CHARISMA
feat. Elizabeth Zharoff

An Impact Soundworks Instrument
Created in Partnership with Elizabeth Zharoff

OVERVIEW

Opera singer and vocal coach Elizabeth Zharoff approaches every genre and style of singing with enthusiasm and an infectious joie de vivre. We were immediately drawn to her pursuit of science-backed emotional impact through singing: getting deep into the connections between the body, brain, and voice. To that effect, we collaborated to create a library of vocal phrases across a variety of themes to bring that mood-lifting energy to projects of many different natures.

With a focus on evocative sound and ease of use, Charisma Volume 1 includes 111 wordless phrases, recorded in four keys for maximum versatility, with browsing and filtering via functional parameters. In addition to the phrases, the library features single note samples to flesh out melodic lines with extra flexibility, including "Ah" and "Oo" vowels, with light and strong vibrato, at two dynamics. Also included are 15 playable atmosphere sounds, which morph and transform Elizabeth's voice into hybrid sound design elements.

In the words of the artist…

"My goal while creating and recording Charisma was to capture a wide variety of vocal technique and emotion. I wrote some phrases to embody power and drama, others to haunt with warm yet shivery tones, and more to capture a large array of expressions including deep sadness, awe, sophistication, adventure and exoticism.

Throughout the process we recorded all files in multiple keys for maximum adaptability. Users will never need to shift the original audio file more than a semitone so that the voice continues to sound authentic and expression is not sacrificed. We also created single note samples to intersperse and/or connect phrases. Those single notes have a variety of vibrato and vowels to increase maximum usability.

Releasing this library represents a life goal completed for me. I've always wanted to capture and share my voice in this way, and I was beyond thrilled when Impact Soundworks asked me to become the voice of Charisma. I loved the challenge and inspiration involved in the creative process, and I love the results. I hope this new library also inspires you and aids you in creating brilliant music."

- Elizabeth Zharoff

INSTALLATION

1. Install the **Pulse** application if you don't already have it. **Pulse** is a cross-platform desktop app that lets you download and install your libraries with blazing speed! You'll need to create an account here, but once you do, you can access your purchases from *any* developers using **Pulse**, anytime, from any computer.

https://pulsedownloader.com/

2. Once **Pulse** is installed, open it and enter your **Charisma Volume 1** product code. Follow the instructions to download and install the library.

3. Open Native Access, click "Add a Serial", and input the same product code to **activate** the library.

4. Once activated, click "View Products Not Installed". Find **Charisma Volume 1** in this list. Click the "Add Library" button to the right, and select the folder where Pulse downloaded the library. This completes the installation process.

Charisma Volume 1 contains 2 Kontakt nki's – Phrases and Singles. We'll explore their GUI's in detail here, but first a quick tip! If you're unsure of the functionality of a control just hover over it and some handy help text appears at the bottom of the Kontakt window.

Select key G2 for editing. Alt/Opt+click unloads the loaded soundsource from the key. Double-click to open the soundsource browser on an already mapped key.

CHARISMA PHRASES

The **Charisma Phrases.nki** includes 111 vocal phrases in a variety of keys, tempi, modes and time signatures. The top section contains knobs to adjust the **Volume**, **Formant** and **Fine Tuning** of the currently selected phrase (hold Alt/Opt to tune in semitones). There are also sliders for **Dynamics** and **Expression**.

In the center you'll find the Display panel showing the name and visual waveform for the currently selected phrase. You'll also see its recorded BPM, time signature and scale mode, in red. The **Lock To Host** button

locks the tempo of the phrases to your host tempo. Disable this to manually adjust it using the **Speed** knob. Drag the vertical green and orange sliders left or right to adjust the **Start** and **End** points of the phrase. You can change the Start/End points of an entire phrase by Alt+dragging.

