

Ethereal Keys

While sampling the church organ in the town's church I made this organ stop combination that had an ethereal quality. I put all the other sounds aside for a while due to this vision: What about combining even more sound sources together? Like having a giant church organ with even more sound opportunities. For some reason, while editing sounds I kept watching these pictures of arctic norwegian churches and spectacular mountains on Baffin Island. What was first maybe a more spacey sound idea tilted to northern lights, crystal clear lakes, sun reflections on icy landscapes etc. Now the ambience was set.

So the concept of Ethereal Keys is you having a giant keyboard creation with interconnected sound sources such as church organ, tonewheel organ, electric organ, harmonium, analog synthesizers, solo vocalist & choir, electric guitars and various wind instruments plus mark tree. To match the arctic theme the sound ideal is not "authentic" by itself but rather more "frozen" in character. A bit like having a synth from the 90th but with much larger memory capacity and better PCM samples. The human voices, for example are not intended to sound "natural" but more like aural snapshots found under the arctic ice.

Please note: *Some of the presets use the modulation wheel to gain access to more layers of sound and parameters. Always remember to check it out. The key range is also different across the presets. As the presets contain various layers edited individually, please remember that altering the knobs in the GUI will affect the sound as a whole. The advanced Kontakt 5 user can of course edit the layers separately at will.*

Welcome to the musical permafrost!

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Thank you:

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Sampled instruments:

Church organ

Built in 1790 and modernized 1981. Newly renovated and expanded in 2015. The timbre sampled is a secret stop combination.

Other organs

Hammond L100 (Slow Leslie)
Yamaha Electone B20CR (Flute and Bass Pedals)
Harmonium

Synthesizers

Roland JX-10
Moog Sub Phatty
Oberheim Matrix 12

Female vocalist

DevaLaya Guleng (Ohs & Ahs)

Choir

The Lesjöfors Choir (Ahs)

Additional sources

Large bottle (with various amounts of water)
Pan pipes
Flute
Mark tree
White noise

Electric guitars

Fender Stratocaster
Hagström Viking

Ethereal Keys - Presets:

Arctic cathedral

Church organ with added pad and fat synth sounds when playing at harder velocity. Pitch control is added to the synth layers.

Cold mass

Church organ with added choir when playing at harder velocity. The modulation wheel controls a solo voice layer. Pitch control is added to the choir layer.

Distant sun

Choir, solo voice and pad with added electric organ pedals in the lower range. Pitch control is general.

Ethereal organ

Church organ.

Fairness of light

Solo voice with non-looped bottle blow. The modulation wheel morphs between ohs and ahs. Pitch control is general.

Fluffy clouds

Double pad in fifths with string-like pad added when playing at harder velocity. Pitch control is general.

Frozen angels

Choir and solo voice. Pitch control is general.

Heaven's backyard

Tonewheel organ with non-looped flute. The modulation wheel controls a chimes layer. Pitch control is general.

Ice flute

Electric organ flute with spring reverb. The modulation wheel controls vibrato. Pitch control is general.

Last breath

Non-looped harmonium with non-looped bottle blow. Pitch control is general.

Let there be light

Solo voice with church organ and pad. The modulation wheel morphs between ohs and ahs. Pitch control is added to the solo voice and pad layers.

Miles of white

Square wave sound with electric organ pedals in the lower range. The modulation wheel that controls vibrato and pitch control is added to the square wave layers. Pitch control is added to the square wave sound layer.

Night of obscurity

Double pad in fifths and chimes with string-like pad and choir added when playing at harder velocity. The modulation wheel controls a solo voice layer tuned down a fourth. Pitch control is general.

Organic friendship

Church organ and tonewheel organ. The modulation wheel controls a pad layer. Pitch control is added to the tonewheel organ and pad layers.

Permafrost

Non-looped pan flute, pad, square wave sound, chimes and electric organ pedals. Playing at harder velocity adds more pan flute. The modulation wheel controls a layer of non-looped bottle blow sound. Pitch control is general.

Polar experience

String-like pad that contains a bit of synth noise. Playing at harder velocity opens the cutoff filter. The modulation wheel controls LFO. Pitch control is general, 1 octave.

Stratosphere

Non-looped electric guitars, tonewheel organ and pad. The modulation wheel controls vibrato and pitch control is also added to the guitar layers.

Sweet memories

Solo voice and pad. The modulation wheel morphs between ohs and ahs. Pitch control is general.

The fabulous five

Church organ, tonewheel organ, pad, choir and solo voice. Pitch control is general.

Tubular world

Non-looped electric guitars, tonewheel organ, pad and choir. The modulation wheel controls vibrato and pitch control is also added to the guitar layers.

Weightless

Non-looped pan flute and pad. Playing at harder velocity adds more pan flute. Pitch control is general.

Wind sweeper

White noise to create polar wind effects. The modulation wheel controls a combination of cutoff filter and resonance which affects the intensity.

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