



# MUSIC ROW PIANO

Nashville Studio Grand

USER GUIDE & SESSION NOTES

WILTONE PRODUCTIONS

# Welcome to Music Row Piano

You're about to experience a Nashville studio grand the way it was meant to be heard. Deeply sampled, authentically voiced, and ready to sit perfectly in your mix from the moment you load it.

Music Row Piano wasn't built in a lab. It was crafted by a working session player who knows exactly what modern productions need: **a piano that sounds like it belongs on the record**. Whether you're producing modern country, CCM, Americana, or pop country, this instrument delivers that elusive "just right" tone that supports your song instead of fighting for attention.

## What Makes This Special

### Recorded in a Real Nashville Studio

This isn't a concert hall piano squeezed into a modern mix. Music Row Piano was captured in the same rooms where hit records are made, voiced specifically for the genres you're working in.

### Three Professional Mic Perspectives

Shape your sound with the exact microphones used on countless Nashville sessions and hit records: AKG 414s for modern attitude, Peluso 47s for classic warmth and clarity, and Sennheiser MD421s for mid-range punch.

### Real Studio Character

Every mechanical detail, every pedal movement, every bit of room ambience was captured from actual recording sessions. You control how much character you want, from pristine and polished to intimate and human.

### Built for Your Workflow

Fully integrated with Native Instruments' ecosystem. Install through Native Access, load in Kontakt, and if you're on a Komplete Kontrol keyboard, enjoy full NKS integration including Light Guide support.

If you can play piano, you're already ready to use Music Row Piano. Everything else is just refinement.

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# Installation and Loading

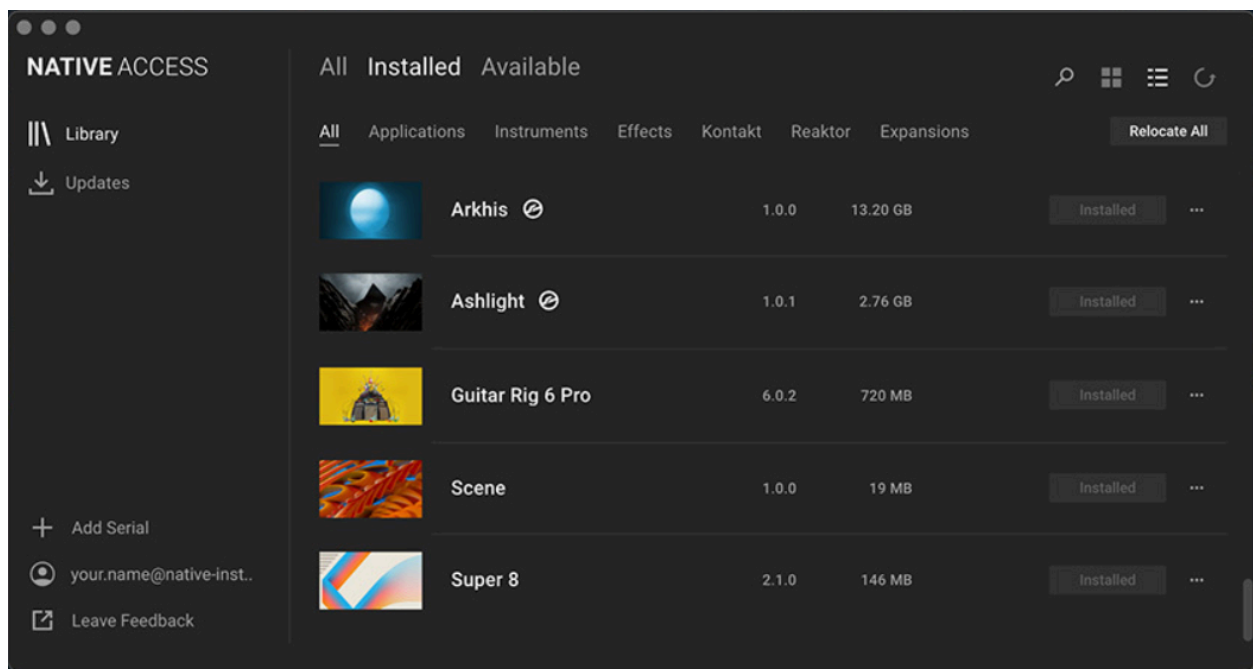
Installation couldn't be simpler! Native Access handles everything.

