

USER MANUAL

# MERVYN WARREN CHOIR

SPITFIRE AUDIO

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# INTRODUCTION

## A celebration of breathtaking Black voices

Capture the unique timbre and expressive power of an elite Black choir, meticulously curated and produced by five-time Grammy winner Mervyn Warren.

Recorded at Evergreen Studios in Los Angeles with a star-studded cast of professional singers, Mervyn Warren Choir is a deeply versatile choral library designed to elevate vocal production in film music, pop, jazz, R&B and beyond. With sopranos and altos, covering an incredible range from full-voiced wails to mellow and intimate humming, and a soulful section of tenors and unbelievable basses that sing all the way down to A0, these recording sessions captured an incredible range of vocal techniques, seamless transitions between vowel sounds, smooth legatos and aleatoric hairpins for unpredictable, moving textures. To further inject rhythm and soul into your compositions, this library also includes a full Body Percussion Kit of handclaps, fingersnaps and stomps as well as vocal expressions such as whispers, inhales and exhales for added realism and emotion.

## QUICK SPECS

### MAC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 11 to OS 15

Minimum: 2.8GHz i5 minimum (quad-core), 8GB RAM.

Recommended: 2.8GHz i7 (six-core), 16GB RAM.

Apple Silicon computers are supported and 64 bit DAW required.

(32 bit DAWs not supported)

### PC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Windows 10 and Windows 11. (latest Service Pack, 64-bit)

Minimum: Intel Core 2.8GHz i5 (quad-core) or AMD Ryzen 5, 8GB RAM

Recommended: Intel 2.8GHz i7 (six-core) or AMD R7 2700, 16GB RAM

(32 bit DAWs not supported)

- Download Size ~11.50GB
- Dedicated plugin (AU, VST2, VST3, AAX)

# WELCOME

## Mervyn Warren: a visionary artist

Mervyn Warren is a five-time Grammy Award winner and a ten-time nominee, a highly accomplished film/TV composer, record producer, arranger, songwriter/lyricist, pianist, and vocalist, working across film scores, pop, R&B, jazz, orchestral, classical, vocal, country, and more. His filmography includes *The Wedding Planner*, *A Walk To Remember*, *The Preacher's Wife*, and *A Raisin In The Sun*. His artist roster includes Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Queen Latifah, Boyz II Men, Barbra Streisand, Dolly Parton, Rascal Flatts, Chicago, Michael Bublé, Al Jarreau, and many more. He has also arranged for Quincey Jones and worked closely with Hans Zimmer (who introduced Spitfire Audio to Mervyn Warren initially).

The sessions were engineered by the Emmy-award winning Frank Wolf while the singers have decorated careers themselves, including Nikki Grier who's worked as a vocal coach for American Idol.

## Notable Choir Members

**Stephen D. Mackay II:** A vocal coach on *The Voice* for ten seasons. He has worked with artists such as J-Lo, Fergie, Selena Gomez, Whitney Houston, and Michael Jackson. Stephen has a significant social media following, with 850k followers on Instagram.

**Alvin Chea:** An 8x Grammy winner and a founding member of Take 6 alongside Mervyn Warren. He is also known as the voice of the Chili's "Baby Back Ribs" commercial. His credits include working with Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Robbie Williams, and Randy Newman.

**Nikki Grier:** A Grammy-nominated vocal coach on *American Idol*. She served as the fixer, composer, and vocal producer for Kanye's Sunday Service Choir. Her credits include vocal arrangements for Beyoncé and work with artists like 50 Cent, Eminem, and Celine Dion.

**Jamal M. Moore:** Has a combined following of over 80,000 across Instagram and YouTube. He has worked on projects like *The Lion King* and with artists such as Beyoncé, Childish Gambino, Rihanna, and Wynton Marsalis.

**David Das:** A Grammy-nominated artist who is also a virtual instrument (VI) vlogger. He has 18k followers on YouTube.

**JeRonnelle McGhee:** A tenor with 54k followers on Instagram. His credits include working with Drake and Post Malone.

**Angela Fisher:** A Grammy-nominated solo artist. She has 52k followers on Instagram and has worked with Celine Dion, Michael Jackson, Michael Bublé, Chaka Khan, and J-Lo.

**Chelsea "Peaches" West:** Has 18k followers on Instagram. Her credits include working with Janet Jackson, Jennifer Hudson, Demi Lovato, and Celine Dion.

**La Vance Colley:** Has a significant following in Japan and 14k followers on Instagram. He has worked with Beyoncé, Pharrell, and Diana Ross.

**Kadeem Nichols:** A Grammy-nominated writer and a Spitfire user. He has worked with Beyoncé, Hozier, Jennifer Hudson, and Kanye.

**Steve Epting:** 28k followers on Instagram, 14.2k followers on TikTok, and 21k followers on YouTube. He is a conductor, arranger, and producer for Kanye's Sunday Service Choir. He is also a Spitfire user. His credits include working with Kanye, Lizzo, and Beyoncé.

