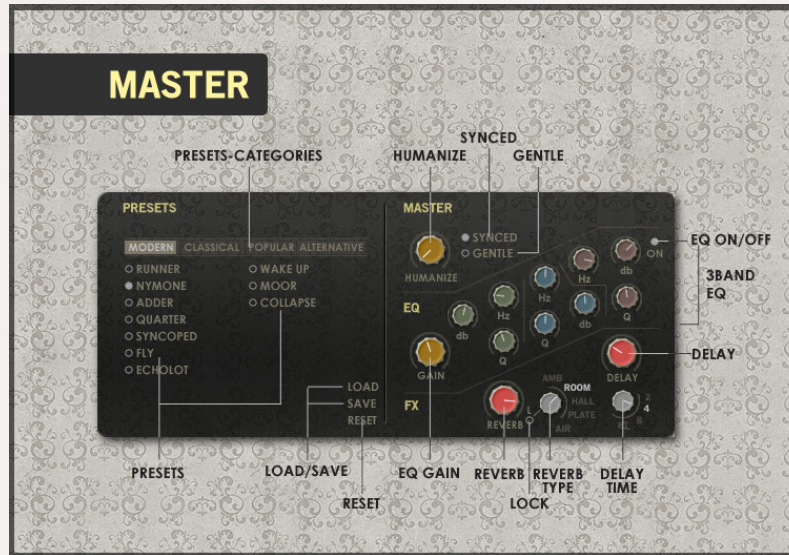
How does the assignment affects the playing exactly ?

Imagine, the highest voice is assigned to instrument 1 - activated dot at the top/ left side - the three middle voices are assigned to instrument 2 - activated dots in the three middle - and the lowest voice is assigned to instrument 3 - activated dot at the bottom/ right side. So, what happens when you are playing chords? See examples:

C-maj (root position)	c will be played by instr 3, e to instr 2 and g to instr 1
C-min7 (1 st inversion)	d# will be played by instr 3, g and b-flat by instr 2 and c by instr 1
F-sus2(root position)	f will be played by instr 3, g by instr 2 and c by instr 1

At your own requirements, you can assign these 5 voices to each instrument. No assignment implies no notes are played. By disabling the voicing button the instrument plays all notes.

The Master



On the left side you can find a bunch of presets which are categorized into several genres/ themes. Each of the preset can be selected by clicking on it. There are also buttons for resetting Ensemblia or load/ save the current state via a harddrive dialog. The presets of Ensemblia are separated in several categories.

Note: The „shorts“ presets are also including pattern for the arranger.

Longs:

Largo for wide, warm and full ensembles

Fragile for thin, organic and fragile ensembles

Solo and Lead which are well suitable for monophonic playing

Shorts:

Modern: for contemporary and minimal music styles,

Classical: for typical orchestral classical colors

Popular: for pop music music

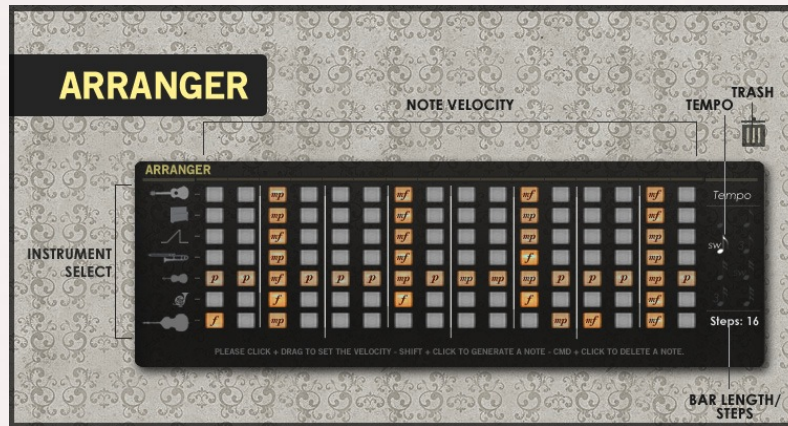
Alternative: for extraordinary issues and progressive and alternative music styles.

