



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kenaxis Creative Brings an Artisan's Approach to Audio Software with the Release of Kenaxis 3.1

Latest Update Places the Laptop Back in the Hands of Musicians

Roberts Creek, BC – From his home on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, musician and software designer, Stefan Smulovitz is releasing the latest upgrade of his Kenaxis software line. Near the artist community of Robert's Creek, his home sits quietly on the side of a mountain, nestled between rainforests and glacial-fed streams. It's an unlikely headquarters for an audio software company, but then again Kenaxis Creative is no ordinary software company.

"Many of my neighbors are craftspeople, organic farmers, artists and musicians" comments Smulovitz who brings this same artisanal approach to his audio software designs. In the late 1990s Smulovitz was among laptop musicians who complained of limitations in digital technology for use in music performance. Rather than succumbing to the frustration, Smulovitz crafted a piece of software that would enable the laptop to perform alongside more traditional musical instruments. "Kenaxis is not an imitation of corporate sequencer-based products," he comments, "It is designed for musicians, like myself, who want an instrument to play, rather than a sequenced grid that defines how and what we create."

The release of Kenaxis 3.1 marks the tenth year of Kenaxis development, continuous design improvements that Smulovitz credits to his ongoing consultation with leading artists in the electronic music field. This particular update adds a time-stretching feature known as an FFT Phase Vocoder that will appeal to musicians seeking more organic and analog-sounding textures. The second addition is the introduction of OSC (Open Sound Control) compatibility that will allow musicians to control the laptop with familiar devices like the iPhone, iPod touch or Nintendo Wii remote. The additions are part of Smulovitz's larger project to democratize the field of digital audio performance.

"Music technologies are lagging behind some of the other democratic initiatives we've seen in communication and media" states Smulovitz, who observes that despite the presence of dozens of independent audio-software designers, the field continues to be dominated by a handful of corporate players. "A musical instrument, whether it's a guitar, a violin or a software interface, is heavily influenced by the environment it's created in," states Smulovitz musing on the independent approach of Kenaxis. "It's not surprising to me that corporations continue to produce software that places boundaries on musical expression," he continues, "It's their nature to do so. I mean would you want to play a violin created by Microsoft?"

Smulovitz is quick to point out that Kenaxis is one of many independent software developers challenging the dominance of corporate products. "There are a lot of good independent and open-source software instruments out there that aren't getting the exposure they deserve," comments the designer, who is optimistic about the future of independent software design and the positive affect it will have on independent music.

Key Features of Kenaxis 3.1

- Intuitive Performance Interface: 6 loop players, mixer and master mixer. Clear, compact display of all parameters allows the musician to monitor and manipulate every aspect of the performance
- Powerful Tools: pitch modulation, delay, granular synthesis, convolution, analog synthesis, 12 band parametric EQs, automated envelopes and filters, random file players and VST support – allows for sonic possibilities not possible with hardware components, at a fraction of the cost
- Multiple Audio Sources: Drag and drop sound files, synthesize sounds or capture live sound on the fly
- OSC and MIDI compatible: Faster and with higher resolution than MIDI, OSC (Open Sound Control) allows the musician to 'play' Kenaxis with the iPod, iPod Touch, Wii controller, Lemur and other OSC devices and software.
- FFT Phase Vocoder: An organic and more analog-sounding time-stretching alternative. Pinpoint sounds in the spectrum analysis tool to stretch, freeze and manipulate.

Further Information and Press Material

Kenaxis Homepage

- <http://www.kenaxis.com/>

Kenaxis Press Page

- <http://www.kenaxis.com/press>

Download a Free Trial of Kenaxis

- <http://www.kenaxis.com/downloads/kenaxis3.dmg> (mac OSX 10.4+)
- <http://www.kenaxis.com/downloads/kenaxis3.zip> (windows)

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About Kenaxis Creative

A pioneer of audio performance software since 1999, the Kenaxis line of products was born of the need for tools-without-limits and developed through ongoing consultation with some of the most respected artists in the electronic music field. Kenaxis transforms the laptop into an intuitive and responsive musical instrument that offers a unique freedom in musical expression. Flexible enough for virtually any medium, space, or performance it has inspired creators, composers and performers worldwide. For more, please visit kenaxis.com.

About Stefan Smulovitz

Stefan Smulovitz is a highly accomplished musician (viola & laptop) and an award-winning composer. His work as a programmer led to the development of the custom software called Kenaxis, a major innovation in the use of the computer as a real-time instrument. Kenaxis Surround, his newest software, allows for performance in an immersive surround sound environment. His virtuosic command of Kenaxis has resulted in an international reputation for Smulovitz, who regularly performs with some of world's top improvisers and receives commissions to write pieces for ensembles ranging from symphony orchestras to chamber orchestras and choirs.

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