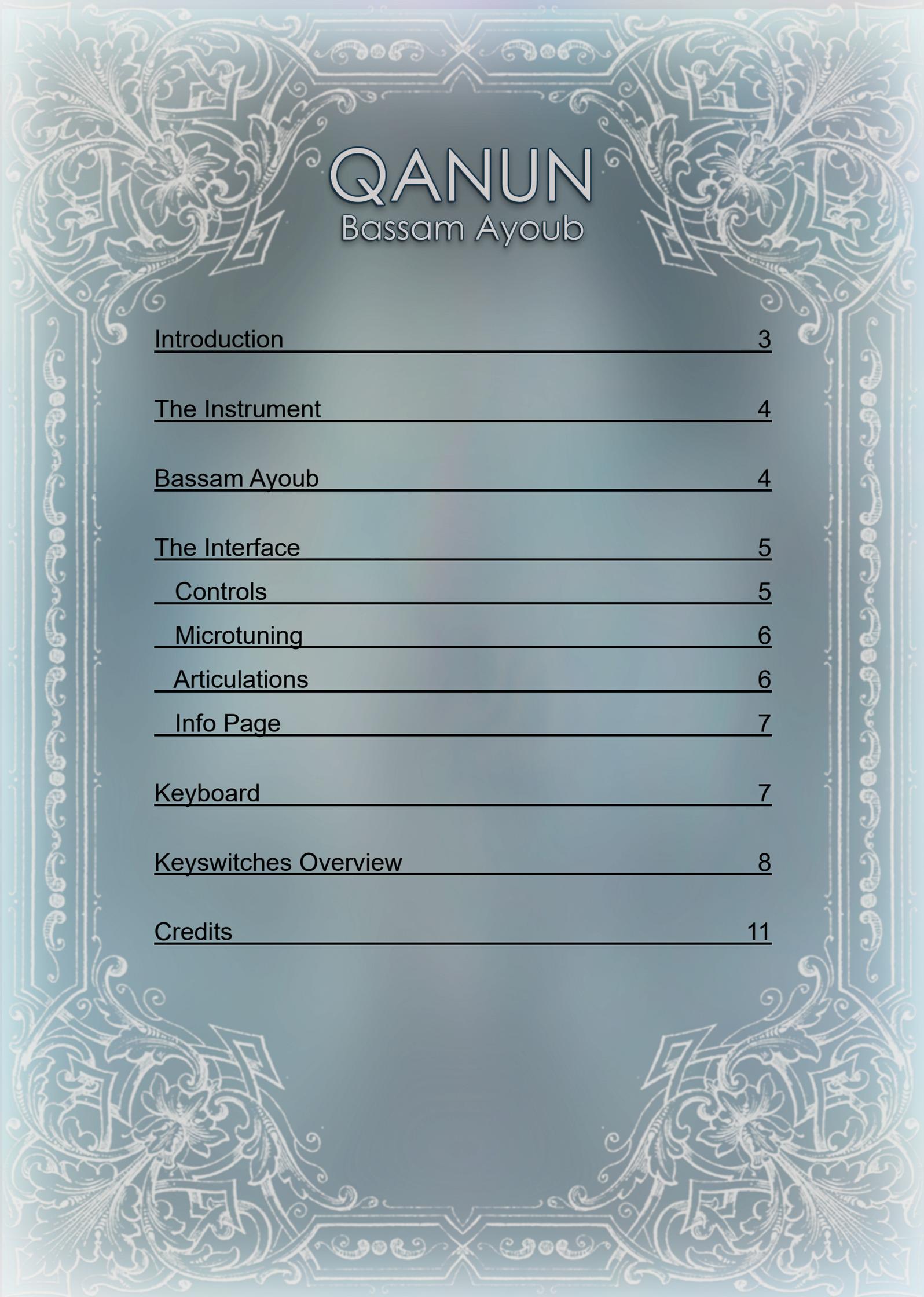


# QANUN

Bassam Ayoub





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# QANUN

Bassam Ayoub



**Qanun** is the result of Bassam Ayoub's years of experience in recording oriental instruments and convinces with an unprecedented authenticity in playability and realism. With its total of 22 articulations, Qanun encompasses all important timbres that have made this wonderful instrument one of the most famous plucked instruments in the world.

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## The Instrument

**The Qanun** is a wooden psaltery native to the Orient and strung with 63 to 84 strings, three strings being assigned to each tone. The Instrument has a long history, first illustrations can be found already in the 10th century in Hassan Bar Bahlul's Syriac Lexicon. The characteristic sound still plays an important role in oriental music, be it traditional or modern pop music.



## Bassam Ayoub



Born in Syria, Bassam Ayoub is a musician and singer who has travelled with various bands to many Arab countries and Europe. As head of his recording studio in Wiesbaden, Germany, he has worked with renowned manufacturers of keyboards and expanders such as Korg and Farfisa.