## Getting Started:

1. **Open Native Access**
2. **Add Your Serial** (if needed) and activate Music Row Piano
3. **Click Install** and let Native Access handle all file placement automatically

## Loading the Instrument:

- **In Kontakt:** Find Music Row Piano in the Libraries tab
- **On Complete Kontrol keyboards:** Full NKS integration with Light Guide support highlighting the piano's playable range
- **No manual file management required.** Everything just works



# The Interface: Two Views, One Philosophy

Music Row Piano gives you exactly what you need when you need it. Nothing more, nothing less.

## Performance View

This is what you see when you first load the instrument: **a clean, distraction-free interface** showing just the piano. No knobs, no faders, no menus.



### Perfect for:

- Writing sessions where you need to focus on the music
- Live performance
- Practice
- Anytime you just want to sit down and play

## Studio Console

Click the small button in the bottom right corner to reveal the **Studio Console**, your complete mixing and shaping environment.



### What You Get:

- **Mic Faders:** AKG 414s, MD421, Peluso 47s. Balance your perfect tone
- **Character Controls:** Mechanical Noise, Pedal Noise, Microphone Noise Floor
- **Dual Reverb System:** Close Verb and Big Verb with IR selection
- **Velocity Curve:** Match any keyboard controller
- **Quick Toggle:** Click again to return to Performance View

The console is there when you need it, invisible when you don't.

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## Mic Section: Sculpting Your Core Tone

Here's where Music Row Piano really shines. You're not stuck with one perspective. You have **three premium microphone positions**, each captured with professional studio-grade preamps and converters.

### AKG 414s — Modern Clarity

**Character:** Big, bright, articulate, and present

**Best For:** Definition, attack, and cut-through in dense mixes

**The Sound:** This is the "radio-ready" mic. AKG 414s capture that crisp, modern sheen that helps piano parts pop without being harsh. When you need your piano to sparkle in a mix full of guitars and vocals, push the 414s.

### Sennheiser MD421 — Mid-Range Authority

**Character:** Punchy, forward, and focused

**Best For:** Keeping the piano audible in busy arrangements

**The Sound:** Sennheiser 421s are a Nashville secret weapon. They emphasize the midrange frequencies where piano lives in a mix. Perfect for productions where the piano needs to hold its ground without dominating.

### Peluso 47s — Classic Transparency and Warmth

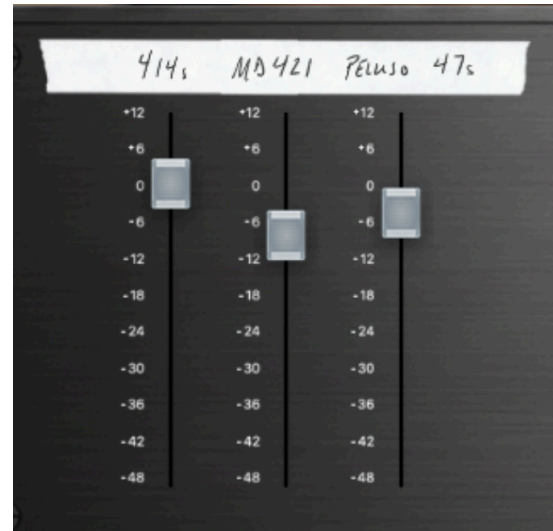
**Character:** Transparent, clear, and natural

**Best For:** Ballads, intimate moments, and low-end weight

**The Sound:** Peluso 47s deliver the legendary U47 character. Warmth and body you feel in your chest. This is the classic Nashville low-end that makes piano parts feel substantial and emotionally present.

### Mix and Match Like a Pro

The real magic happens when you **blend these microphones**. Want modern clarity with natural width? Push both 414s and 47s. Need something that cuts through without being brittle? Try 414s with a blend of 421. You're not choosing a preset, you're mixing the way real session engineers work.



# Velocity Curve: Your Keyboard, Your Way

Every MIDI controller feels different. Some are stiff and need persuasion. Others are hair-trigger sensitive. Music Row Piano's velocity curve system ensures **your touch translates musically**, regardless of your controller.

## The Settings Explained

### Softer (~85% input)

Your controller runs hot and bright. This curve tames overly sensitive keyboards.

### Soft (~93% input)

A gentle reduction for controllers that are slightly too responsive.

### Normal (1:1 response)

Your controller feels natural. This is a true one-to-one velocity response.

### Hard (~107% boost, capped at 127)

Your controller feels stiff or lacks dynamic expression. This curve adds bite and responsiveness.