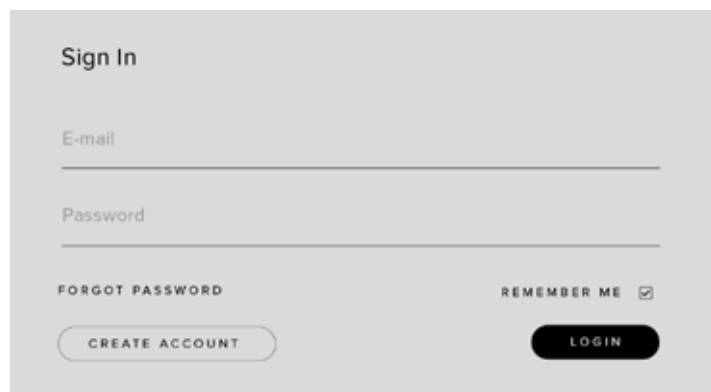
# DOWNLOADING & INSTALLING

Thank you for buying Mervyn Warren Choir. If you are new to Spitfire Audio you can get up to speed here: <https://www.spitfireaudio.com/about/>

First though, grab the 'Spitfire Audio App' from this link, this app will enable you to download the library: <http://www.spitfireaudio.com/info/library-manager/>

## THE SPITFIRE AUDIO APP

When you launch the app you will be prompted to login using the same details you use at our site. Then you'll see the page pictured below:

A screenshot of the Spitfire Audio App's 'Sign In' screen. It features a light gray background with a white sign-in form. The form includes fields for 'E-mail' and 'Password', a 'FORGOT PASSWORD' link, a 'REMEMBER ME' checkbox, a 'CREATE ACCOUNT' button, and a 'LOGIN' button.

**1. TABS** the default tab is My Products, which shows all of the libraries on your Spitfire Account. Downloads will show currently downloading products.

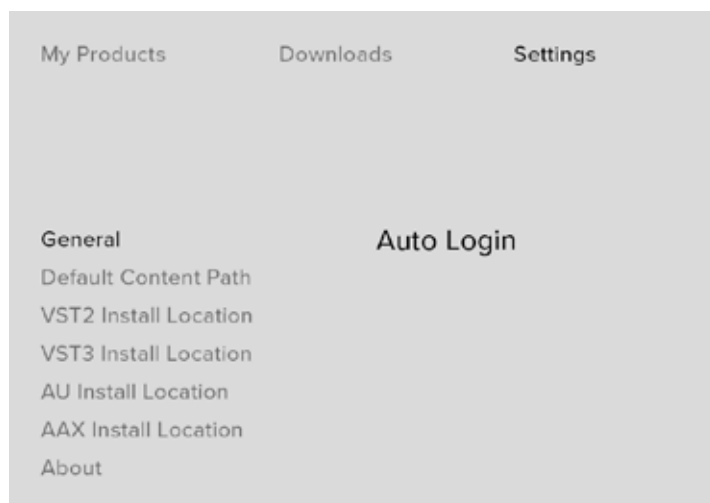
**2. FILTERS** Clicking these filters will quickly display products you've yet to install, those already installed, and any available updates. Clicking again will remove the filter.

**3. LIBRARY** All libraries and plugins in your collection will appear with their artwork on the My Products tab. Clicking this artwork will open the product page. This is a great place to find information such as system requirements and instructions as well as Reset and Repair options.

**4. INSTALL/UPDATE** buttons allow you to quickly start a download directly from the My Products tab, instead of clicking through to the Library. Next to the button the size of the download is shown.

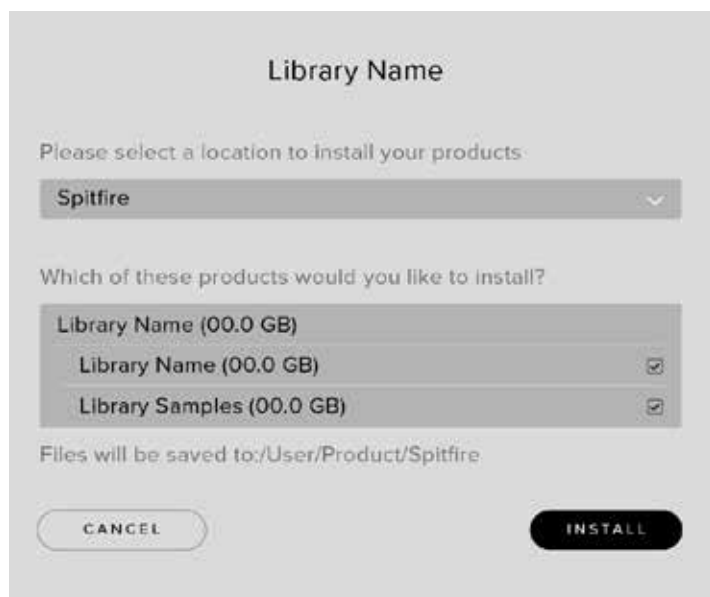


# THE SPITFIRE APP PREFERENCES



If this is your first time using the Spitfire Audio App for a download you may wish to first navigate to the Settings tab. Here you can set the Default Content location for where you wish to download your libraries. You can also you can set the default VST2 install location to the folder where your DAW expects to find VST files.