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## The Interface



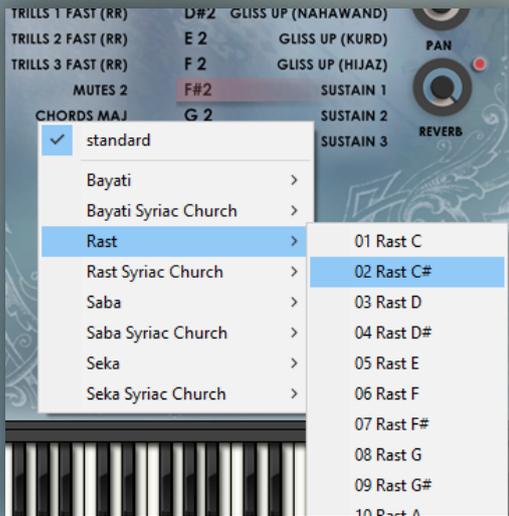
### 1. Instrument Controls:

- **Attack**
- **Release**
- **Noise Vol.** (Changes the plucked noise volume of Sustain 1 & 2.)
- **Volume**
- **Pan**
- **Reverb** (Button turns the Reverb ON /OFF)

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### 2. Microtuning:



Qanun contains the essential and most used microtunings of oriental music: **Bayati, Rast, Saba** and **Seka**.

Each tuning is offered in two variations (Normal and Syriac Church) and the free choice of the key. Click in the Microtuning field to open the dropdown menu. Then select the tuning with your preferred key.

### 3. Articulations:

**Qanun** contains a total of 22 articulations recorded by Bassam Ayoub with several Velocity Layers and up to **16 Round Robins**. The main focus was on achieving an authentic sound with the best possible playability. Therefore the articulations can be roughly divided into two groups: **Recorded performances** (e.g. the **Tremolos** recorded over several seconds) and **freely playable articulations** (e.g. the **Trill** articulations, which allows you to play by pressing and releasing a keyboard key and thus determine the speed of the trill yourself). If you change an articulation via a Keyswitch, it will light up on the interface so that you always know which is currently activated. Exceptions are the **3 Sustain Keyswitches (F#1 / G1 / G#1)**. These light up red and remain activated as long as no other Keyswitch is pressed.

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### 4. Info Page:

Besides a short introduction about the Qanun the Info Page contains a list of all **Midi Song Keys**, the corresponding tunings and speeds, and a description of the feature.

More information about **Midi Song Keys** can be found below.

### Keyboard:



**Keyswitches** allow you to switch between articulations, which can then be played on the **Playing Range** to create incredibly realistic performances. **The Sustain Keyswitches (red)** remain active after the key is released, the rest remain active only as long as they are pressed and held by the player - after the key is released, the articulation changes to the last selected **Sustain Keyswitch**. In the **Noise FX** section you always have realistic string noises and other noise fx at hand.

The green **Midi Song Keys** above the **Playing Range** play short midi sequences, which demonstrate the numerous playing possibilities of Qanun. Since the original songs differ in speed and microtuning, you have to adjust them manually to get the intended sound of a song. A list of all songs can be found on the **Info Page**.

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## Keyswitches Overview:

<b>B0</b>	<b>MUTES 1</b>	<b>Plucked mutes with release samples</b>
<b>C1</b>	<b>TREMOLO (RR)</b>	<b>Freely playable tremolo (controlled by playing-speed)</b>
<b>C#1</b>	<b>VIBRATO</b>	<b>short sustain articulation with heavy vibrato</b>
<b>D1</b>	<b>TREMOLO 1</b>	<b>Fast played Tremolo with heavy vibrato</b>
<b>D#1</b>	<b>TREMOLO 2</b>	<b>Regular tremolo articulation</b>
<b>E1</b>	<b>TRILLS 1 FAST (RR)</b>	<b>Freely playable trill (1 semitone)</b>
<b>F1</b>	<b>TRILLS 2 FAST (RR)</b>	<b>Freely playable trill (2 semitones)</b>
<b>F#1</b>	<b>TRILLS 3 FAST (RR)</b>	<b>Freely playable trill (3+ semitones)</b>
<b>G1</b>	<b>MUTES 2</b>	<b>Alternative short plucked mutes without release samples</b>
<b>G#1</b>	<b>CHORDS MAJ</b>	<b>Strummed major chords (A2 - G5)</b>
<b>A1</b>	<b>CHORDS MIN</b>	<b>Strummed minor chords (A2 - G5)</b>

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A#1	GLISS DOWN (AJAM)	Major glissando down (A3 - E6)
B1	GLISS D. (NAHAWAND)	Minor glissando down (A3 - E6)
C2	GLISS DOWN (KURD)	Phrygian scale glissando down (A3 - E6)
C#2	GLISS DOWN (HIJAZ)	Phrygian dominant scale glissando down (A3 - E6)
D2	GLISS UP (AJAM)	Major glissando (A2 - E5)
D#2	GLISS UP (NAHAWAND)	Minor glissando (A2 - E5)
E2	GLISS UP (KURD)	Phrygian scale glissando up (A3 - E6)
F2	GLISS UP (HIJAZ)	Phrygian dominant scale glissando up (A3 - E6)
F#2	SUSTAIN 1	Standard Sustains with adjustable plucking noise (Noise Vol. Knob)
G2	SUSTAIN 2	Sustain 1 but with alternative plucking noise (Noise Vol. Knob)
G#2	SUSTAIN 3	Mixed Sustains

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## Credits

Bassam Ayoub: Qanun Recording, Production,  
Development and Concept

Abdurrahman Köse: Qanun Performance

Dan Corches: Development, GUI & Manual Design

Recording: STUDIO AYOUB in Wiesbaden

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More information and updates can be found at  
[www.bestservice.com](http://www.bestservice.com)

Manual Version 1.0