[Lost Soul]

——Chinese Xiao Virtual Instruments

Xiao is a Chinese vertically-played membrane-less wind instrument made of the bamboo trunk. With Xiao’s grave and lower sound, it is traditionally presented in aulic or ritual music. In contemporary works, Xiao is commonly used in Chinese-fantastic topics. Though the pieces of Xiao are usually slow and smooth, it is also good at presenting fierce emotions by airflow-attack and vibrato.

There are three primary variants of Xiao: Dongxiao is what we present in Lost Soul, which is the most commonly used one; Nanxiao, with a deeper sound, appears widely in southern China; compare with the previous two, Qinxiao has a sweeter sound and is specifically used in accompany with Guqin (a plucked 7-string instrument).

Samples: 1868

Samples parameter: 44100 Hz / 24 bit

Sample size: 3GB

1. Adjustable Sound Field

When samples were recorded, 5 different microphones were used with different positions to capture the spatial and reverb characteristics of Xiao. All these channels were mixed down to four channels: Yin, Yang and far stereo. The volumes of these four channels were adjustable in software, making it possible to obtain most various tone.

2. Performances

By controlling airflow and finger, Xiao has a very rich set of performances such as attack, mordent, finger pole popping, trill, flutter, vibrato, staccato and gliss. All these performances can be triggered in Lost Soul software, making it most adjustable Xiao virtual instrument.

3. Realistic Expressions

Lost Soul has real-recorded expressions that are freely controllable. With the control of MIDI CC, it can express tone changes like a real Xiao performance.

4. Gliss

With two different speeds of real-recorded gliss samples and sample synthesis technique, Lost Soul can perform gliss at freely adjustable speed.

5. Self-developed Vibrato Engine

Real-sample-based LFO engine making Lost Soul performs vibrato that is both realistic and adjustable.

6. Sampling Engine

Self-developed sampling engine with better sound quality, more powerful disk buffer streaming/sampling compression technology, and brand-new sound fusion technology.

7. Legato

We recorded the sound between legato notes in three speeds, and apply them according to playing speed in software. In addition, we recorded “regular legato”, “popping legato” and "wuxia style legato" that are specific in Chinese Xiao.

8. Self-developed spectrum fusion legato technology

Real-recorded legato samples can enhance the realism of legato instruments, but the conjugate part by naive cross-fade algorithm of two samples would induce phase-cancellation problems. In order to better cohesive legato performance, we developed the "spectrum fusion legato" technology. When necessary, frequency domain fusion is used instead of time domain cross-fade to create transition part between samples, which improves the smoothness of the connection.

9. Abundant sound effects

We summarized and screened 8 techniques of Xiao, including traditional performance techniques, film and television soundtracks, and special techniques commonly used in Chinese ancient style songs, just to preserve the natural talent of Xiao to the greatest extent.

10. Convolution reverb

At the beginning of Chinese Traditional series development, we started to record the convolution reverb samples from spectacular places, famous natural and historical heritages in China. Thus you can simulate Lost Soul being played at the Great Wall or Terracotta Army site.

11. Effect Rack

From the Heavier7Strings’ effect rack: Compressor, EQ, Chorus and Ping-Pong delay are included, allowing to create more flexible sounds.

12. Pattern Library

Complete pattern library, allowing to your works and ideas easily, with rich preset of patterns that can be updated in the future. And you could create your own pattern by dragging MIDI clips inside.

Minimum System Requirements:

Intel or AMD CPUs with SSE 4.1 instruction set.

Mac OS X 10.9 / Windows 7.

4GB RAM and 3GB disk space.

Plugin Formats Provided:

Windows: 32-/64-bit VST2, 64-bit AAX

Mac: 64-bit VST2, Audio Unit and AAX

Extra Requirements on Specific Hosts:

Logic Pro X or higher (Logic 9 is not supported)

Only 32-bit VST was supported in Cakewalk Sonar 8.5