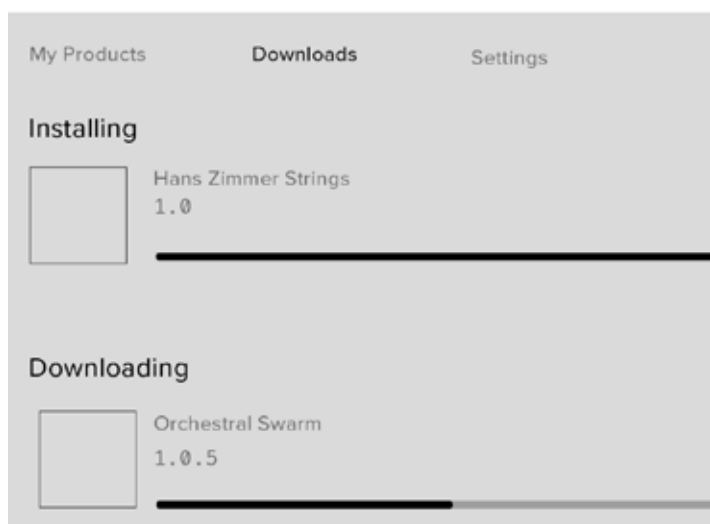
Here you can also enable Auto Login to save time in future.



Once you are happy with your preferences, click the Install button for the library. This is either directly on My Products tab under the library artwork, or it can be found by clicking on the library image and clicking the install button on the page that appears.

Clicking either of these will prompt you for a location, the default content location in your preferences will be suggested but you can select any suitable location. If installing from a hard drive, ensure that you choose the drive as the location.

Once you are happy with the location click Download.



After clicking install you will be directed to the Downloads tab where you can watch the progress if you like. You can of course leave the Downloads tab and start other downloads but at this point you should leave the Spitfire App open until the download completes.

# THE DEDICATED PLUGIN

Spitfire Ensemble is its own, self contained plugin built for VST3, AU and AAX, so once you've downloaded and installed you're ready to go.

## LOGIC PRO X

- On a fresh project, a track dialogue box will automatically pop up.
- Choose 'Software Instrument', and then look beneath the 'Instrument' dropdown.
- Select AU Instruments > Spitfire Audio > Spitfire Ensemble.

## CUBASE

- Right-click the track window and choose 'Add Instrument Track'.
- Underneath the 'Instrument' dropdown, choose Spitfire Ensemble.
- Select 'Add Track'.

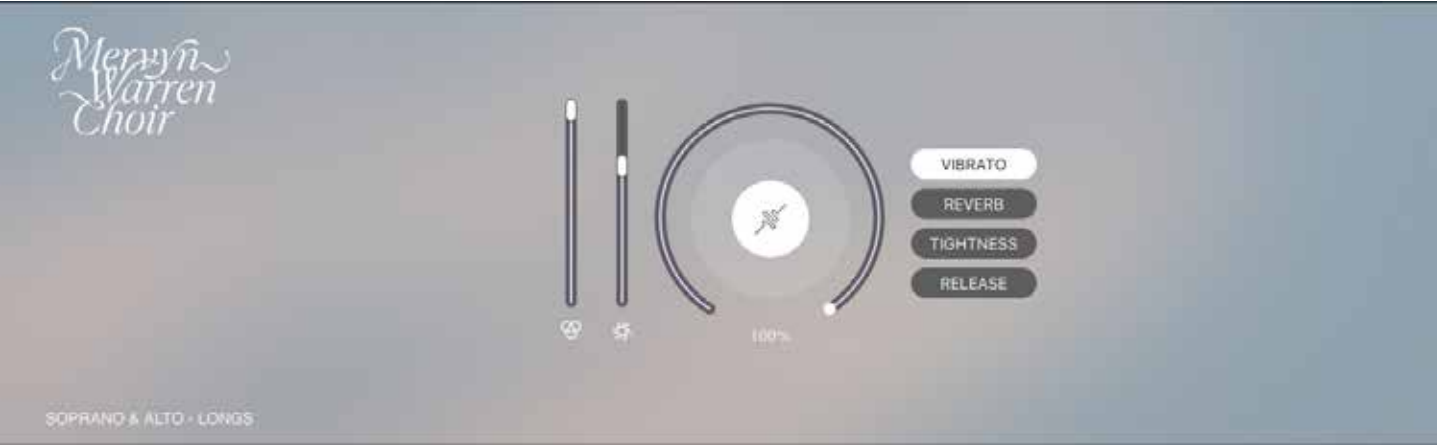
## PRO TOOLS

- Go to the 'Track' menu at the top of the screen, and select 'New'.
- In the pop-up, select Stereo and Instrument Track, and press 'Create'.
- In the first Insert slot, select multichannel plug-in and 'Instrument'.
- You should see Spitfire Ensemble available as an option.

