Liberate Your Keyboard

Do you have a keyboard that's gone unused for a long time because you don't like the sounds? Would you like to add new or different sounds without replacing your keyboard? Any keyboard can still be a useful part of your ministry or studio with the addition of an inexpensive infusion of the latest and greatest sounds.

YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?

Lots of worship leaders are finding themselves in a predicament. They bought a keyboard several years ago, perhaps a digital piano for the sanctuary, perhaps a keyboard for the music office, and now, the sounds just aren't cutting it. But there's no room in the budget for a whole new keyboard.

MIDI TO THE RESCUE

Most likely, your keyboard has "MIDI" ports on the back panel. If so, it can be liberated from its antiquated sounds by connecting it to a new MIDI "sound module."

MIDI OUT   MIDI IN

MIDI Keyboard   MIDI Sound Module

A sound module is a MIDI synthesizer that differs from a keyboard in one major way: it doesn't have a keyboard. It has all the sounds though, and can be connected to your old keyboard with a simple MIDI cable. So, you can "trigger" the sound module's sounds from your keyboard. Now, you can either layer the sounds on the keyboard with those from the module, or use the keyboard strictly as a controller and don't even connect it to the sound system. In this case, the sound module alone will create the sounds (provided you connect *it* to the sound system).

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Sound modules come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They are often "rack-mountable" with the ability to be mounted in a standard 19" rack/case. This is good if you want to travel with your module, bringing your sounds wherever you go and triggering them from any available MIDI keyboard. There are also 1/2-rack size modules which can also be mounted but take up less space so they can fit on top of a keyboard or desk. Finally, there are tabletop style modules which have rubber feet and are well-suited for desktop applications.
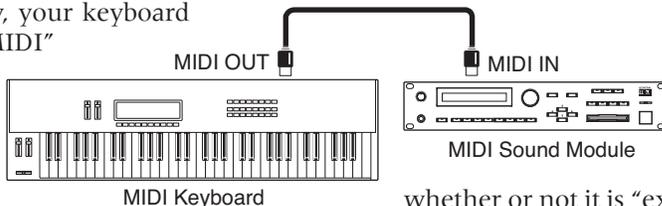
Another feature to consider in a sound module is whether or not it is "expandable." In other words, can you add sounds to the module later on? If so, you won't find yourself boxed-in again in a few years. Instead of replacing the module, you can simply add an "expansion board" and get the sounds you want for a fraction of the cost.

QUALITY AND QUANTITY

To bring this all into focus, let's get specific. The Roland JV-1010 and XV-2020 are both 1/2-rack size modules with hundreds of excellent sounds and expansion capability. Both will bring new life to any MIDI keyboard or desktop computer studio without straining your budget.

XV-2020 Sound Module

5 MINUTES
with Kent Morris

Kent Morris' resume reads like a "Who's Who" list of Christian artists and worship leaders. He runs sound for the best and has taught thousands of local church sound techs the tools of his trade. He's written countless articles, conducted clinics all over North America and still finds time to preach at his home church in Georgia. You'll never meet a more knowledgeable, humble servant and we're blessed to have caught up with him for this issue of MIDI in Ministry.

MIDI in Ministry: What kinds of things do you teach in your workshops?

Kent Morris: We're doing a lot of performance, but we do cover live sound and recording. For example, we're doing a class called "Hands Up, Hands On" and I've got a VS-1824 that I use to teach the fundamentals of mixing.

MiM: How does that work?

KM: Basically, we have source material playing from the –1824, which then goes into this custom 8-in/144-out transform-isolated multi-split box. Then we take a bunch of snakes and

run those to about 20 individual mixing consoles live with compressors, limiters, gates, expanders, reverb units, graphic EQs and headphone amplifiers. So as the tracks come off the –1824, I might say things like, "Take this mid sweep and sweep it around here and see what it does to the kick drum." And they can do it in real time. It's a very popular class because it's hands-on.

MiM: How do you get people to open up to using technology?

KM: That's where the hands-on comes into play. We give them theory, but if we were to sit there and describe things like quantization, record bits, aliasing, etc. they would just glass over. So instead what we do is say, "Hey, sing in this mic." And then bang—we've got a recording down. Then we show them how we can manipulate it, EQ it, put reverb on it, compress it and mix it down. So by them seeing that it's not a scary thing, they're much more open to joining the class.

