

# Uranus 1 *(Standalone / VST3)*



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marco.molendi@hotmail.it

**THANK YOU very much !!**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The URANUS 1 is an electronic keyboard instrument designed and built in the 1970s by CRB Elettronica of Ancona. Conceived as a versatile instrument for both live and studio use, it combined several independent sound sections with a complete rhythm unit, offering an extremely wide and innovative timbral palette for its time.

Unlike many traditional electronic organs, the URANUS 1 featured a modular architecture in which each voice had its own sound generation and processing section. This design allowed for a wide range of sound textures, ranging from classic organ flutes to synthetic brass, pads, synth bass, and experimental electronic sounds.

The keyboard was divided into two independent sections, left and right, allowing the musician to use different sound configurations on the two halves of the instrument. This feature offered a level of performance flexibility that was rare for electronic instruments in that era.

## KEYBOARD LAYOUT AND KEY ASSIGNMENTS

One of the most distinctive features of the URANUS 1 is its split keyboard architecture.

The keyboard is divided into two completely independent sections: a left section and a right section. The four oscillators located on the left side of the instrument are assigned exclusively to the left half of the keyboard, while the four oscillators located on the right side are assigned exclusively to the right half.

The instrument is set to a split point corresponding to F4.

This configuration makes the URANUS 1 comparable to two independent synthesizers housed within the same instrument, each equipped with its own oscillators, filters, and amplifiers.

The instrument can operate in two different modes: Monophonic timbre and Polyphonic timbre.

### MONOPHONIC TIMBRE MODE

In Monophonic timbre mode, all four oscillators assigned to a section of the keyboard are activated simultaneously whenever a note is played.

For example, pressing a key in the left half of the keyboard simultaneously activates all four oscillators on the left side. Likewise, pressing a key in the right half activates all four oscillators on the right side.

This mode allows you to create particularly rich and complex timbres by combining the characteristics of multiple oscillators, filters, and amplifiers into a single sound.

### POLYPHONIC TIMBRE MODE

In Polyphonic timbre mode, the four oscillators assigned to each half of the keyboard operate as four independent voices.

Each note played is assigned to one of the available oscillators, allowing for polyphony of up to four notes on the left side and up to four notes on the right side, completely independently.

This mode allows for the performance of chords and more complex musical passages while maintaining the individual character of each voice.

### VOICE PRIORITY SYSTEM

When the instrument runs in Polyphonic timbre mode, it becomes necessary to decide how notes are assigned to the available oscillators.

For this reason, the URANUS 1 features a selectable voice priority system. The priority mode can be configured independently for the left and right sections of the keyboard, allowing for different behaviors on each side of the instrument.

This feature offers the performer extremely precise control over note assignment and voice management, contributing to the remarkable operational flexibility that distinguishes the URANUS 1.

## **RHYTHM SECTION**

One of the most distinctive features of the URANUS 1 was its built-in rhythm section.

The rhythm unit offered several preset styles inspired by the most popular musical trends of the time, allowing musicians to create complete performances without the need for external equipment.

This section was designed to integrate seamlessly with the main sound engine, transforming the URANUS 1 into a true early-generation music workstation.

## **EXPRESSION PEDALS**

The original instrument was equipped with two independent expression pedals. To use it, simply connect a MIDI or USB keyboard to your computer.

The first pedal controlled the volume and expressiveness of the left half of the keyboard, while the second was dedicated to the right half.

This design allowed the performer to control the dynamics of the two sections of the keyboard separately during performance, offering a level of expressiveness that was particularly advanced for the historical era in which the instrument was designed.