# MERVYN WARREN CHOIR INTERFACE



## MAIN CONTROLS





ARTICULATIONS



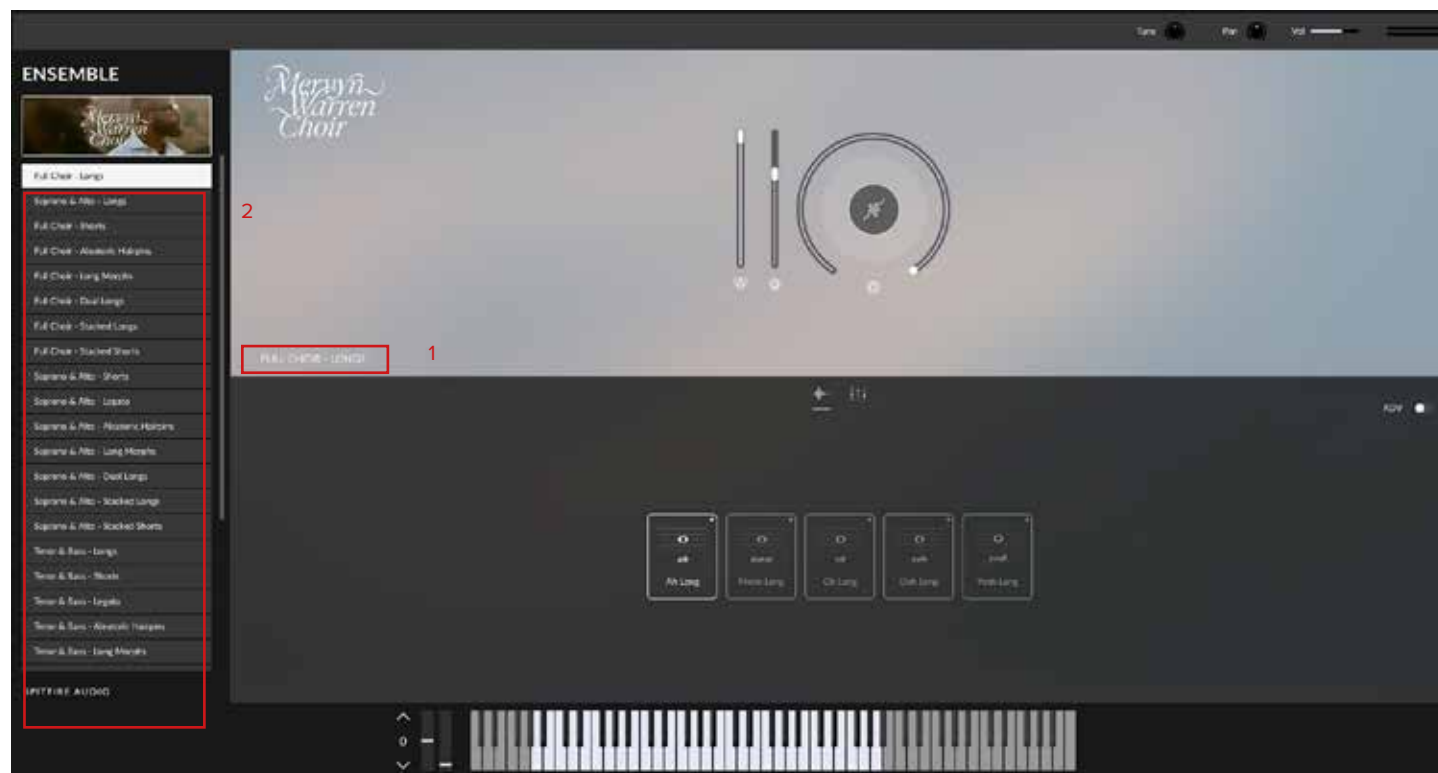
MIXER/MICS



KEYBOARD



# PRESET SELECTOR



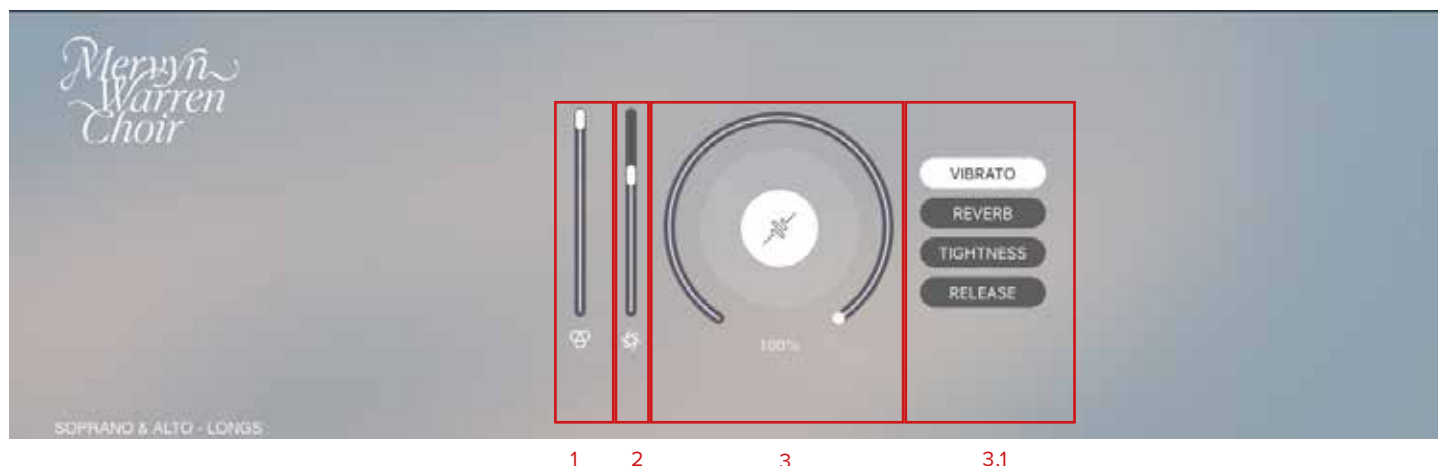
## 1. PRESET NAME

Here you can see the currently selected preset.

## 2. PRESET LIST

Scroll through the list of presets here. Then simply click on a preset to load.

# MERVYN WARREN CHOIR MAIN CONTROLS



## 1. EXPRESSION

Adjusts the level of the technique

## 2. DYNAMICS

This will increase or decrease the dynamic being played.

## 3. KNOB

The configurable knob allows you to control any of the other available parameters for the particular technique and/or patch.

Hover over the knob and it will turn black.

**3.1 CLICK:** Click and you will be able to assign any of the remaining available controls to the knob.

Right click on any of these controls to assign them to a MIDI controller. Remember that if you assign a MIDI controller to a parameter via the knob, the MIDI controller will follow the parameter rather than being permanently assigned to the knob.