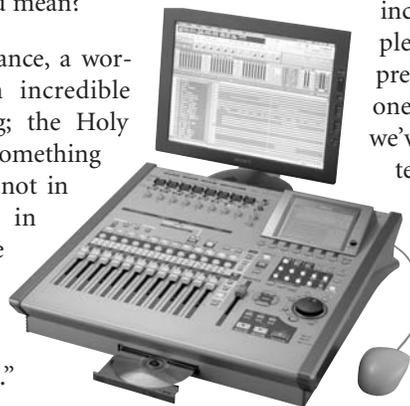**MiM:** Outside the classroom, how useful is something like a VS-1824 in worship?

KM: Basically, it opens up the boundary of when things can occur, because obviously in a worship environment the same song done on one Sunday and then done three weeks from now will have completely different results.

MiM: What do you mean?

KM: Say, for instance, a worship team has an incredible reaction to a song; the Holy Spirit moves and something occurs. Well, we're not in the studio, we're in church. So then we say, "Let's book a studio and in two weeks we'll go in the studio and do it." Of course, two weeks later nothing occurs and you lost the moment. But

The BR-1180CD is an affordable recording studio, complete with CD-burner & effects.

with a Roland V-Studio, we're able to achieve something that sounds like a studio recording and that retains the impact of the moment, but is still simple enough that a volunteer can run it.

MiM: It's probably fun for youth groups to make CDs as well…

KM: It really is. In fact I work a lot with the high school teams and we were inviting some of them to come out to the events so we could spend time with them. We do a lot of shows in the public and Christian private schools, so we'll bring in the high school students to run that show—live and with the recording. And for them it's not terribly far-removed from a Playstation 2, because they grab it quickly [laughs].

MiM: You've become somewhat of a crusader for technology in worship. Why?

KM: It comes down to this: If we have incredibly gifted, talented people who can sing, play and preach and we don't have someone that can deliver that then we've lost it. So that's where the technology interface comes in. The tech person is the one that's sort of responsible for gathering all the information from the stage and relaying it to the congregation. If the tech doesn't know what he or she is doing then obviously there's no point in the pastor or worship team even showing up

The VS-2400CD is a complete digital recording workstation with motorized faders. An optional monitor can be attached to provide the ultimate display.

because the message would be lost. So that's been our driving force… we term it "providing an environment conducive to worship."

MiM: It almost sounds like music technology has become essential…

KM: It has. It's very difficult to achieve anything in a post-modern world. The technology has to be seamless. As you watch coverage of anything on Fox or CNN, you'll see that there are like four reporters on four different continents. They're on the screen at the same time and the audio is completely synced—even though there is an interpolation of probably 20,000 miles' difference. In satellite relay time you're talking probably eight or nine seconds and they make it all come together.

> "…with a Roland V-Studio, we're able to achieve something that sounds like a studio recording and that retains the impact of the moment…"

We have to be able to do that in church, or instead of the message being the message, the lack of medium becomes the message and we look bad. We don't want to have the situation where Christ never showed up and couldn't feed people. So whatever the world is providing, provide an even better version. That's what the church tech team needs to do— not just an adequate job, but an exemplary job. By doing that, instead of it becoming an issue the technology becomes a non-issue. And that's where Roland products like the Fantom-S*, V-Drums® and V-Studios come into play, because they're so easy to use.

MiM: Thanks, Kent!

Kent Morris is an Atlanta-based pastor and sound engineer whose involvement in Maranatha and Integrity worship seminars dates back to 1995. Known for his expertise in the practical applications of technology in worship, Kent is often called to write for such magazines as Worship Leader, CCM, Technologies for Worship, Christianity Today and Your Church. For information on Kent's classes at upcoming Integrity Seminars4Worship events, visit seminars4worship.com.

*"Phantom" is a registered trademark of and is licensed by Phantom Guitar Works.

