



MIDI *in* MINISTRY

THE INFO SOURCE FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

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Porta-Praise! The New MT-90S Makes MIDI Mobile

At your church, you might have a great band with complete instrumentation for every service, Sunday school class, mid-week service, retreat and rehearsal. If so, stop reading. But let's say you're in a situation where you're leading worship with just a few or no musicians. Or maybe you have a full band but want to supplement it with strings, brass or other instruments. Or, you want to have a vocal rehearsal when instrumentalists aren't available. You still want to keep the quality without sacrificing flexibility—but how?

SIMPLIFY...

The MT-90S Music Player is basically a "MIDI boom box." It's got a synthesizer (piano, strings, brass, drums...), a MIDI disk player, a speaker, and even a handle—"Porta-Praise!" It has audio jacks so you can plug-in to a sound system, but it's perfect for home bible studies, Sunday School, retreats—whatever. You can start/stop it from a footswitch if you play guitar and even plug in a microphone so you can sing along through the speaker.

Bottom line—it's fun and extremely simple. Just get a MIDI disk from a company like Worship Solutions™ (they have everything from kid's praise to classic hymns on disk), you put the disk in, press play, and boom—an instant band from a box.

What if today my band is me and a guitar player and the MT-90S, and it's really early on Sunday morning so I don't want to sing a song in the written key (or the guitar player can only play it in one key)? No problem. The MT-90S can transpose the song into any key I want. And because it's MIDI, the tempo won't change. So, now you CAN do every song in "C".

And last week when I was teaching the band this song, we wanted to practice it slower, so I just slowed the tempo down and the pitch didn't change. So the MT-90S is not only great for services—but especially for rehearsing.

You can even solo the bass and drums to make a practice tape for your bass player and drummer—great for learning new songs and specific parts.

When I lead worship, I don't need to hear the melody line because we have singers. So I simply press a Track Mute button and remove the melody line. If I have a bass player, I can mute the bass track. Actually, I can mute any instrument in the song if someone is playing it live. Combining MIDI with acoustic instruments makes a powerful combo.

And if you're teaching a song to kids or vocalists who don't read music, the MT-90S even displays the lyrics right on the screen—playing along with the melody! That's right—"worship-oake".

However you use it, the MT-90S gives you a simple, affordable, flexible, portable way to have FUN and great worship music.



5 MINUTES with Steve Goomas

Steve Goomas is a classically trained keyboard player who for several years worked with Christian recording artist Steve Taylor. A strong believer in the use of technology in worship, Goomas is now sharing his expertise with synthesizers and MIDI gear as a clinician for the Maranatha Worship Leader Workshop II sessions. Goomas also plays at the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, Calif., and was recently a part of their spectacular Christmas production which includes a full symphony orchestra. Here Goomas talks about playing in Ministry and his use of Roland gear like the XV-88 128-Voice Expandable Synthesizer and VK-7 Combo Organ.

MIDI in Ministry: How did you get involved playing keyboards in worship?

Steve Goomas: I played behind a Christian artist, Steve Taylor, for several years... that was in the mid '80s to the '90s. After that I kind of just started getting more involved in worship.

MiM: What led you to decide to change from playing in bands to playing in church?

SG: I had played keyboards on weekends with bands, backed up different

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5 MINUTES with Steve Goomas

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artists and been on the road. I'd been going to church all my life anyway... and I just felt like I needed to serve as opposed to just sitting in the pew. It was actually a refreshing change!

MiM: Your church put on quite a Christmas production back in December. Tell us about that...

SG: We did 11 shows with a full symphony orchestra. There's a whole rhythm section, 30 strings... at least 60 pieces. [Percussionist] Alex Acuna was playing drums and there were a lot of good heavy-weight players in the band. A lot of those guys go to our church anyway, so it was a pretty "high-brow" kind of show.

MiM: And you were laying down the keys with a Roland XV-88 and VK-7. Why did you choose that particular combination of keyboards?

SG: I love the VK-7! I've used it for years just to get that realistic Leslie kind of sound, plus I know how to work it. I also can split the keyboard on that—I do a lot of splits when I play in churches such as strings and organ, and a lot of times I'll kick bass. Plus, I've had an XP-60 [Music Workstation] for years and [the XV-88] is almost the same type of architecture and sounds as far as programming, so it was real nice to dump some of those patches in my XV-88. And with the XV-88, I don't have to MIDI anything to bring in those pad sounds because there's so many layers I can do.