**VIBRATO:** Controls the amount of vibrato being added.

**REVERB:** Controls the amount of reverb being added.

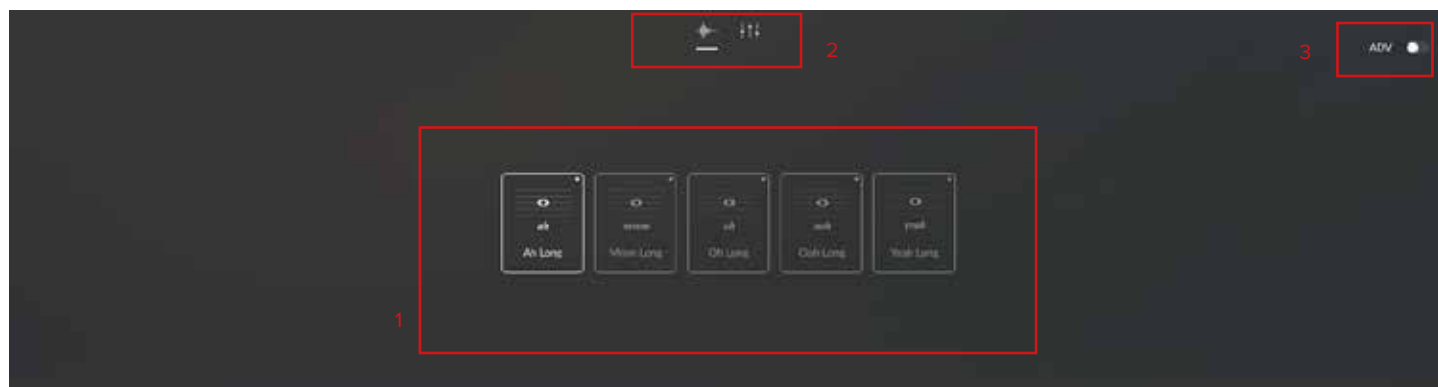
**TIGHTNESS:** Controls the start point of the note being played.

**RELEASE:** Increase/decrease the amount of release being added.

**MORPH:** Available on Morph patches, this control fades between long vowel sounds, morphing between the two.

**LEGATO OFFSET:** Adjusts the duration of the legato interval. This can improve playability but at the cost of realism.

# TECHNIQUE SWITCHER



## 1. TECHNIQUE SWITCHER

Click to select a technique. The white dot in the top left shows which technique is selected and will play. Shift+click to select multiple techniques to play at once. You can also keyswitch to each technique, keyswitching starting from C-2.



## 2. VIEW SELECT

Choose between the Technique Selector and the Mixer/Mics. The Mixer/Mics View is covered on [page 14](#) of this manual.

## 2. ADVANCED SECTION TOGGLE

Toggle on to open the advanced section, providing Keyswitch and Round Robin controls among other things. The full controls available under this Advanced section is covered in the next chapter of this manual.