Roland®
the shape of music.
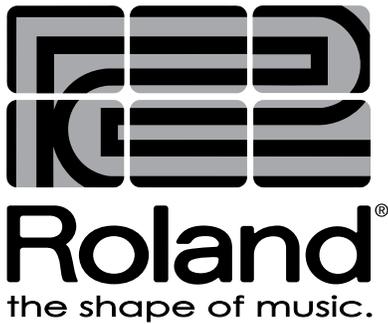
Ask anyone who attended the recent NAMM show who had the cool new gear, and they'll likely tell you "Roland." In fact, there were so many great new products; we could spend the entire issue of MiM going over them! But instead, we've carefully selected what we believe to be the most important new products for your ministry. So let's check 'em out…

Fantom-S Workstations

First up—the 61-note Fantom-S and 88-note Fantom-S88 with Progressive Hammer-Action Keyboard. These hot new

workstations take the best of the original Fantom and add several new features—like onboard sampling, new sounds, a USB port, four slots for Roland's killer SRX expansion boards, plus 16 velocity-sensitive drum pads right on the front panel! A new "Skip Back Sampling" feature constantly records your performances so you'll never lose an idea. The Fantom-S Series also features Roland's V-LINK technology, making it easy to "trigger" video clips from the keyboard*.

V-LINK requires Edirol DV-7PR Digital Video Workstation (sold separately). "Phantom" is a registered trademark of and is licensed by Phantom Guitar Works, Inc.

VK-88/8M Organ & Organ Module

If your ministry needs classic organ sounds, look no further than the new VK-88 Combo Organ and VK-8M Organ Module. Both models use Roland's "Virtual ToneWheel" technology to re-create the sound of a vintage organ. The dual-manual VK-88 and desktop VK-8M can even model the sound of a rotary speaker and several amplifier types, allowing players to create a range of gospel or rock organ sounds. And with Roland's Active Expression feature, you can slowly fade in a second tone via an optional EV-7 Expression Pedal.

The VK-8M is another great way to "liberate" your keyboard. It provides all the sounds and controls of a traditional drawbar organ for a fraction of the price!

VR-760
Performance Keyboard

But what if you want great piano sounds, killer organ tones and even some synthesizer sounds for playing pads or even bass sounds? Do you bring three keyboards to the gig? Not if you have the Roland VR-760 Performance Keyboard! This 76-note instrument combines Roland's best stereo-sampled piano sounds with all-new electric pianos, VK-quality organ sounds and an "SRXpandable" synthesizer. And it's totally easy to play! Simple front-panel knobs and controls make it easy to blend sounds from each of the three sections— piano, organ and synth—or create splits and layers. Oh, and did we mention it sounds great? This keyboard is ideal for music ministries. Check it out!

ME-50 Guitar Multi-Effects

Guitarists will dig the new BOSS ME-50. This floor-based multi-effects processor serves up every kind of effect you can imagine—along with killer COSM® overdrive and distortion sounds—in a rugged, easy-to-use design that makes editing your tone as simple as a stompbox. And if you play acoustic guitar, check out the new AC-60 Acoustic Chorus amp. This innovative stereo amp delivers a crisp sound with lush stereo chorus—including a new "wide" mode—plus delay/reverb and impressive Auto Anti-Feedback control for your mic.

These are just a few of the exciting new products for 2003. Be sure to check out the rest—including Roland's new line of acoustic drum triggers, the SPD-S Sampling Pad, and more—at www.RolandUS.com.

Well, that should give you a few ideas of how to make your worship music even better. For the full story, just visit the Roland website at www.RolandUS.com.

In This Issue:

2003 Roland New Product DVD

Mere descriptions can't do justice to the new products Roland introduced this year. And since we can't bring everyone to the NAMM show, we're bringing the show to you. For the first time, we have a way to bring it to you in two formats: VHS and DVD!

In addition to getting a grand-tour of all the cutting-edge gear, the *Roland Users Group* video is an excellent resource to use as you explain the ministry benefits to your elders and pastors.

Choose the DVD version and you'll be able to instantly access the products you want, making it easier than ever to see the gear that interests you. But with so many cool new products—like the Fantom-S Series workstations, V-Synth, VS-2400CD and ME-50 Guitar Multiple Effects—chances are you'll wanna watch the whole thing.

Roland
USERS GROUP
2003
New Product DVD

Your Guide to the
Hottest Electronic
Musical Instruments and
Recording Gear.

Supplies are limited, so order now! You can order online at www.RolandUS.com or call the Roland SuperStore at 1-800-386-7575.

And don't forget - IT'S FREE!!!