

Grand Concert Harpsichord 3.0

for jOrgan 3.19



The "Grand Harpsichord" is constructed of harpsichord samples from Dominique Lacaud's [sampled organ website](http://www.sampledorgan.com). The disposition is in the tradition of the "Landowska style" harpsichords built by the Pleyel company. "Flemish Harpsichord" voices are accessible through a bank-switch filter. The sounds were obtained from "Loofa's Clavecin" samples, obtained from "freesound." <http://www.freesound.org/people/loofa/packs/1491/>

The buff and nasat sounds were made with filters using techniques learned from John W. McCoy's "Hpschd" soundfont. On a real harpsichord, the buff sound is made by raising or lowering felt or leather pads onto the strings. On a real harpsichord, the nasat sound would be made by a special jack placed closer to the end of the string.

My soundfont uses the same bank numbering system as the McCoy soundfont. There is no "Muselaar" or combinations.

Temperaments

Several temperaments are available in the disposition. More are available in the "Fluid Tunings" menu. Even more temperaments, plus some history can be found at <http://www.dolmetsch.com/musictheory27.htm>.

Pedal Harpsichord.

The pedal division is modeled after the John Challis Harpsichord used by E. Power Biggs in "Bach on the Pedal Harpsichord." (Biggs also recorded the Bach trio sonatas, concerto transcriptions and Scott Joplin rags on the Challis harpsichord.) The Challis Harpsichord had a venetian swell on its pedal division. Experience in playing showed me volume control over a pedal division is necessary and useful. The sounds accessed are the same as for Manual I, although they are separate ranks in jOrgan.

A console screen without the pedal stops can be used if they are not needed.

Octave Shift

The Octave Shift switch transposes the keyboards down an octave to accommodate harpsichord literature that goes below C1. (Hopefully the music doesn't also go above C6!)

Two Ways of Controlling Registration

Registration can be controlled in two ways. First, the individual stops and their modifiers can be drawn. Activators that control the stops in the manner of the pedals of a Landowska style harpsichord for hands-free registration changes. The "Buff" activator for manual I puts buff on 16', 8', and 4' together. Any activator also engages Manual II's 8' stop. My assumption is that the Manual II 8' choir would always be engaged since it is the only choir on Manual II. The "Landowska Pedal Activators" do not control the optional pedal division. Registration should be done either with stops or activators. A combination of the two will only confuse the player. Activators light up when selected. The corresponding stops also move when selected through activators. All can be cancelled by the "C" button.

Transposer

The jOrgan disposition has a 5 step transposer that displays the pitch of A rather than steps up or down. It uses pitch bend commands instead of a key shift so that each temperament will keep its character.

Rank modifying switch-filters

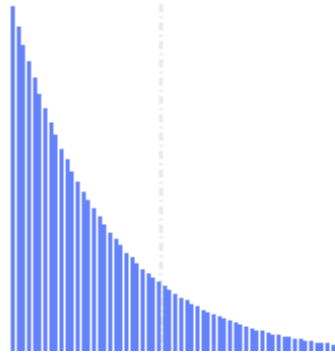
I decided to make the buffs and nasat as rank modifying switch filters rather than independent stops that controlled ranks. I felt that this more closely reflects the function on a real harpsichord.

External Reverb

The disposition features MIDI links and controls for external reverb devices. I own an Alesis Midiverb 4. The "Edit A" and "Edit B" controls correspond to the controls on the Midiverb 4. Program 117 ("Small room for background vocals") will automatically come up when the connector is referenced to a Midverb 4. If you do not have external reverb, the virtual harpsichord will function just as well. The Fluidsynth Reverb controls can be adjusted manually to simulate small room or concert hall acoustics.

Stereo Spacialization

Samples were given a 45% spread, centered on G#2 .



Acknowledgements

The "Grand Concert Harpsichord" is constructed of samples from Dominique Lacaud's sampled organ website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/odfgrandorgue/instruments/170-clavecin-silberman-1740>

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"Flemish Harpsichord" voices are from "Loofa's Clavecin" available at "freesound" (<http://www.freesound.org/>) and used under the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License.

Buff effects modified from "Hpschd" by John W. McCoy (<http://www.realmac.info/hrpschrd.htm>)

Jack drop sounds are from MT_Clavicembalo_884 by Matteo Tocchetti, used with permission. (<http://www.hammersound.net>)

The photograph of the Landowska-style harpsichord is by Vaughan Nelson, from his Flickr account, (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nelsva/91817586/>) Creative Commons

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