## ADVANCED SECTION



### 1. TECHNIQUE TRIGGER - KEYSWITCH SELECT:

In Mervyn Warren Choir you can trigger techniques using keyswitch techniques, use this parameter control to pick a key on the keyboard that will select this technique. The selected keys will show up in green for unselected techniques and in orange for selected techniques.

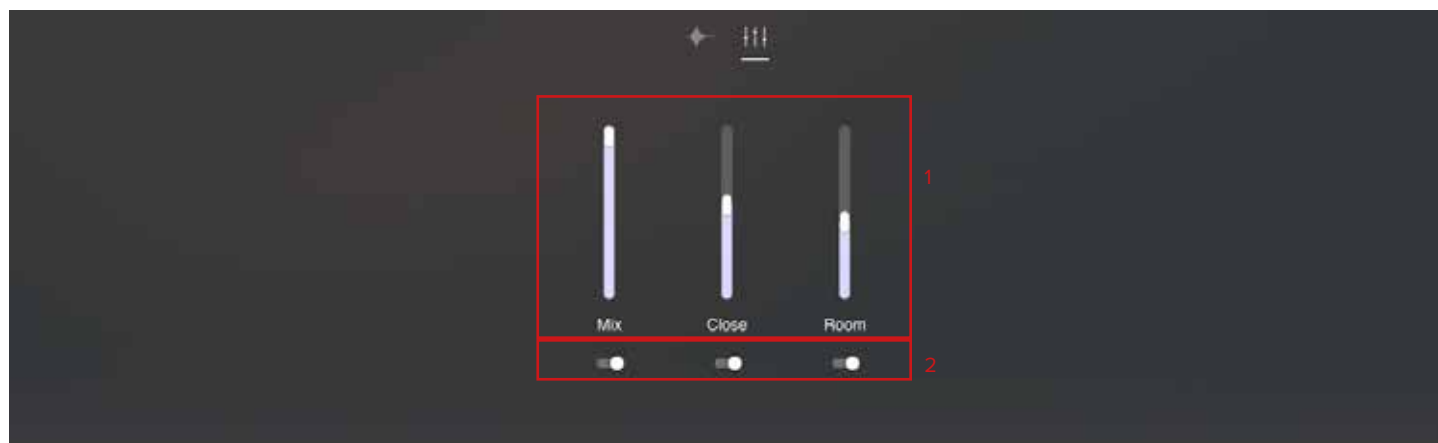
### 2. ROUND ROBINS

Round robins are a way to ensure that repeated notes don't sound robotic and unnatural. We record the same note multiple times and then cycle through them. Here you can choose to reduce the number of round robins that are being used.

### 3. RESET ON TRANSPORT

If you're worried about the effect of the round robins making each run through of your session sound different, you can choose to reset the round robins using the DAW transport.

# MIXER/MICS



## 1. SIGNAL FADER

Adjust the level of each signal here, right-click to learn MIDI cc# automation.

## 2. SIGNAL ON/OFF

Here you can turn signals on or off (you can also turn them on by fading them up). If you turn a signal on, pay attention to the LED in the top left of Impressionism, if it is flashing red, it means that the samples are still loading into RAM and you should wait before playing again to avoid glitches.

# TOP MENU



## 1. TUNE

Move this knob to tune in increments of 0.01 of a semitone. CMD/CTRL-click to reset to default.

## 2. PAN

Pan the signal left / right. CMD/CTRL-click to reset.

## 3. VOLUME

Control the overall volume of the instrument.

## 4. PLUGIN VOLUME METER

Visual representation of the overall output volume of the instrument.

# WHAT'S INCLUDED: (PRESETS AND SIGNALS)

Mervyn Warren Choir consists of 20 singers:  
5 x Soprano, 5 x Alto, 5 x Tenor and 5 x Bass, presented in the library as 10 x high voices, 10 x low voices.

The available presets are as below:

## FULL CHOIR:

Longs  
Shorts  
Aleatoric Hairpins  
Dual Longs  
Stacked Longs  
Stacked Shorts

## SOPRANO & ALTO:

Longs  
Shorts  
Legato  
Aleatoric Hairpins  
Long Morphs  
Dual Longs  
Stacked Longs  
Stacked Shorts

## TENOR & BASS:

Longs  
Shorts  
Legato  
Aleatoric Hairpins  
Long Morphs  
Dual Longs  
Stacked Longs  
Stacked Shorts

**ALEATORIC HAIRPIN MORPHS:** Presented with a high and a low technique, morphing between vowels with standout vocals.

**PERCUSSION:** Recorded across all vocal ranges except where noted, includes body percussion, hand claps, stomps (Tenor & Bass only), fingersnaps, thigh slaps (Tenor & Bass only), chest beats (Tenor & Bass only), inhales and exhales.

**LONG WHISPERS & BREATHS:** Recorded across all vocal ranges, this contains whisper and breath combos at varying speeds.