MiM: Were you using the XV-88 for piano as well as synth sounds?

SG: I had an acoustic piano, but some-



Goomas jams with Dave Owens on the XV-88

times when we would play heavy Latin songs or rock songs, I would move over to the XV-88 because it would cut through better. Even with good engineers, it's tough trying to mike [an acoustic piano], especially when I'm right around the drums and orchestra. This way it just was cleaner and I could control it better in the pit myself. Plus, I'd convinced our church a few years back to get the KC-500's [Stereo Mixing Keyboard Amplifiers], so I have a whole stereo setup.

MiM: What kind of parts were you covering?

SG: With the Gospel choir, I'm playing regular gospel church organ on the VK-7. When I'm playing synth, I'm doing everything. I'll use pads, strings, horns, basslines... I'll play Celtic sounds, I'll play accordion... I even play an acoustic guitar patch. What's nice on the XV-88 is that [the guitar patches] have that kind of hammer on-off [describes the sound of the guitar pick scraping the string and bending notes via pressure]. I play that and people go "Woah! Where's that coming from?"

MiM: So when playing in worship, do you find yourself covering parts when certain musicians are missing?

SG: Yeah, and I actually look for things to do like that. If there's an electric guitar player there and a piano and organist, I'll just become the other orchestrations. For example, if I feel it's an acoustic guitar song, then I'll play an acoustic guitar part. I have patches set up really quick, so within a song I'll do three or four different sounds. And if I have two keyboards up there, I might keep one on strings or a pad sound and then make the other one just quickly grab a flute sound or a horn sound.

MiM: How does improvisation fit into the worship setting?

SG: I improvise a lot and that's what I stress in teaching with Maranatha—just bringing keyboard players into an improvisational state. It doesn't mean getting heavy or filling up the song until it's obnoxious, but even just real simple parts... you know, thinking like an orchestrator instead of a keyboard player. And that's the cool thing about having all those [expansion] cards and sounds—there's just so many to choose from that on different songs you can get a different color and different flavor.



Goomas' winning combo—the XV-88, XP-80 and two KC-500 amplifiers (one on each side)

MiM: What else do you teach in your Maranatha workshops?

SG: Well, we have ten XP-60's with about two to three students per keyboard. I go through styles, just creating string lines and how to play acoustic guitar patches, horn patches or whatever. But the real fun is at the end when I get them to play and we get kind of a musical chair going. I'll just set up a groove pattern and get them to play every instrumentation in there: bass, horns, piano, organ, strings, acoustic guitar. So with ten sounds, it's kind of like a little synth orchestra. We'll just keep the song going and then I have people come and sit in when they feel confident enough. You know, they just kind of do little musical chairs on each synth.

MiM: What kind of challenges have you come across in working with worship leaders?

SG: What I've been finding as I go across the nation is that there's a lot of great keyboard players and talented people out there, but when they sit on a synth they just don't know how to apply it. I think people are just intimidated by the technology, so I walk them through simple steps and show them things like how to take a regular MIDI performance where you have 16 sounds—like a Pop set—and put your own sounds in there and save it to a User bank. Just getting them used to [working with] electronics.

MiM: What do you like best about being

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New Product News

Winter NAMM Show Report

If you're looking for ways to enhance the music in your worship service, look no further than the latest product offerings from Roland. Introduced at this year's Winter NAMM show in Los Angeles, Roland is once again leading the way in everything from digital pianos and synthesizers to electronic percussion, guitar products and more. Following is a brief overview.

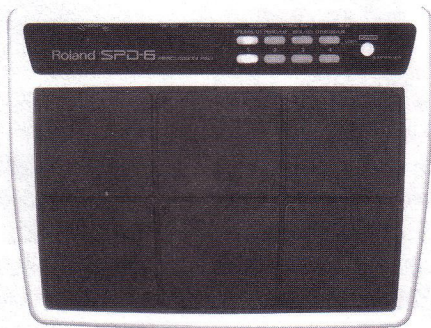


V-Session-set

The V-Session Set is the new flagship V-drums kit featuring over 1,000 unique sounds with enhanced dynamics and sensitivity, powerful COSM drum modeling, onboard effects and an intuitive icon-based user interface. A sleek new metallic red color, improved hardware and incredibly dynamic new V-Cymbals make this the most powerful and complete V-drums system ever.

