

Der KYRA ist eine Kooperation von Waldorf Music und dem britischen Synthesizer-Entwickler Exodus Digital. Deren bereits zur Frankfurter Musikmesse 2018 gezeigter Valkyrie Synthesizer wird überarbeitet und als Waldorf KYRA zur NAMM 2019 hin vorgestellt. Das Instrument soll zunächst als Rack-Version für 1899 Euro zu haben sein – und dann, Ende 2019, auch als Keyboard-Version ...



Sicher, man mag schon etwas gähnen ob der gegenwärtigen Gepflogenheiten betreffend Ankündigungen. Allen voran seitens Behringer, die – so der virtuelle Wunsch – die wichtigsten Synthesizer-Klassiker der letzten 40 Jahre in nur wenigen Monaten als Nachbau auf den Markt werfen möchten. Waldorf wiederum hat den Quantum schon lange im Gepäck, liefert jedoch immer noch nicht aus – und schon steht der KYRA im Visier der Schlagzeilen.

Doch gut. Die Fakten des KYRA – abzulesen am Valkyrie Synthesizer, dem Objekt der Kooperation – sind beeindruckend: 128 Stimmen (!) bei höchster Audio-Qualität und bei bis zu 10 Oszillatoren pro Stimme, unzählige Effekte und und und. Möglich macht dies FPGA (Field-Programmable Gate Array), die neue Generation an Schaltkreisen.



Hier die Presse-Aussendung zum KYRA:

„[...] Waldorf Music is proud to announce a full production launch and general availability of Kyra — the world’s first fully FPGA (Field-Programmable Gate Array) powered synthesizer featuring 128 voices (regardless of settings and effects), each with 10 oscillators per voice, and eight-part multitimbrality (with each part having its own dedicated nine-module effects unit).

As an extremely powerful VA (Virtual Analogue) synthesizer literally like nothing else out there — thanks to leveraging the latest FPGA technology to significantly outperform legacy DSP (Digital Signal Processing) powered competition, Kyra’s crowning glory comes courtesy of its state-of-the-art audio quality: think 32x oversampled hardware with dual wavetables providing over 4,000 waveshapes! With 10 oscillators — that can be doubled to 20 by using two voices — each offering a wide range of features, including true stereo operation, hard sync, FM (Frequency Modulation), and ring modulation, Kyra starts shaping up as a serious sonic force to be reckoned with... without even factoring filtering into an already seriously impressive-sounding instrument! Indeed, Kyra’s resonant filters are accurate oversampled emulations of classic analogue ladder filters with 2- and 4-pole configurations (offering -12dB/oct and -24dB/oct of magnitude decrease, respectively). Saying that, two linked or independent filters can be used in Dual Voice mode, making for even more creative options. On top of that, there are three envelope generators, three stereo LFOs (Low Frequency Oscillators) with 64 shapes and MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) clock sync, an arpeggiator, full keyboard microtuning, and true polyphonic portamento, as well as a comprehensive 18-channel modulation matrix to Kyra’s notable name.

Notably, Kyra comes highly specified for effects, each of its eight parts featuring a three-band EQ with sweepable mid, dual tube limiters, formant filter, distortion, six-stage phaser, stereo digital delay, comb/flanger/chorus/doubler unit, and a programmable reverb. All effects units on all parts can be used simultaneously and run at Kyra’s native 96kHz sample rate.

Kyra clearly delivers when it comes to connectivity by boasting four assignable, balanced 32-bit/96kHz stereo outputs, a headphone output, low-latency DIN MIDI, a fully class-compliant USB2 implementation for MIDI, and a stereo 24-bit/96kHz audio stream for each of its eight parts. Production-wise, there is also a USB (Universal Serial Bus) audio return feature, so Kyra can render final DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) audio under ASIO (Audio Stream Input/Output). An ASIO driver is provided for Windows users while Mac support is out of the box.

But if any aspects of this impressive instrument already have a ring of familiarity about them then Musikmesse 2018 in Frankfurt am Main may have played its part. Put it this way: Waldorf Music CEO Joachim Flor found himself transfixed there. “It was more of a coincidence to have discovered Valkyrie

Waldorf kündigt KYRA VA-Synthesizer an
during a tour of this year's Frankfurt Music Fair, but I was immediately aware of the fact that this was probably one of the most exciting synthesizers of recent years," he admirably admits. "I got into conversation with its independent UK developer, Manuel Caballero, and I'm now looking forward to working with this talented, innovative individual, who is also a great guy! Under the direction of Waldorf Music, Valkyrie flies forth into a joint production project called Kyra, which will be shown and delivered at NAMM in 2019."

Fortunately for Manuel Caballero, the feeling was clearly mutual — Musikmesse mission accomplished. "After nearly four years in the making, I went to Musikmesse with the intention of finding an established partner for Valkyrie," he reveals. "There's little doubt that Valkyrie's reveal at Musikmesse caused quite a stir in the synthesizer world and I had set the bar high for potential partners to bring the instrument to market. As a result of this, I'm pleased to announce a partnership with Waldorf Music. Few companies can match their track record of innovation and delivery spanning several decades. Working with Joachim Flor and his technical and design team to achieve this is an exciting and efficient partnership as we work together to launch the instrument at NAMM in 2019. Waldorf's proven heritage in product design, manufacturing, and distribution leaves me to do what I do best, which is applying the most advanced technologies to the art of music, and I look forward to a continued deep working relationship with the Waldorf team."

Nähere Infos zu Valkyrie (Basis des KYRA) und zu FPGA:

- [Video zum Valkyrie Rackmount Synthesizer](http://www.soundonsound.com) (www.soundonsound.com)
- [Valkyrie Sneak Preview & Audio Demo](http://www.synthtopia.com) (www.synthtopia.com)
- [FPGA](https://de.wikipedia.org) (https://de.wikipedia.org)