## SIGNALS

Each patch contains three dynamic signals:

**CLOSE:** A detailed and intimate perspective, capturing the direct sound of the piano strings.

**ROOM:** A spacious stereo signal to capture the acoustics of the room with close mics for the perfect room balance.

**MIX:** A beautifully balanced mix of all signals.



## APPENDIX A — FAQS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

### Q: WHAT ARE THE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS?

#### MAC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS 11 - OS 15

Minimum: 2.8GHz i5 (quad-core), 8GB RAM

Recommended: 2.8GHz i7 (six-core), 16GB RAM

32 bit is no longer supported. Apple Silicon / ARM is supported.

#### PC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Windows 10 and Windows 11. (latest Service Pack, 64-bit)

Minimum: Intel Core 2.8GHz i5 (quad-core) or AMD Ryzen 5, 8GB RAM

Recommended: Intel 2.8GHz i7 (six-core) or AMD R7 2700, 16GB RAM

### Q: I WANT TO RESET THE PLUGIN SETTINGS TO THE DEFAULT

You can delete the .settings file to reset the settings to default. This is located at:

Users/username/Music/Spitfire Audio - on a Mac

C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\Spitfire Audio - on a PC.

### Q: MY LIST OF PRESETS IS EMPTY, HOW DO I SOLVE THIS?

If you have moved your Ensemble Library folder, you can solve this problem by using the “Locate Library” feature in the Spitfire Audio App.

If this does not solve the problem, the library likely needs reauthorising, to do this, use the “repair” feature in the Spitfire Audio App.

### Q: I SEE A RED EXCLAMATION MARK IN THE TOP LEFT OF MERVYN WARREN CHOIR WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This means that there is an error, you can click the exclamation mark to open a log with further details. It is likely that using the “Repair” and “Locate Library” features in the Spitfire Audio App will solve the problem but if not, contact our support team at [spitfireaudio.com/support](https://spitfireaudio.com/support) and attach the log.

### Q: CAN I INSTALL ON MORE THAN ONE COMPUTER?

With our products you have two licenses. This means that you are allowed to download and install on two computers you own, say your main rig and your mobile rig. If you have purchased the library on a hard drive, you should copy the contents of the drive on to the destination machine before completing the download with the Spitfire App. If you downloaded Mervyn Warren Choir, you can copy the library folder over to the second machine and then use the “Repair” and “Locate Library” features in the Spitfire Audio App.

### Q: I CAN'T SEE THIS IN THE KONTAKT LIBRARIES PANE AND WHEN I TRY AND LOAD IT INTO KONTAKT IT SAYS NO LIBRARY FOUND

This library does not run in Kontakt, it is a standalone plug-in that you can run in your chosen DAW.

### Q: HOW DO I AUTHORIZE MERVYN WARREN CHOIR ON A MACHINE NOT CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET?

It not possible to authorise Mervyn Warren Choir on a machine not connected to the internet. Authorisation is done with

the Spitfire Audio App and an internet connection is required.

## **Q: HOW CAN I REDOWNLOAD A PRODUCT?**

This can easily be done via your Spitfire Audio App. To reset both your entire library download or the latest update;

- Open up the Spitfire Audio App and log in with your account email and password.
- Select the product artwork you wish to re-download
- On this page is a “cog wheel”. Select this, choose “reset” from the menu. Then “Reset Entire Download” (for a full download) or (Latest Update) for the latest update.

This will reset your latest update ready for install again. You can repeat this process for any of the libraries you own.

Note that there is a limit to how many times you can reset your downloads in a certain time frame. If you do exceed your reset limit please get in touch.

## **Q: DIFFICULTIES IN DOWNLOADING / INSTALLING**

Customers may find that they have some difficulties in the downloading process. If you find that you are having some trouble, please check the list below for possible causes:

- The formatting of your drive, if it is FAT32 this will cause errors, because there is a maximum file size with this format of 4GB and our download files will exceed this limit. ExFat format is also not recommended due to possible permissions/decryption issues. To solve this problem, reformat your drive or use a different drive. We recommend NTFS on PC and Mac OS Extended on Mac. Other possible issues:
- Spitfire App freezes in the “Extracting” stage for hours. This may be because our libraries are often very large files, and this is the stage where the compressed files are

extracted and placed in their final locations on the hard drive. There could be hundreds of GB of content to unpack, so it really can take hours. If you’re unsure whether it has crashed or is extracting files, visit the installation folder you chose when you started the install. If everything is working normally you’ll see various files appearing in the folder (or one of its sub-folders).

- If your download gets stuck and is continually cycling and not resuming, please get in touch with us, giving us as much detail as possible about your set up. It would be helpful if you can tell us your operating system, where you are downloading from (your country, and also whether you’re at home or work), your ISP, and whether there are any proxy servers or firewalls between your computer and the internet.

## **Q: I HAVE FAST INTERNET, WHY IS MY DOWNLOAD SLOW?**

We have no direct influence on your actual download speeds, our libraries are hosted on S3 servers which are normally very quick but it may well be that at certain times of the day when traffic is particularly busy, your ISP may throttle your connection speeds.