## **HISTORICAL MEANING**

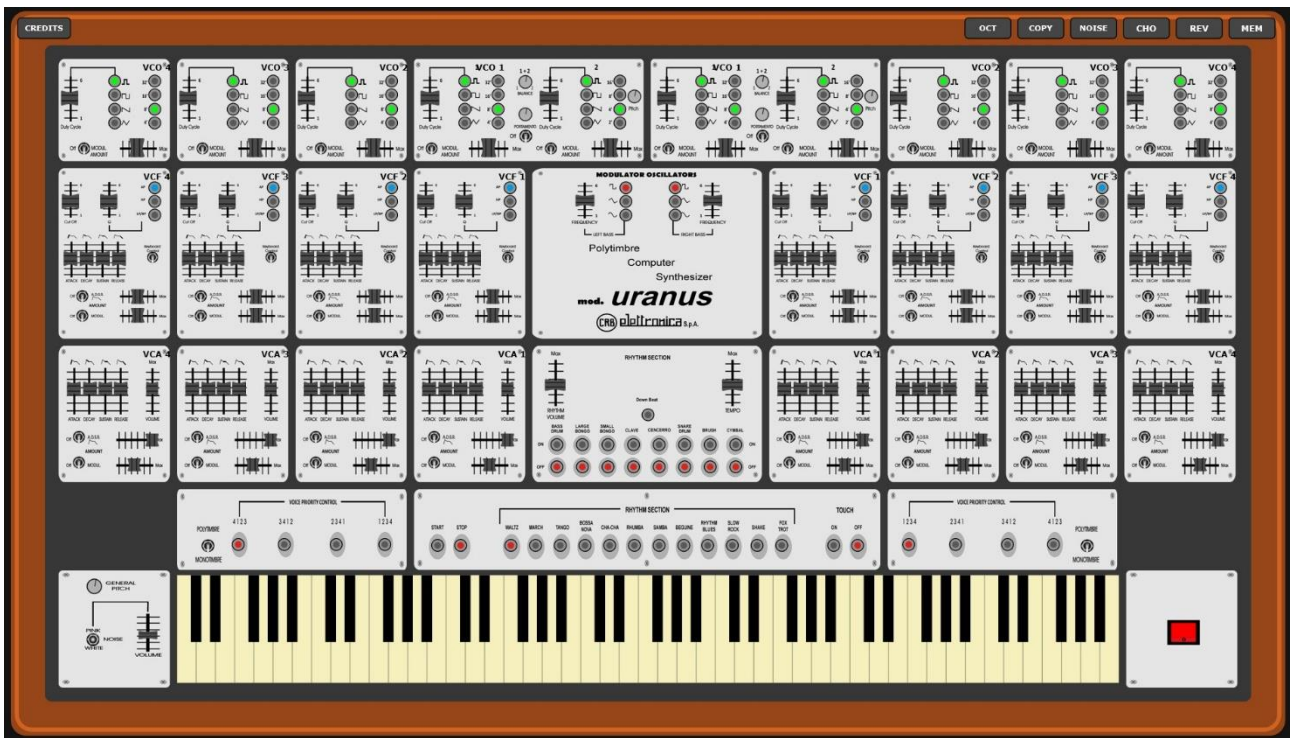
The URANUS 1 represents a unique chapter in the history of Italian electronic musical instruments.

Designed and built by CRB Elettronica in Ancona, the instrument represented an original approach to electronic sound generation and musical performance. The historical information available today on the URANUS 1 is extremely limited, and it is believed that only a very small number of units were ever produced.

According to currently available information, it is possible that none of the original instruments have survived to the present day following the closure of CRB Elettronica. For this reason, the URANUS 1 can be considered not only a musical instrument but also an important testament to Italy's heritage in the field of musical electronics.

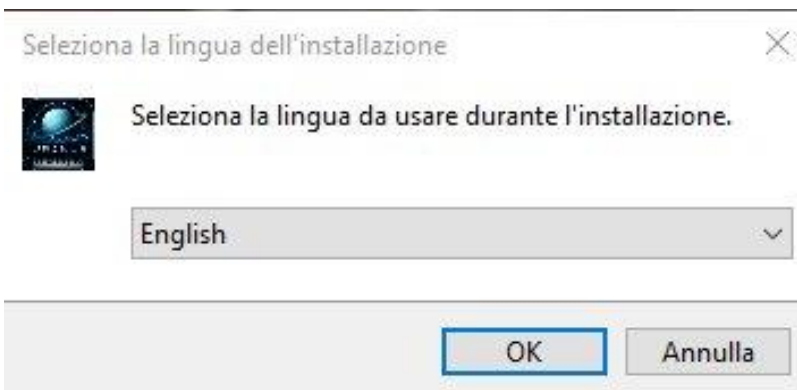
This software reconstruction was developed as a historical preservation project with the aim of documenting, preserving, and sharing the sound and design philosophy of the original instrument. The goal is to keep alive the memory of a significant achievement in Italian electronic engineering

and musical creativity, making it accessible to future generations of musicians, researchers, and enthusiasts.



