

Bolder Sounds Presents

Celtic Pipes for Apple EXS 24



I've had frequent requests for popular sound sets on the Best of Bolder Collection to be programmed in native format for Apple EXS 24 software sampler. So I will gradually release these smaller volumes from the Best of Bolder for the EXS 24 beginning early in 2007 until finally the whole collection is finished.

The CELTIC PIPE collection features Bagpipes, Uilleann Pipes, Pub Pipes and their respective drones. The Bagpipes were recorded in both mono and stereo. Also you will notice a reference to "long loops" and "short loops", below is an explanation -

"short loops" mean the loop point is located a ways into the sample (perhaps 2 to 3 seconds). This gives what I believe to be a more realistic sound of a piper. The pitch and overtones vary over time and this is somewhat audible.....it's more human sounding. The "short loops" have the loop point kicking in very quickly, thus making the pitch and harmonic content a bit more stable as well as "perfect" and a bit more "synthetic" sounding.

Independent Control Of The Chanter And Drones

In reference to the bagpipes (highland pipes) and the uilleann pipes, the chanter is the melodic part of the instrument, the drone is a non-changing pitch against which the chanter is played. In order to create a convincing emulation the user needs to have separate control over the chanter while not affecting the drone. This can be easily accomplished by setting up the drone and the chanter as separate instances of the EXS 24 set to different midi channels within Logic Pro. In doing so if you choose to use the pitch modulation wheel for pitch bend, or the modulation wheel for vibrato it will not affect the drone. On other samplers I set this up as one instrument with the drone ignoring the control messages to the chanter. In the EXS 24 I was not able to find a simple solution to this type of programming.

Instrument Ranges

These pipes have quite a narrow pitch range. But with the EXS 24 we have a really good audio engine we can interpolate (stretch) the samples a fair amount without too many “artifacts” appearing..... but only within reason. I am definitely not of the opinion that all sample banks should cover all 88 keys. For example trying to stretch a piccolo sample all the way down to A-0 is somewhat pointless. But there are users who feel they have been “short-changed” if a sound does not cover all 88 keys. So my approach I feel is somewhat more practical. I stretch the actual range of the instrument to whatever point it still sounds musically useful, and stop stretching beyond that point.

Articulation

The Uilleann Pipes were sampled both with and without vibrato. The Bagpipes were sampled in both mono and stereo and also include a set of ornaments.

Bagpipes - The pitched part of this instrument is pretty much just one octave from Bb3 to Bb4 as a Bb mixolydian scale (Bb, C, D, Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb). Now since we’re working with samples here and we can easily stretch the range... I’ve extended the range from E3 to D#5.

Uilleann Pipes - Range is from D3 to D5. I’ve extended that from A2 up to D5. I thought it was a mixolydian instrument as well in the key of D. But I did notice I have a C#4 sample in there. But it’s still an instrument pretty much tuned to a 2 octave D major / mixolydian scale.

Pub Pipes - You will notice a reference to Pub Pipes “tuned” as well as simply “Pub Pipes”. The tuned set of pipes was pitch corrected using Rematica’s KEYMAP software. There was a certain charm to the wavering pitch of the original samples of the Pub Pipes. So I chose to include pitch corrected samples along with the original samples. The actual range is from G#3 to G#4. I’ve extended the range from F2 to G4.

Drones

The beauty of using sampled drones is you can play them at any pitch center. Something not possible in the real world. For example the Bagpipe drone is pitched at Bb, but you could just as easily hold down G and play in G minor if you wish. The drones are generally stretched out just under one octave in range and are mapped adjacent to each other on the lower end of the keyboard.



