

# Product Guide

## HALion Symphonic Orchestra

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Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH  
March 2006



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## Tagline

**“The definitive symphonic orchestra virtual instrument”**

## What is HALion Symphonic Orchestra?

HALion Symphonic Orchestra is the complete, easy-to-use solution for any musician and composer looking for the vast sonic palette of an entire orchestra. Owners can create stunningly full orchestral masterpieces, ultra-expressive solo lines as well as beautiful smaller arrangements – with all the advantages of modern computer-based production environments.

Capturing the pure emotive power, expressiveness and sheer sonic range of an entire orchestra, HALion Symphonic Orchestra offers an enormous wealth of outstanding sound content including solo and ensemble double basses, cellos, violas and violins, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Each offers a wealth of expressive playing styles and articulations. The enormous 27 GB library is as flexible as it is accessible, ideally suited not only to classical music but also pop, rock, hip hop, RnB and any other contemporary style.

HALion Symphonic Orchestra has been crafted to offer both exquisite playability and stunning realism. Offering the advanced features of Steinberg's award-winning HALion 3 sampling engine, HALion Symphonic Orchestra is so much more than just another sample library, providing an exceptional virtual instrument with the quality, variety and usability needed to create arrangements on a truly orchestral scale.

## Exceptional Quantity....

HSO offers over 15000 Samples, each in both 16-bit and 24-bit versions (27 GB total), and organized in more than 45 groups and 1250 programs of solo, tutti and ensemble instrument sounds in various playing styles and articulations. The wide selection of playing techniques allows full control over a range of articulations including crescendo, decrescendo, accents, half and whole tone thrills, bowing, portamento, pizzicato, espressivo by using innovatively programmed facilities like key-switches, crossfades among others.

## ... in exceptional Quality

The content for HALion Symphonic Orchestra was painstakingly recorded in 24-bit using top-grade equipment to ensure the highest sonic fidelity, and was performed by one of Europe's leading orchestras under the direction of Claudius Brüse (see below for a full biography).

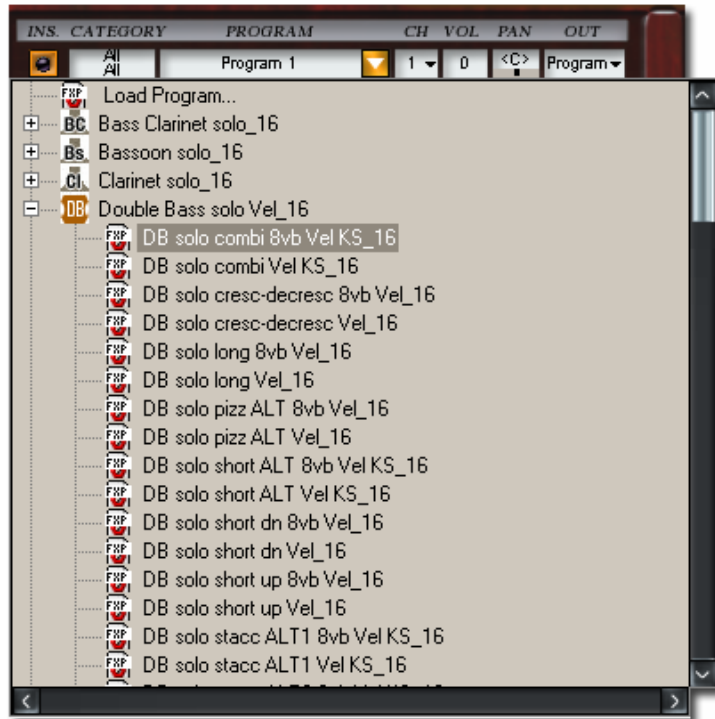
HALion Symphonic Orchestra provides a full, richly detailed orchestra with its full range of vibrant, evocative sounds, instruments and textures. The wealth of recording expertise of Claudius' team is reflected in the accuracy of the reproduction of these exquisite instruments with a breathtaking transparency – right down to the finest detail.

Thanks to its outstanding sound quality, realism and expressiveness, HALion Symphonic Orchestra is the virtual instrument of choice if you want maximum orchestral output with a single computer system.