Clicking the phrase name open the **Browser**. Here you can select one of 150 phrases for performance.
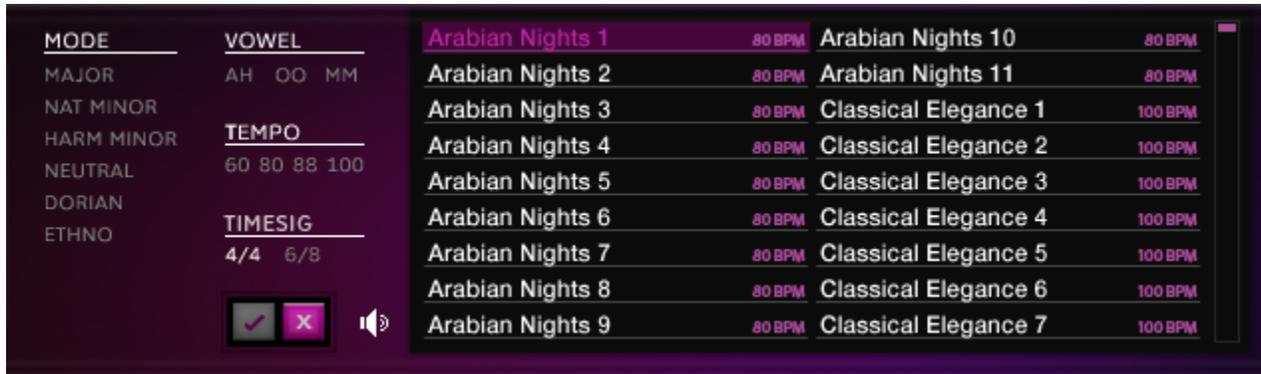
The left side of the Browser features 4 **tag** categories – **Mode, Vowel, Tempo** and **Time Signature**. Clicking these tags narrows the results to help find the phrase you're looking for. Click a phrase name in the results window to preview and double-click to load it for performance.

We've also included additional options for previewing and loading:

This is the **Auto-Preview** button. When *enabled*, phrases are previewed with a single-click. Double-clicking loads the phrase and closes the browser. When *disabled*, phrases are only loaded (not previewed) with a single-click, while Ctrl/Cmd+click previews the phrase. In addition, holding Alt/Option will route the preview through the FX rack.

This button loads the selected sound and double-clicking also closes the browser.

This button closes the browser *without* loading the selected sound.

Mapping

At the bottom of the GUI you'll see an interactive keyboard. This is where you can map Allura's phrases to any keys in the 3-octave range marked **"Phrase Assign."** Keys found here have 3 possible states:

WHITE or BLACK key means that MIDI note has a phrase mapped to it. Double-click to open the phrase browser to assign a new phrase.

TRANSPARENT (or purple gradient) keys are empty, meaning there's no phrase mapped there. A single-click opens the phrase browser.

The **RED** key is the currently selected note. It also means the phrase mapped there is currently selected for editing. Double-clicking opens the phrase browser.
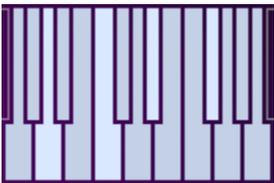
You'll also see a set of light blue non-interactive keys at the top of the keyboard marked **"Playable Range."** The originally recorded keys for the phrases (C, D#, F# and A) are slightly lighter while notes with transposed samples are darker.