FOLDERS

Bagpipes - In this folder you will find the following subfolders -

subfolder - **Bagpipe Drones** - This folder contains both the stereo and mono bagpipe drone .exs instruments.

subfolder - **Bagpipes Chanter only** - This folder has only the chanter part of the bagpipes they are presented in 3 versions: bagpipes/mono/short loops, bagpipes/mono/long loops and bagpipes in stereo.

subfolder - **Bagpipes with Drones** - This folder has the chanter and the drones of the bagpipes they are presented in 3 versions: bagpipes/mono/short loops, bagpipes/mono/long loops and bagpipes in stereo. Use these .exs instruments if you wish to only use one instance of the EXS 24 and have access to both the chanter and drones.

Celtic Pipe Ensembles - In this folder you will find various combination of the 3 pipes that were recorded in this collection. They are set up as layered samples in one .exs instrument.

Pub Pipes - In this folder you will find the pub pipes .exs instruments. Both the original version as well as the “tuned” version.

Uilleann Pipes - In this folder you will find the following subfolders -

subfolder - **Uilleann Pipe Drone only** - This folder contains the uilleann pipe drone sample as a separate .exs instrument. This facilitates the setting up of the drone on a separate mid channel - EXS instance as mentioned above.

subfolder - **Uilleann Pipe no vibrato** - This folder contains the uilleann pipe .exs data sampled with no vibrato, both including the drone and without the drone sample.

subfolder - **Uilleann Pipe Velocity Switched** - This folder contains the uilleann pipe as a velocity switch between the vibrato and non-vibrato samples. Again both including the drone and without the drone sample.

subfolder - **Uilleann Pipe vibrato** - This folder contains the uilleann pipe .exs data sampled with vibrato, both including the drone and without the drone sample.

NAMING CONVENTIONS

My naming style tends to be cryptic at times since I use abbreviations in the titles that reflect the kind of programming was involved in making an Instrument or a Multi.

Here are a few example program titles and their respective “translation”-

BP Long MW Selects Ornament.exs - Bagpipes using long loops. Using higher velocity values triggers the sampled ornaments.

BP Long MW Selects Ornament.exs - Bagpipes using long loops. Using your modulation wheel triggers the sampled ornaments.

BP short loop No Drones.exs - Bagpipes using short loops. The drones are not mapped out in this instrument, chanter only.

BP short + long loops.exs - This is a layer of the bagpipes sampled with both long and short loops, it is in the Celtic Pipe Ensembles folder.

BP short+long+Pub Pipe.exs - Another ensemble .exs instrument. Bagpipes long and short loops are layered with the pub pipes.

Pub Pipes Hipass Rez tuned.exs - A pub pipe instrument utilizing a hipass filter as well as resonance. This is the “tuned” version of the pub pipes.

The total size of the Celtic Pipes sound set is 30 MB.

Enjoy the Celtic Pipes sound set!
Dennis Burns - Bolder Sounds - July 2007



Thanks and Credits

Thanks to the Pipers! Highland Bagpipes - Patrick O'Kelly. Uilleann Pipes & Pub Pipes - Ben Holmes.

And finally, thank you to Wind Over The Earth recording here in Boulder, Colorado for your assistance with recording gear over the years.

Bolder Sounds welcomes any comments or constructive criticism. Send emails to sales@boldersounds.com

** LEGAL STUFF **

The samples on "Celtic Pipes" are licensed, not sold to the purchaser. However, you may use them as you see fit in the production of your music without paying an additional fee. Bolder Sounds retains ownership of all the sound samples on this disc. Copying, duplicating, digital resampling, reselling or otherwise distributing of this product is unlawful and expressly prohibited.

** NOT SO LEGAL STUFF **

PLEASE do not give this collection to a friend who has not paid for the license fee as a "favor". Every time this occurs it increases the chance that high quality reasonably priced EXS 24 libraries such as this will not be developed in the future. No amount of legal mumbo-jumbo I could write here will deter piracy. So instead I appeal to your inherent good nature as a human being to handle this request with fairness..... I'd very much appreciate your consideration.

Dennis Burns - July 2007
Bolder Sounds 3156 9th St. Boulder, CO 80304 <http://www.boldersounds.com>