### Maximum Usability ...

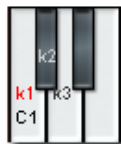
Keeping the instrument easy to use was a top priority throughout the HALion Symphonic Orchestra development process. It puts all the important playing techniques and articulations at the user's disposal without overwhelming with too many parameters and options.

All of the 1250 programs are clearly organized in detailed categories and make finding the right sound as easy as possible thanks to the well thought-out library structure and the ability to access any sound within a maximum of 2 mouse clicks.



### ... and flexible control

The single-window interface lets users tweak their sounds quickly and intuitively. Each program features 8 predefined Sound Edit knobs which offer control over the most important sound shaping parameters like the "Body" & "Air" controls to easily add warmth, presence and richness.

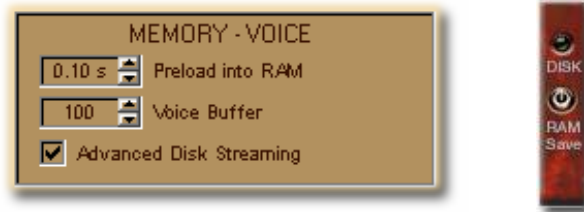


Key-switching allows for quick and easy changing of articulations in real-time by using specially assigned keys below the usual playing range. This way the user can avoid cumbersome operations required in other orchestral libraries such as having to load different articulation programs across several MIDI channels and setting up complicated keyboard splits for being able to trigger them.

A range of flexible tools such as the definable crescendo Controller, the key-switches, crossfades and cross-switches make this instrument as expressive as it is joyful to use.

## Low resource use

The advanced disk-streaming mode and efficient CPU performance both help the composer to effectively focus on composing rather than technology. Under the hood, HALion Symphonic Orchestra is highly optimized for exceedingly efficient computer resource use. The included special “Economy” versions of many programs can further reduce demands on the computer’s resources, freeing up power for other processing tasks.



In addition to the immaculate 24-bit sound set, every single sample and program is included as 16-bit variant for ultimate user flexibility and choice between computer performance and highest audio fidelity

## RAMSave™ support

HALion Symphonic Orchestra includes Steinberg’s RAMSave™ technology, first seen in Steinberg’s HALion 3 virtual sampler. It allows for highly efficient use of the host computer’s RAM. RAMSave™ allows the “freezing” of the instrument and automatic unloading of unneeded samples from memory, resulting in low RAM usage and faster project load and save times.

## RealAmbience

The RealAmbience feature offers true recorded ambience that can be perfectly blended into any mix or production. Using no artificial reverb, RealAmbience builds an extraordinarily convincing concert hall environment with fully adjustable ambience time and wet/dry balance.

## HSO connects to everything

HALion Symphonic Orchestra supports all major plug-in formats such as VST, DXi, and AU. ReWire support offers easy integration into Pro Tools®<sup>1</sup>. Also included is a multi-out capable standalone version for using HSO without a host application.

## Versatility

HALion Symphonic Orchestra suits almost any musical style from classical to contemporary and captures the full emotive power of an entire orchestra, making it a fascinatingly rich and versatile orchestral library, one that sounds just as powerful and emotive in the context of a movie as in a dance music production.

While the huge HSO library has been painstakingly constructed to form a uniquely playable virtual orchestra, the individual sounds can also be quickly adjusted to let them sit even better in a mix. Individual sections blend perfectly to create that silky, crystal clear and detailed sound that only a top orchestra can produce.

See below in the “Program Reference” for the entire exhaustive list of Programs and their variations in HALion Symphonic Orchestra.

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<sup>1</sup> Pro Tools® is a registered trade mark of AVID Technology, Inc.

## Who is it made for?

The HALion Symphonic Orchestra was developed for the demands of the majority of people using orchestra instruments in a computer.

