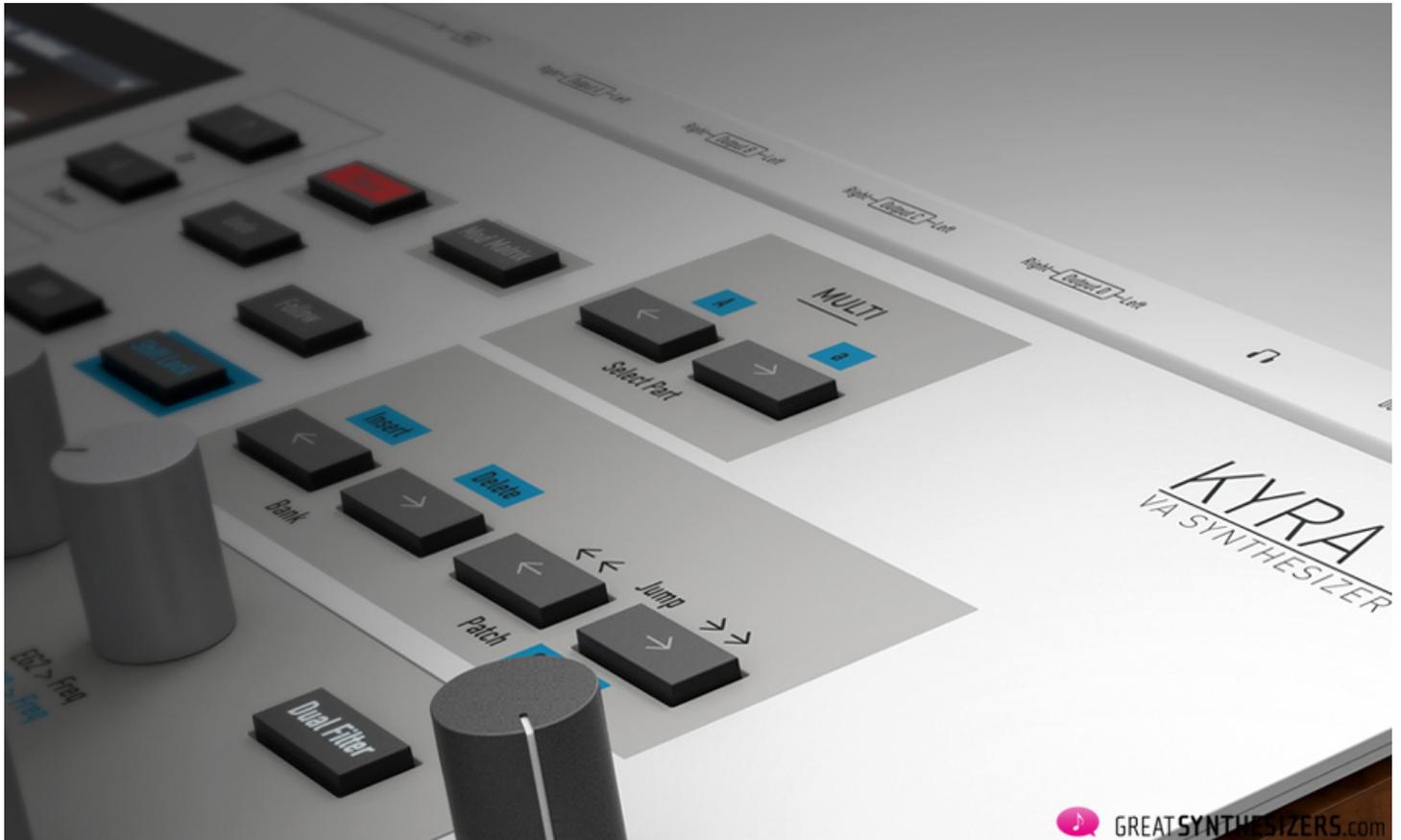


Waldorf announces KYRA VA-Synthesizer

The KYRA is a collaboration between Waldorf Music and the British synthesizer developer Exodus Digital. Their Valkyrie Synthesizer, which was been shown at the Frankfurt Musikmesse 2018, will be relaunched and presented as Waldorf KYRA Synthesizer at NAMM 2019. The instrument will initially be available as rack version (1899 Euros) and finally, at the end of 2019, as keyboard version ...



To be honest: we're a bit tired of the company's current behaviour of notifications (and notifications and notifications ...). First and foremost, there's Behringer, announcing to clone most important synthesizer classics of the last 40 years within just a few months. And while delivery of Waldorf's much-awaited Quantum synthesizer will be delayed, KYRA is already in the spotlight. So what ...?

Anyway. The facts of KYRA - actually of Valkyrie, the hot object of cooperation - are impressive: 128 voices (!) of highest audio quality and with up to 10 oscillators per voice, countless effects, and much more. The sheer immense power of 1200 (virtual) oscillators is made possible by FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array), the new generation of integrated circuits.

VALKYRIE
BE A PART OF THE STORY

Introducing Valkyrie, a brand new hardware virtual analog synthesizer.

Valkyrie is nearly feature complete and the development team are seeking out production, licensee and distribution partners for the project.

Based on a radically new architecture completely avoiding the use of DSP chips and generic processors, Valkyrie is a completely custom hardware platform developed by a UK team headed by Manuel Caballero of Exodus Digital Ltd.

Valkyrie is a real product. It exists now and is fully playable. There is a growing patch library as well as some jaw-dropping demos on SoundCloud. Realistically on shelves in 2016.

Valkyrie stands head and shoulders above competing units in terms of performance and audio quality but has a competitive bill of materials cost and low component count enabling easy manufacturing and competitive retail pricing even with a full music wholesaler margin included.

With 128 notes of guaranteed polyphony over 8 completely independent parts each with a six module stereo effects unit, Valkyrie is a true powerhouse. You never need to simplify a patch or reduce effects with Valkyrie as it has dedicated hardware and not a legacy DSP doing 'best effort'. Valkyrie will never glitch or pop and will play every note up until 128 are already sounding. Custom hardware yields virtually alias-free synthesis with 32x oversampled oscillators (up to ten per voice) and the native sample rate of the filters and effects is 96kHz 32 bit floating point. In short, it sounds great. Rounding out the specifications are twin wavetables per voice with over 4000 built in wavetables, true hard sync, FM, analog modelling filters and a stereo hypersaw sent from heaven. Four stereo analog outputs (96kHz 24 bit) and USB 2.0/3.0 audio make integration easy. OLED display.

If your company wants to be part of the Valkyrie story, contact Manuel Caballero for more detail (NDA) and demos: manuel@softwaremagic.co.uk 07766077483

Check out the demos at soundcloud.com/exodusdigital

So, here's the official KYRA press release:

"[...] 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 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."

Further info on Valkyrie (basis of the KYRA) and on FPGA:

- [Valkyrie Rackmount Synthesizer - Video](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)