



Lesson: Vintage Keys

Author: John Mlynczak

Resources: Studio One DAW, MIDI Keyboard Controller

NAfME Standards:

3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Objectives: Students will learn to customize vintage keyboards and understand the history and science behind analog electronic instruments.

Procedure:

1. Discuss the history of synthesizers and appropriate listening examples of vintage synthesizers. Resources include:
www.vintagesynth.com/resources/glossary.php
www.vintagesynth.com/timeline/
2. Create a new song in Studio One and select "Instruments" in the browse menu. Select the "Presence" plugin and open the "Vintage Keys" folder.
3. Select an instrument and use the MIDI controller to enter a short melody. Compare the various synth sounds, paying attention to the Filter, Pitch, Vibration, and Modulation parameters.
4. Using MIDI mapping, assign a knob, fader, or physical control on your controller to various parameters of the synth. Experiment with to adjust the sound of the synth.
5. Assign student groups to each parameter and have each group explore how adjusting a setting affects that original sound. Have each group report to the class on their findings and play examples of original sounds and altered sounds.

To contact PreSonus Education, email musiced@presonus.com