A typical user of the HALion Symphonic Orchestra could be:

- a studio arranger creating an orchestral score for a pop song
- a student who is studying the art and craft of orchestration
- a composer orchestrating his idea while writing the score that will be later performed or recorded by a real orchestra
- a home recordist brushing up demo tracks originally created on a keyboard workstation with average “bread and butter” sounds
- a keyboarder looking for high quality strings, brass and woodwinds live on stage

## What special role does HSO fulfil?

The run-of-the-mill orchestral sounds used in workstations are designed with the keyboard player in mind, i.e. for chord playing (instead of arranging separate sections). They often lack authenticity, articulation, flexibility as well as playing and controlling options. While they produce convincing sound colours in background pads or slow melody lines, even the unskilled ear can distinguish them from a real orchestra.

On the other hand the excessively bulky and cumbersome string orchestra libraries created with the professional composer and arranger in mind usually offer all playing styles and creative options imaginable, but they are almost unusable for normal musicians and require an expert knowledge about orchestral arrangements and conducting. And ... they usually cost a fortune.

Most people, however, are looking for a virtual orchestra combining the advantages of both extremes: superior sound quality, large ranges of articulations, yet easy to play and control – and at an affordable price. Our goal was to create exactly this library to fill the gap between these extremes.

HALion Symphonic Orchestra was developed to be easy to access and use, well structured and laid out while offering excellent efficiency, economy and unencumbered creativity.

## About Claudius Brüse

Born in Germany, Claudius Bruese started his musical career in 1978 in Seattle with a scholarship from Cornish Institute. Back in Germany, he studied jazz composition and arrangement in Cologne, followed by studying composition at the Folkwangschule in Essen, where he graduated in electronic and computer composition in 1984. Over the years he has composed many contemporary concert pieces, ranging from chamber music to full orchestral works, as well as a range of music for film and commercials, including documentaries, television work and feature films on both sides of the Atlantic – frequently travelling between his two homes in Cologne and Los Angeles. He co-developed the Waldorf Wave synthesizer and has written numerous magazine articles and books on digital audio.

Claudius and Steinberg have completed numerous projects together over the last years – the best-known being the “The Grand” – highly praised worldwide as being the most accurate digital incarnation of a concert grand piano – as well as the HALion String Edition titles.

## Key Features - HALion Symphonic Orchestra

- **Exquisitely authentic orchestral strings:** solo, tutti and section programs with dozens of articulations and variations of Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- **Pristinely expressive woodwind sounds,** including Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, English Horn and Oboe in solo and ensemble variants
- **Powerfully emotive brass sounds** in all variations, including solo sounds of French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba as well as corresponding sections and ensembles
- **Full orchestral percussion library:** Campani Di Mesa, Cowbell, Dobatchi, Finger Cymbals, Gran Cassa, Piatti a due, Vibraslap, Tam-Tam, Tambourine, Templeblocks, Triangle, Small Bell, Snare, Sleighbells, Suspended Cymbals and Woodblocks
- **Covers all common articulations & bowings** such as legato, tremolo, pizzicato, or spiccato in unrivalled expressiveness and full dynamic range. Tons of playing techniques & effects at composer's fingertips!
- **Over 15,000 original samples** on featuring more than **1250 instrument patches & combinations** in total
- **All programs are delivered in a 16-bit and 24-bit variants** for ultimate user flexibility and choice between performance and highest audio fidelity, totalling 27 GB sample data on 4 DVDs
- **High-resolution state-of-the-art** digital recording for highest accuracy and audio fidelity. Warm and defined sound character, perfectly balanced with natural, expressive and emotive character.
- **Suits all musical styles** from classical to contemporary
- **Made for players** – actually play the sounds like performers are used to, instead of arduously “programming” string arrangements
- **RealAmbience feature** offers true recorded ambience with full control of mix and reverb time to perfectly blend into any mix
- **Advanced Sound Category System** makes browsing the library fast and easy, including searches by instrument or articulation groups
- **Q-controls:** each program features the 8 most important parameters for instant sound shaping, like the “Body” & “Air” controls to easily add these qualities as desired
- **RAMSave™ support** for low RAM usage and faster project load and save times
- **Advanced disk-streaming support** allows lowest buffer sizes down to 0.1 sec for lowest possible RAM usage and rock solid streaming performance
- **All sounds are HALion 3.2 compatible** for creative editing within Steinberg's award-winning sampler VSTi
- **Supports all major formats:** VST, DXi, AU + Rewire for easy Pro Tools® Integration
- **Standalone version** with multiple-out support included!