## How to Choose

**Too bright or aggressive?** → Choose Softer or Soft

**Not enough attitude or punch?** → Choose Hard

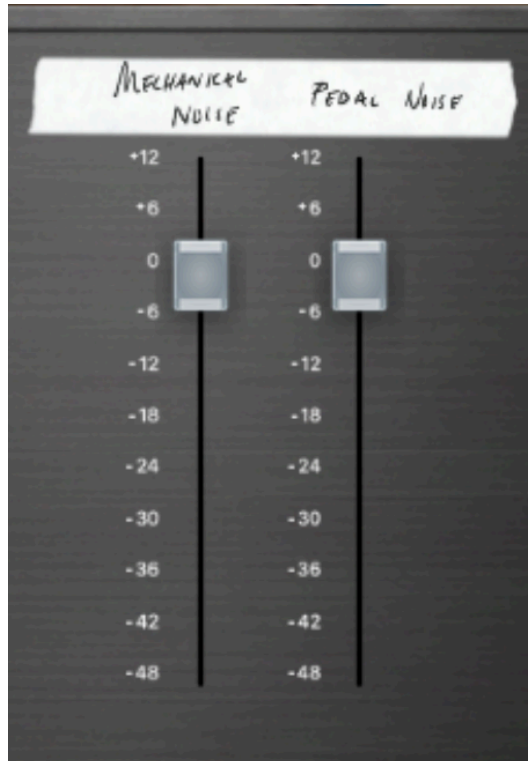
**Feels perfect?** → Stick with Normal

The curve operates **before sample triggering**, so your dynamics stay natural and musical across the entire velocity range. No strange jumps, no awkward transitions, just smooth, believable performance.

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# Noise and Character Controls: The Human Touch

Real pianos make noise. Not because they're poorly maintained, but because **they're mechanical instruments played by human beings**. These controls let you decide how much of that reality you want in your production.



## Mechanical Noise

This is an **additional layer** of isolated mechanical detail on top of what's already baked into the samples:

- Keybed thuds and settling
- Hammer and action movement
- Key release mechanics
- Subtle mechanical ticks (most noticeable during soft playing)

### When to Use It:

- **Higher Levels:** Intimate singer-songwriter tracks, exposed piano moments, anything where realism matters
- **Lower Levels:** Polished pop productions, dense mixes, modern country radio tracks

Even small amounts add believability. You'd be surprised how much "real" this simple control adds.

## Pedal Noise

Controls the sound of the **sustain pedal mechanism itself**:

- Pedal down 'fump'
- Pedal up 'swish'

**Note:** This does NOT affect the musical damper release sounds. Those are part of the samples.

### When to Use It:

- **Medium to High:** Solo piano, ballads, anywhere the listener is close to the instrument
- **Low to Off:** Fast-paced tracks, heavily produced songs, anytime pedal mechanics would be distracting

## Microphone Noise Floor

A gentle layer of **studio ambience and air** that runs continuously in the background. The subtle hiss and presence of a real recording environment, as captured by each microphone set.

### The Details:

- Automatically restarts if your DAW sends All Notes Off
- Adds depth and space even when you're not playing

### When to Use It:

- **Low or Off:** Clean, modern productions where silence should be silent
- **Medium:** Natural studio feel, making programmed parts sound recorded
- **Higher:** Intimate, exposed performances where room tone adds emotion



# Reverb: Real Spaces, Real Hardware

Forget generic algorithmic reverbs. Both reverb sections in Music Row Piano use **impulse responses captured from actual recording spaces and classic studio hardware**. The same rooms and units used on Nashville's hit records.



## Close Verb (Small Verb)

### 15 IRs sampled from piano iso rooms and smaller recording spaces

This is your "believability" reverb. Even if you're going for a dry mix, a touch of Close Verb makes your piano sound like it exists in three-dimensional space rather than floating in a void.

#### Use Close Verb for:

- Adding realism to dry recordings
- Small-room or booth feel
- Making MIDI programming sound recorded in a physical space

## Big Verb

### 15 longer, more dramatic IRs from live rooms, chambers, halls, and classic hardware units

This is your **emotional reverb**. The one that makes ballads soar and intros feel cinematic. These aren't just long decay times; they're carefully chosen spaces that add dimension and beauty.

#### Use Big Verb for:

- Piano ballads and emotional moments
  - Cinematic width and depth
  - Intro and outro sections
  - Creating space in sparse arrangements
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# Snapshots and Presets

Music Row Piano supports both **factory and user snapshots** through Kontakt's standard snapshot system.

## Factory Snapshots: Made by Nashville's Best

Here's something special: **every factory snapshot was created by top recording session keyboardists in Nashville**, the players you hear on the records you love.

We didn't make these presets in a vacuum. We handed Music Row Piano to the pros who track piano on hit country, CCM, and Americana records every day, and asked them to dial in their favorite go-to sounds. These are the **real-world tones they reach for** when the red light comes on.