On the right side of the master view you find the global settings of Ensemblia.

Humanize	enables a random variation of the velocity level of the notes which are played by the arranger. It is adjustable in a range of up to 10 to -10 %.
Synced	by enabling you are playing inside the sync of the arranger, that means off notes are ignored. If disabled you can play off-sync. <i>Note: Both features work only in „play“ Mode.</i> We recommend to disable this option, whenever using a host (Cubase, Logic etc.) and use quantized midi notes triggering the arranger.
Gentle	enables a midi-velocity compression in order to play notes in a more gentle way. <i>Note: It works only in „manual“ Mode.</i>
EQ on/off	enables/ disables the master EQ Section
3 Band EQ	The 3 band master EQ. This is a typical parametric EQ with 3 bands, each controllable by gain (db), a frequency (Hz) and bandwidth (Q) knob. Please read the Kontakt User Manual for more information.
Gain	sets the entire output volume of the EQ
Delay	controls the master amount of delay
Delay Time	selects the delay time form 2 nd to 8 th triolic
Reverb	controls the master amount of reverb
Lock	if enabled, the reverb amount knob and the type selection is locked whenever a preset is changed – <i>this possibly prevents noise or clicks while changing presets</i>
Reverb Type	selects the reverb type between ambience, room, hall, plate and air

The Arranger

The arranger window is only available in the *shorts*



At the left you can see several instrument icons. By clicking on it the arranger changes to a detailed view of the instrument track and shows arranger options.

In the middle part of the window you find the main arranger area with the separate instrument rows for each of the 7 tracks. Each box shows the velocity value per step. By clicking and dragging on the box you can increase/ decrease the value from off to ff.

- p* = piano (low vel.) -
- mp* = mezzopiano (mid-low vel.)
- mf* = mezzoforte (mid-high vel.)
- f* = forte (high vel.)
- ff* = fortissimo (very high vel.)

Please note: While dragging a box a **Shift + click** generates forte note, the **Cmd + click** deletes note, **Shift + alt** creates a 4th pattern and **Cmd + alt** creates a 16th pattern

The Bar Control.

At the right side of the window you see the tempo menu, where you can set the arranger speed in relation to the host, available are: half, quarter, eighths and sixteenth notes – eighths and sixteenth also in swing and triolic feel. In addition to that you can also set the number of step of the pattern by clicking and dragging over the steps icon (adjustable from 1 to 16 steps)

If an instrument icons is select one instrument the arranger view changes into the instrument detail view.



The selected instrument is highlighted and its velocity row is shown at the top. The other instruments rows are hidden. Beside that you can now see the voicing and the octave selection per step. At the right side you can see the same controls which are global and affect all steps at once.

Selected Instrument displays the instrument icon of the corresponding slot

Note Velocity Each box shows the velocity value per step. By clicking and dragging on the box you can increase/ decrease the value from off to ff.

Please note: While dragging a box a **Shift + click** generates forte note, the **Cmd + click** deletes note, **Shift + alt** creates a 4th pattern and **Cmd + alt** creates a 16th pattern

Voicing Paramter sets the voicing per step or for the entire row via Play Parameter Global (see chapter The Voicing)

Voicing on/off to set the the individual voicing you just have to activate it before by clicking

Octaves sets the note an octave up or down in relation to the play note. This can be done per step or global, as well.

Please Note: This function doesn't correspond to the 8va/8vb function at the mixer view. Both of them are working separately.

And: By activating both 8va/ 8vb options (located at the mixer and arranger view) you can transpose 2 octaves !

Ensemblia was recorded, assembled and programmed in 2014-2015 in Cologne.

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Silvan, Vali, Kathrin, Liz, Bert, Charlotte.



We wish you great ideas, much inspirations and
a lot fun tweaking Ensemblia!

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