SPD-6 Percussion Pad

If you're looking for a simple and affordable way to add electronic per-



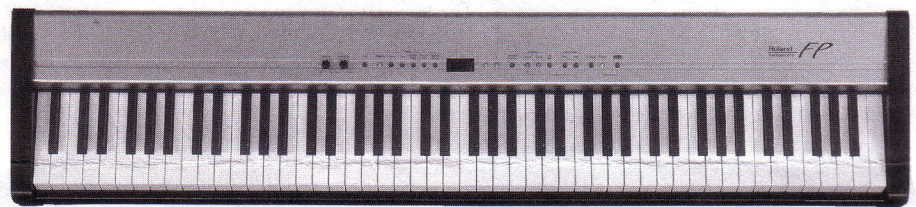
ussion to your worship service, the new SPD-6 Percussion Pad is the way to go. This compact and easy-to-use 6-pad controller features hand and drum stick compatibility, 113 onboard sounds, and MIDI output.

RS-9/RS-5 64-Voice Synths

The new RS-5 and RS-9 64-Voice Synthesizers redefine value in per-



formance synths. The 88-note RS-9 and 61-note RS-5 (pictured above) not only have a brushed aluminum finish and some of the best sounds on the planet—including waveforms derived from the XV-Series—but they're also affordable and easy-to-use.



FP-3 Digital Piano

The FP-3 Digital Piano delivers the sound and touch of a concert grand in a compact instrument thanks to its top-quality Roland piano sounds and new Progressive Hammer-Action keyboard. An onboard Session Partner adds realistic drum and bass patterns, making the FP-3 ideal for rehearsals.

VGA-5 V-Guitar Amplifier

Thanks to COSM modeling technology and extensive R&D efforts, the VGA-5 V-Guitar Amplifier offers incredibly dynamic amp and speaker



models and stellar effects that simply outperform other digital modeling amps on the market—all in a convenient 65w/1 x 12" design that's perfect for worship services in small- to medium-sized settings.

RD-150 Digital Stage Piano

The RD-150 Digital Stage Piano benefits from an improved 88-note hammer-action keyboard that responds like digital pianos costing hundreds more. And with an upgraded sound engine that's equally realistic, the RD-150 sets a new standard for affordable digital pianos.

For more information on these products and all of the other new gear not pictured here, please visit the Roland website at www.rolandus.com, and don't forget to order the **FREE** New Product Video!

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involved in Ministry?

SG: It's just the touchpoint of going across the United States and being able to minister to people and players. I just feel like the Lord has brought me to this place where he's taken all my talents—composing, songwriting, my education, and my natural experiences I've had as a musician—and he's put me into a point of being able to share that with people and teach it. I just feel more of a whole in my own spiritual walk to where it's opened that door to just be a touchpoint to people with the talents that God's given me all along, and now I'm corralling it into a situation that helps.

To find out more about Steve's upcoming Maranatha workshops or to order a copy of his new book, *Keyboard Wisdom*, send an e-mail to goomtune@aol.com. Also, visit the Maranatha website at www.maranathamusic.com or call (800) 245-SONG.



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FREE Video

The **2001 RUG New Product Video** offers a look at Roland's hot new gear recently introduced at the Winter NAMM show in Los Angeles. This is your chance to see Roland's amazing new V-Studio—the VS-2480 24-track Digital Studio Workstation—plus new V-drums configurations including the awesome V-Session Set. Of course, you'll also get a look at other exciting new products for 2001 including new digital pianos, the affordable RS-Series 64-Voice Synthesizers, ME-33 Guitar Multiple Effects Processor, BOSS Twin Series Pedals and more. And the best part? The **2001 RUG New Product Video** is absolutely **FREE!** Order your copy today while supplies last.

To order your free copy of the **2001 RUG New Product Video**, simply call the Roland SuperStore at (800) 386-7575 or visit the SuperStore section of www.rolandus.com