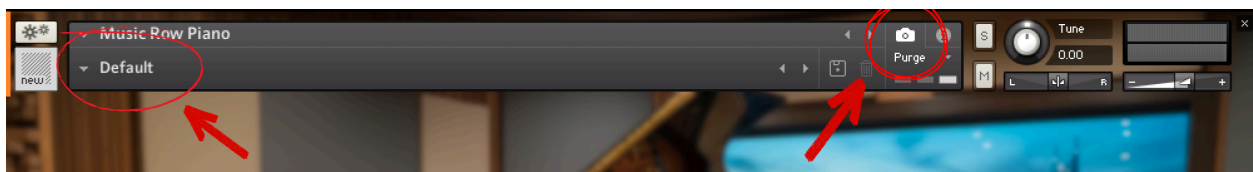
Whether you're just starting out or you're a seasoned player looking for inspiration, these snapshots give you instant access to world-class session tones. Load one up and you're already in the ballpark. Tweak from there, or just hit record.

## What Snapshots Store

- All mic fader levels (414s, 421, 47s)
- Character controls (Mechanical Noise, Pedal Noise, Noise Floor)
- Velocity Curve setting
- Both reverb levels (Close Verb and Big Verb)
- Selected IRs for both reverb sections

## Where to Find Them

Snapshots appear in the standard Kontakt snapshot menu and in the Complete Kontrol browser. The factory snapshots from Nashville's session players are ready to go out of the box. Save your own custom snapshots and recall them instantly across sessions.



# NKS and Light Guide Integration

If you're using a **Komplete Kontrol S-Series keyboard**, Music Row Piano takes full advantage of the hardware.

## Light Guide

The Light Guide automatically highlights the **piano's playable range from A-1 (MIDI 21) to C7 (MIDI 108)**. Keys outside this range remain unlit because they're reserved for internal functions.



## NKS Page Layout

### Page 1 — Mixer

- 414s • 421 • 47s
- Mechanical Noise • Pedal Noise
- Close Verb • Big Verb

### Page 2 — Noise and IR

- Microphone Noise Floor
- Velocity Curve
- IR Close Selector
- IR Big Selector

All parameters are pre-mapped and ready to control from your keyboard. No manual MIDI mapping required.

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# Recommended Starting Points

Here's how session players and producers are using Music Row Piano in real productions. Consider these your **jumping-off points**, not rules.

## Modern Country / Radio Pop

**The Vibe:** Bright, clean, and punchy. Ready to sit in a dense mix alongside programmed drums, electric guitars, and stacked vocals.

- **414s:** High (clarity and presence)
- **421:** Medium (punch and focus)
- **47s:** Off
- **Mechanical Noise:** Low (keep it polished)
- **Pedal Noise:** Low to Medium
- **Noise Floor:** Low
- **Close Verb:** Low to Medium (Neutral or Standard IR)
- **Big Verb:** Very Low (short chamber or hall for subtle depth)
- **Velocity Curve:** Normal or Hard



## Piano Ballad / CCM

**The Vibe:** Warm, emotional, and full. The piano carries the track, so it needs weight and presence.

- **47s:** High (warmth and low-end authority)
- **414s:** Medium (clarity without harshness)
- **421:** Low (let the warmth shine)
- **Mechanical Noise:** Medium (humanity matters here)
- **Pedal Noise:** Medium
- **Noise Floor:** Medium
- **Close Verb:** Medium (Natural or Lively IRs)
- **Big Verb:** Medium (Hall Mellow or Eclipse IRs)
- **Velocity Curve:** Soft or Normal



## Intimate Singer-Songwriter

**The Vibe:** Close, honest, and human, like you're sitting next to the player. This is where character controls really matter.

- **47s and 414s:** Blended (warmth + detail)
- **421:** Very Low (stay out of the way)
- **Mechanical Noise:** High (embrace the reality)
- **Pedal Noise:** Medium to High
- **Noise Floor:** Medium to High (the room is part of the story)
- **Close Verb:** Medium (Wood or Natural IRs)
- **Big Verb:** Low to Medium (short chamber for space without distance)
- **Velocity Curve:** Soft or Softer



## Final Thoughts

Music Row Piano was built by someone who records piano for a living. That means every decision, every mic position, every noise control, and every IR was made with **real sessions** in mind.

You don't need to overthink this. Load the instrument, find a snapshot that fits your vibe, and start playing. The tone is already there. The realism is already baked in. You're just refining it to taste.

**Welcome to Music Row Piano. Let's make some records!**

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*For support, updates, or more info, visit [musicrowpiano.com](https://musicrowpiano.com)*