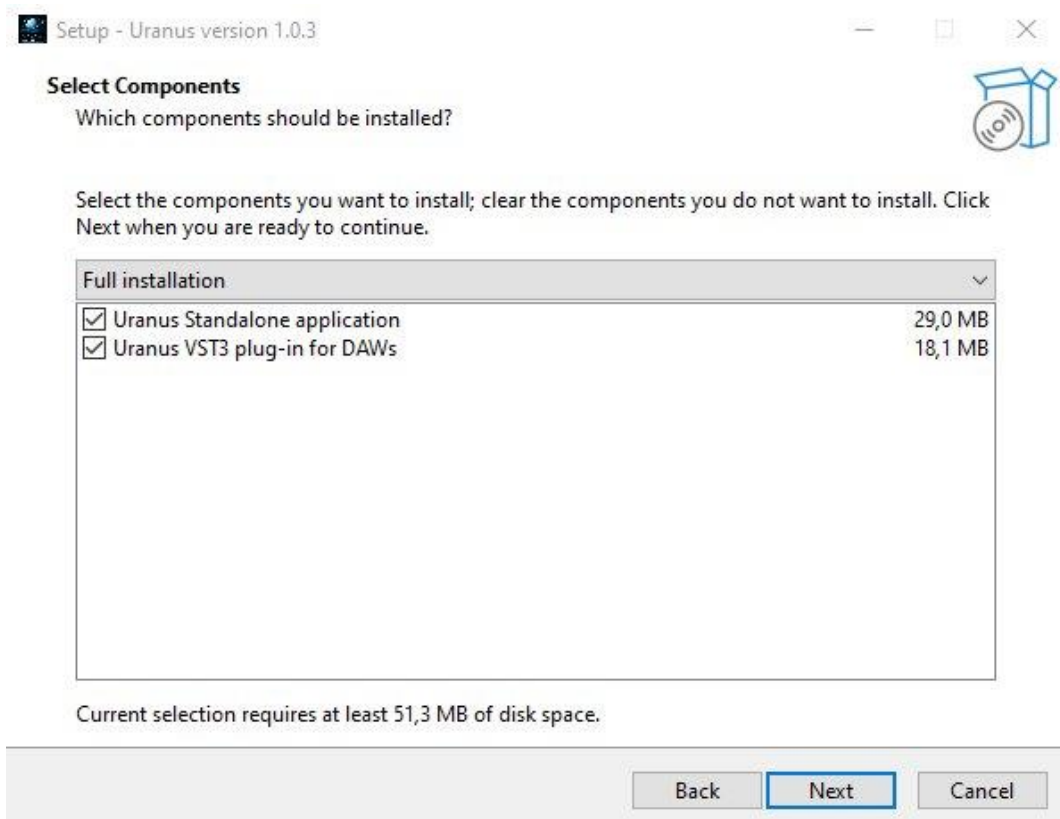
## SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

The installer is currently only available for Windows 10/11. Once you unzip the compressed file, you'll see the .exe file ready for installation. As soon as you run it, you'll be asked to select the installation language for the program:

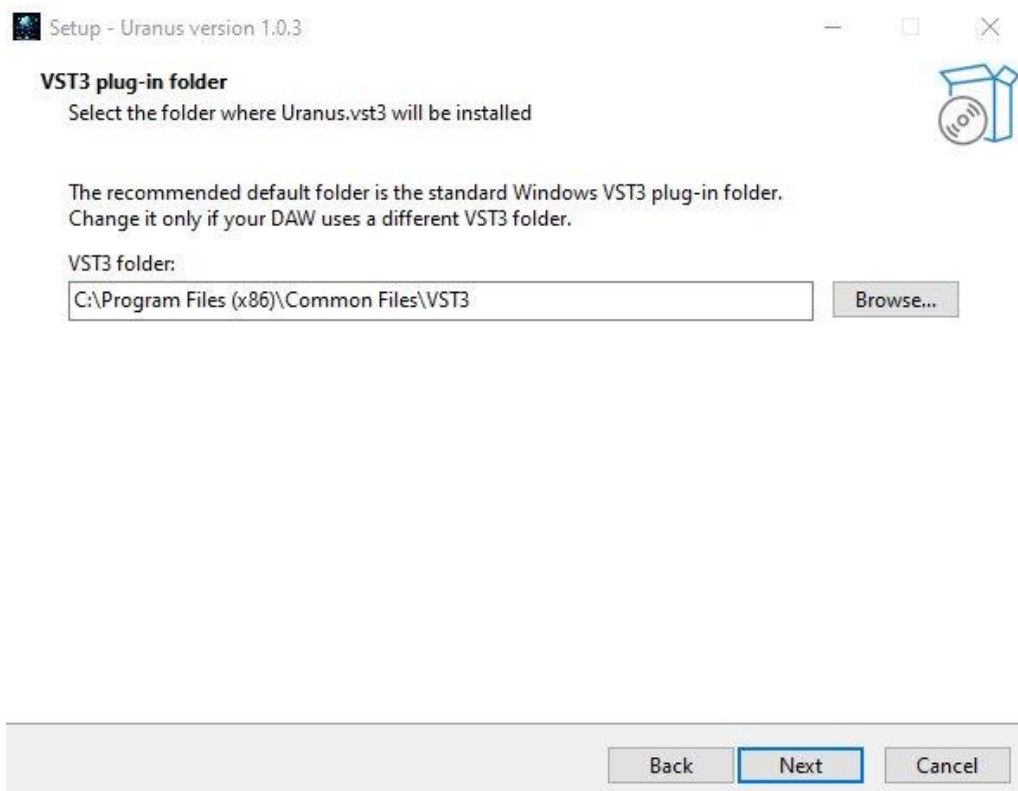


Once you have selected the language (Italian or English), press OK to continue.




The second screen will prompt you to select the installer mode: Standalone or VST 3. Choose your preference (or even both modes).












Continue by clicking Next. The next screen will show you the VST installation folder



If you continue by clicking the Next button, the installation will be completed. In addition to the program (in the mode you selected), this will also include two folders containing the documentation (Italian/English) and the 10 audio demos corresponding to the 10 presets that will be installed along with the software in the installation folder.

Program Files (x86) > Uranus > Documents					
Nome		Ultima modifica	Tipo	Dimensione	
 Demos		16/06/2026 16:49	Cartella di file		
 Manual ENG.pdf		15/06/2026 09:36	Adobe Acrobat D...	1.039 KB	
 Manuale ITA.pdf		15/06/2026 09:36	Adobe Acrobat D...	1.033 KB	

Nome	#	Tipo	Titolo	Artisti partecipanti	Album
 01r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 02r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 03r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 04r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 05r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 06r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 08r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 09r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo
 10r.mp3		MP3 Audio File (V...		Marcello Colò, Marco Molendi	URANUS 1 Demo

**WARNING:** A) If both modes (Standalone and VST) are installed, the program creates two separate memory files that you can save or overwrite depending on the mode you are currently working in. Both files are managed separately, so there is no risk of them being affected while you are working in the selected mode.

B) For peripheral management purposes, the Standalone mode includes the configuration of the MIDI/USB peripherals used and the management of manual folders within its layout.

## SOFTWARE VERSION FEATURES

To use it, simply connect a MIDI or USB keyboard to your computer.

Although designed to preserve the architecture, operating philosophy, and sonic character of the original URANUS 1 as faithfully as possible, this software recreation includes some additional features that were not present on the original instrument.

These features have been introduced solely to improve usability, operational flexibility, and integration with modern computer-based music production systems, while maintaining the utmost respect for the original design.

All additional features are accessible via the buttons located at the top right of the instrument panel.

The following features are exclusive to the software version:

- Memory management system
- Preset import and export functions
- Restore factory presets
- Additional reverb effect
- Additional chorus effect
- Advanced noise generator assignment options
- Oscillator settings copy functions
- Keyboard transposition by octaves
- Credits section and project information

These features are entirely optional and do not affect the fundamental operating features of the original instrument.

## FACTORY PRESETS

On first installation, the software automatically loads a set of factory presets created by Marcello Colò.

Early in his professional career, Marcello Colò worked at CRB Elettronica in Ancona, where he served as a tester responsible for fine-tuning and functionally verifying the instruments produced, including the URANUS.

The presets included in this software version therefore represent a direct testament to the experience gained with the original instrument and constitute an important contribution to the preservation of its sonic identity. Upon completion of the installation, Memory 1 (M1) is automatically selected, representing the instrument's default startup sound.

At any time, you can restore the original bank using the FACTORY function available in the memory management section.

The factory presets were created to demonstrate some of the most representative sounds and expressive possibilities inspired by the original instrument.

## ZOOM MODE:

When you right-click on any panel of the tool, it is enlarged to make it easier to adjust the controls.

To exit ZOOM mode, simply right-click again or press the ENTER key.

## MEMORY MENU:



The picture shows the memory menu.

## **FACTORY**

Restores the factory preset bank, overwriting the current memory contents.

## **IMPORT**

Imports a previously exported preset bank.

## **EXPORT**

Exports the currently active preset bank.

## **CLEAR**

Clears the contents of the user memories.