CHARISMA SINGLES

The **Charisma Singles.nki** features 2 playable vowels ("Oo" and "Ah"), two variations of vibrato (with and without) and a selection of atmospheric designed FX. Like the Phrases patch, the top of the GUI has knobs to adjust the **Volume**, **Formant** and **Fine Tuning** of the currently selected sound. There are also sliders for control **Dynamics** (filter cutoff for atmospheres) and **Expression.**
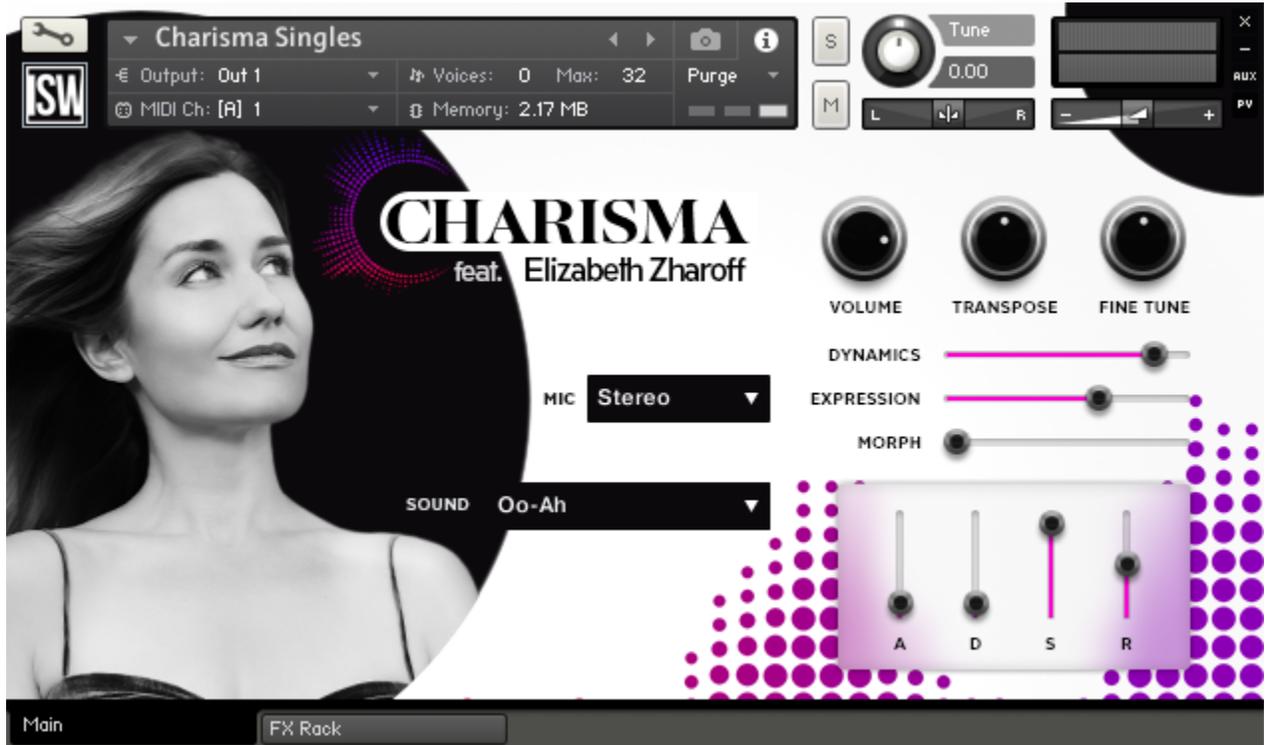
Use the **Sound** dropdown to select vowels or atmospheres, and the volume envelope (or **ADSR**) to sculpt it to your liking. With "Oo-Ah" or "Oo-Ah Vibrato" selected, the **Morph** slider morphs between the two vowels. When an atmosphere is selected it serves to adjust filter resonance.

FX RACK

Our easy-to-use FX rack features an analog-modeled parametric EQ, compressor, delay line, convolution reverb, chorus and limiter.

Clicking the ***** button next to each effect will randomize the FX settings; holding shift and clicking will reset all knobs to normal.

Note that the **convolution reverb** can be CPU-intensive and may have performance issues on older systems. If you are having trouble with clicks & pops, check buffer settings in your DAW, or considering disabling and using an external reverb.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Elizabeth Zharoff began her operatic career in France at the age of 18, and has since performed in major halls throughout America, Europe, and Asia, and has sung in over 15 languages. She is equally at ease performing for a 4,000-seat theater, or recording on her custom ADK microphones.

Beyond singing, Elizabeth Zharoff has a unique career bridging the gap between voice and video games, where she has lent her music, singing, and speaking voice to over twenty titles. She also is the director and co-producer of Song Cycle: The History of Video Games, an album available on iTunes and Spotify through the Materia Collective.

Based in Los Angeles, Elizabeth produces and records daily in her studio, and teaches students both in-person and online. Her YouTube channel, **The Charismatic Voice**, is a free source of information about all-things-vocal.

The press has described Ms. Zharoff's singing voice as "a powerhouse of sound" whose "glorious high notes defy imagination", and her performances as "magnetic" and "a delight from start to finish." She has sung at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Opera Internationale de Bordeaux, the Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles Opera, Semperoper Dresden, Opera Theater of Saint Louis, English National Opera, and many more.

You can also hear Elizabeth's singing in many games, including Where the Water Tastes Like Wine, Yonder, and Elsinore, or find her on iTunes in a number of collaborations with the Materia Collective.

CREDITS

Instrument Concept & Design: Andrew Aversa
Phrase Writing & Performance: Elizabeth Zharoff
Kontakt Scripting: Mario Krušelj
Editing: Elizabeth Zharoff, Kent Kercher
Art: Paulo Nunes

TROUBLESHOOTING & FEEDBACK

Having trouble with **Charisma Volume 1**? Use it in a project you want to tell us about? Drop us a line via our **Contact page** (but be sure to **read the FAQ** first!)

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