We would advise you to leave your download running overnight as speeds should ramp up at less busy times. Our Spitfire App downloader aims to use as much of the available bandwidth as possible to give you the quickest possible speeds, and may take several minutes to reach its peak.

## **Q: CAN I TRY BEFORE I BUY?**

No - it is not currently possible to demo our products.

If you go to our YouTube channel you’ll see many walkthroughs containing detailed info about all our products -- you can hear them being played in real time with no smoke and mirrors!

## **Q: MY LIBRARIES ARE NOT SHOWING UP IN MY SPITFIRE APP**

A handful of customers may find that when they log into their Spitfire App, some of their previously purchased products do not show up in the 'Installed' section or in the 'Download Ready' section either. It may be that you have purchased these under another email address. Checking other possible email addresses for your previous purchases may help to find these missing products. If this is not the case, and these missing products were purchased a few years ago, please create a support ticket telling us your account email address, and any serial numbers you may have to go with these missing products. Our support team can also merge one or more accounts together if you'd like to consolidate all your purchases in one place.

The more information we have, the quicker we can get you back up and running!

## **Q: HOW DO I UPDATE MY PRODUCTS?**

The main premise of downloading our products is that our Spitfire App downloads into the folder you choose, so it is important to choose the folder above where you want the download to go. The best file path for our products is something very simple, a long file path will cause errors as there is a character limit on how far the Spitfire App can read. We advise a file path of something along the lines of: Samples Drive > Spitfire Audio

When it comes to downloading / updating - if you have a folder called 'Spitfire Audio' always point the Spitfire App to the folder Spitfire Audio - never go into this folder and choose the actual library in question.

## **Q: HOW DO I REDOWNLOAD THE LATEST UPDATE?**

With the continuous improvements to our Spitfire Audio App, we have incorporated the ability to reset your own downloads.

This can easily be done via your Spitfire Audio App.

Open up the Spitfire Audio App and log in with your account email and password.

- Select the product artwork you wish to re-download
- On this page is a "cog wheel". Select this, choose "reset" from the menu. Then "Reset Entire Download" (for a full download) or (Latest Update) for the latest update.
- This will reset your latest update ready for install again.

You can repeat this process for any other updates you wish.

If you do not see the option to reset your download in your Spitfire Audio App, we would advise to download the latest version of the Spitfire App from [spitfireaudio.com/info/library-manager/](http://spitfireaudio.com/info/library-manager/).

## **Q: I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR MY DOWNLOAD LINKS?**

We run all our orders through a fraud checking process. The automatic fraud check takes 20 minutes (but can take up to an hour during a very busy period, e.g.. Black Friday) If your order gets caught at this stage, we run a manual order check, and this can delay the processing of your order for up to 24 hours.

You should however receive an order confirmation email IMMEDIATELY upon placing your order. This confirms that your order has successfully been logged in our system and that your payment was successfully taken. Please check your junk folders before contacting our support.

## **Q: CAN I DOWNLOAD ON A PC, THEN TRANSFER TO A MAC OR VICE VERSA?**

Yes, you can copy the library folder and plugin files over to the second machine and then use the “Repair” and “Locate Library” features in the Spitfire Audio App. Please note that although the majority of the download can be done on a separate machine, you will always need an internet connection to finish the authorisation process.

## **Q: HOW DO I DOWNLOAD PRODUCTS ON MAC OSX 10.9?**

The version of the Spitfire App needed to install Mervyn Warren Choir only supports Mac OS 11 and upwards.

## **Q: I HAVE FOUND A BUG**

In some cases we can’t squash them all and bugs shamefully make their way through. If you think you have found a bug, please contact us with all the relevant information;

- A description of the bug you have found
- A screencast (video) of the bug happening, or an audio example
- The exact preset name (or presets) in question and also the library giving us as much detail as possible will help us get to the bottom of the issue.

## **Q: WHAT IS YOUR REFUNDS / RETURNS POLICY?**

If you have NOT completed the download / installation process, and bought within 14 days then we CAN refund / return your product, please contact support with your account email address and order number so we can handle this quickly. If you HAVE completed the installation process (even if you’ve not yet registered your serial number), please see our EULA in regards to why we do not accept refunds and returns. We can refund hard drive orders up until the point when the drive is dispatched from our office. This is usually 1-2 days after you order.

## **Q: I’VE FORGOTTEN MY PASSWORD?**

If you have forgotten your password, please see this link [spitfireaudio.com/my-account/login/](https://spitfireaudio.com/my-account/login/), and click ‘Forgotten Password’. If at some point in the past you asked us to merge two or more accounts but have since forgotten, you MAY find that the forgotten password isn’t working for the email address you asked us to merge FROM. In this case, please contact support with your name, and any email addresses you think we might know about, and we’ll work out what has happened.

## APPENDIX B — DEFAULT CC MAPPINGS

Dynamics	1
Global Volume	7
Global Pan	10
Expression	11
Legato Offset	16
Release	17
Tightness	18
Reverb	19
Vibrato	21
Morph	22

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MMXXV