## **M1 - M10**

These represent the ten available memories. When a memory does not contain saved data, it is displayed in dark gray.

When you press SAVE, the selected memory will flash yellow and then turn green, indicating that the current state of the instrument has been successfully saved.



To recall a preset, simply press the corresponding memory button. Presets can be overwritten at any time by pressing SAVE again.

## **LOAD MIDI / PLAY / STOP**

Allows you to load and play single-channel (Omni) MIDI files

## **REVERBER MENU:**



## **OFF / ON**

Turn reverb on or off.

When reverb is active, the REV button on the main panel also changes color to show its operating status.

## CHORUS MENU

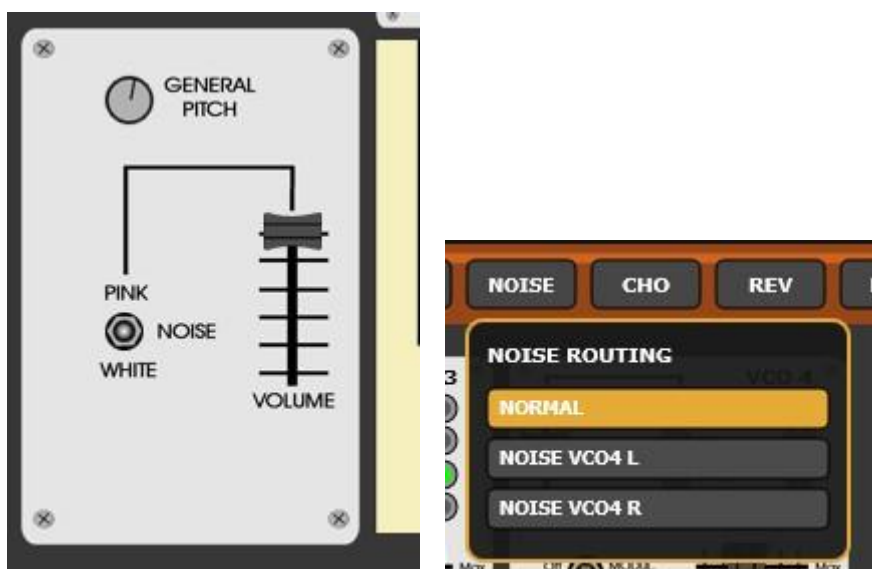


### OFF / ON

Turns the Chorus effect on or off.

When Chorus is active, the CHO button on the main panel also changes color to show its operating status.

## NOISE MENU:



When the selector switch on the left panel is set to **PINK** or **WHITE**, the noise generator is activated and the NOISE button turns orange.

## NORMAL

The noise generator operates normally on both sections of the instrument.

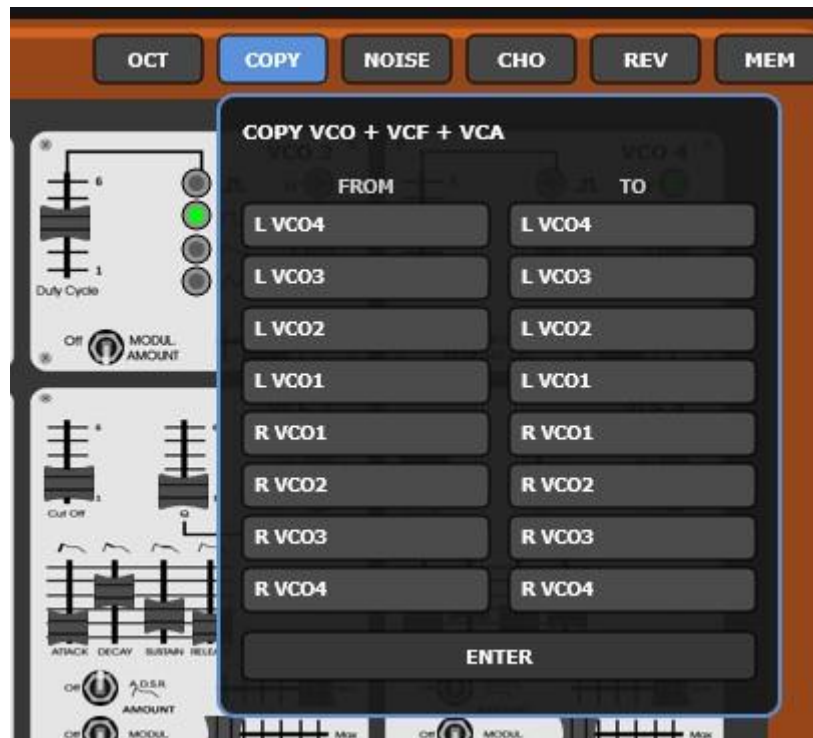
## NOISE VCO4 L

The noise generator replaces VCO4 in the left section and is processed by its VCF and VCA.