## Top Reasons to upgrade to HSO from HALion String Edition 2

- **NEW Pristinely expressive woodwind sounds**, including Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, English Horn and Oboe in solo and ensemble variants
- **NEW Powerfully emotive brass sounds** in all variations, including solo sounds of French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba as well as corresponding sections and ensembles
- **NEW Full orchestral percussion library**: Campani Di Mesa, Cowbell, Dobatchi, Finger Cymbals, Gran Cassa, Piatti a due, Vibraslap, Tam-Tam, Tambourine, Templeblocks, Triangle, Small Bell, Snare, Sleighbells, Suspended Cymbals and Woodblocks
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## Top Reasons to upgrade to HSO from HALion string Edition 1

- **NEW exquisitely authentic solo string sounds** in all expressive variations to complement Vol.1 Tutti ensemble sounds
- **Includes optimized** and reprogrammed versions of the entire **String Edition Vol.1 content** (orchestral strings - Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass Sections)
- **NEW pristinely expressive woodwind sounds**, including Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, English Horn and Oboe in solo and ensemble variants
- **NEW powerfully emotive brass sounds** in all variations, including solo sounds of French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba as well as corresponding sections and ensembles
- **NEW full orchestral percussion library:** Campani Di Mesa, Cowbell, Dobachi, Finger Cymbals, Gran Cassa, Piatti a due, Vibraslap, Tam-Tam, Tambourine, Templeblocks, Triangle, Small Bell, Snare, Sleighbells, Suspended Cymbals and Woodblocks
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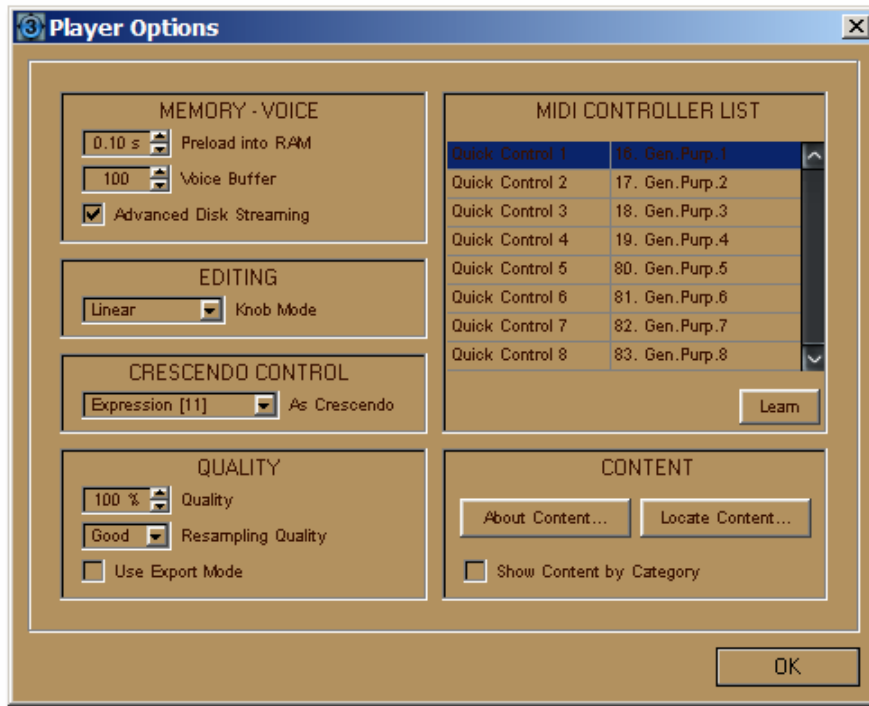
### HALion Symphonic Orchestra – Instrument Screenshot



### HALion Symphonic Orchestra – About Content Screenshot



### HALion Symphonic Orchestra – Options Screenshot



### HALion Symphonic Orchestra – Advanced Sound Category System