## NOISE VCO4 R

The noise generator replaces VCO4 in the right section and is processed by its VCF and VCA.

## COPY MENU:



## FROM

Allows you to select a single source oscillator.

## TO

Allows you to select one or more destination oscillators to which all settings from the source oscillator will be copied, including the VCF and VCA.

## OCTAVE MENU:



This allows you to transpose the left and right sections of the keyboard independently by an octave. When at least one of the two sections is transposed, the OCT button turns yellow.

## MIDI MENU:



This allows you to configure the device associated with MIDI or USB input. When the program starts, if a keyboard is already connected, the software will automatically recognize the device and save this setting as the default. If multiple devices are available, you can also select a different device of your choice.

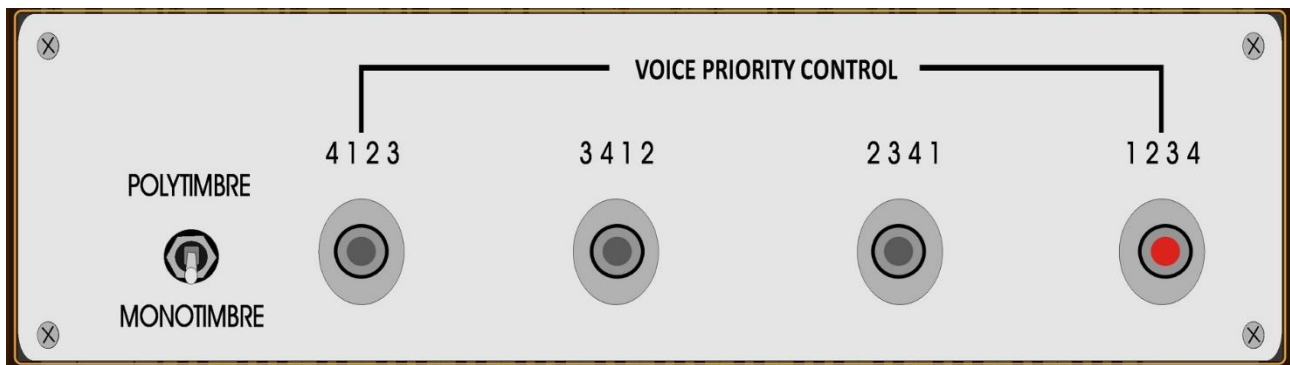
## CREDITS MENU:



A brief journey through the history of URANUS 1.

Click, listen, and let yourself be guided through the images, music, and information that tell the story of the instrument and the people who made it possible.

## VOICE PRIORITY CONTROL :



This panel, located on both the left and right sides of the instrument, allows you to select either monophonic timbre or polyphonic timbre mode.

### **Mono timbre Mode**

In Monophonic timbre mode, all four oscillators assigned to a section of the keyboard are activated simultaneously for each note played.

### **Poly timbre Mode**

In Polyphonic timbre mode, the four oscillators on each side operate as independent voices, allowing for the performance of chords with up to four notes.

### **Setting the priority of Voices in polyphonic timbre mode**

The order in which items are assigned can be freely configured by the user.

For example, with a priority configuration of:

4 - 1 - 2 - 3

The first note played will be assigned to oscillator 4, the second to oscillator 1, the third to oscillator 2, and the fourth to oscillator 3.

This feature allows the performer to control which oscillator is triggered first during polyphonic operation, making it possible to create highly customized playing timbre and complex, layered sounds.

### **Warnings:**

In this version (rel. 1.0), the MIDI structure currently supports only the reception of note on/off events. Support for controller, pitch bend, program change, and other MIDI events is currently in development.

### **FACTORY PRESETS REFERENCE (plus Audio Demos):**

01 Super pad

02 Sinus Organ

03 Percussive (Bass & Stack)

04 Bass & Brass

05 Texture Pad

06 Copland Reeds

07 On Weather

08 Abandon Bolero

09 Shine On LFO

10 Emerson Solo.

For more information, feedback, suggestions, or anything else, please feel free to contact me at:

**[marco.molendi@hotmail.it](mailto:marco.molendi@hotmail.it)**