

PIANO HERO #2

for grand piano, midi-keyboard, live-video & live-electronics

Commissioned by Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival & dedicated to Mark Knoop

Stefan Prins (2011-13/16)

Immersion is the state of consciousness where an immersant's awareness of physical self is diminished or lost by being surrounded in an engrossing total environment; often artificial. This mental state is frequently accompanied with spatial excess, intense focus, a distorted sense of time, and effortless action.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immersion_%28virtual_reality%29 (accessed 29/6/2011)

If something startles the player out of immersion and into reality, out of illusion and into insight, then we have a moment of arrest remarkably similar to the instant when an antibody latches onto a virus. Suddenly, a shift in the system (immunological or ideological) occurs, and nothing remains the same.

J.Blais, J.Ippolito, At the Edge of Art , Thames & Hudson, 2006 (p.58)

Piano Hero #2
Performance notes
Set-up + Tech rider + Patch list

TECH RIDER

Computer/Keyboard/External devices:

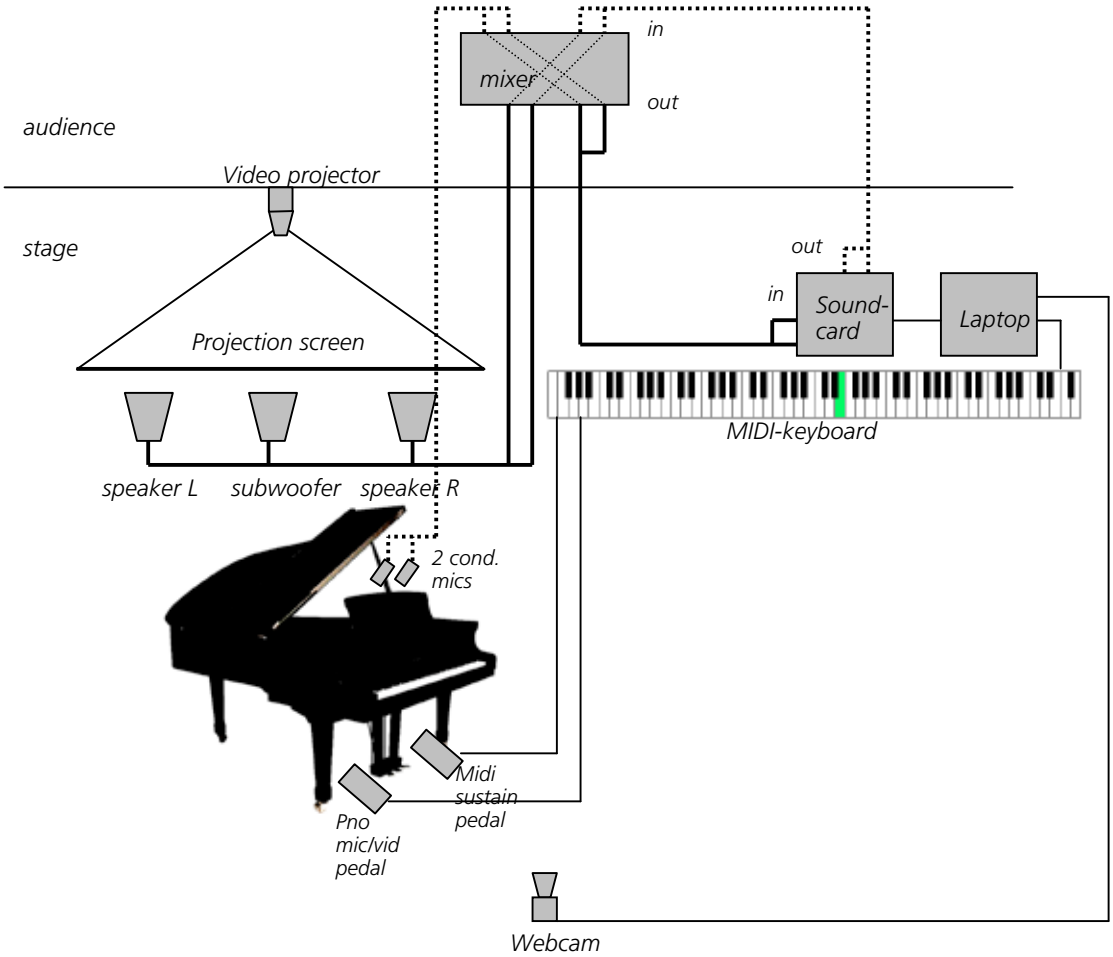
- a midi-keyboard of 88 keys (preferably with weighed keys)
- a laptop by Apple (preferably a more recent model than the MacBook Pro 2.8 GHz DualCore 2, running on Mac OS 10.6.8 or higher)
- the standalone application “PianoHero2” (to be obtained on request – contact stefan.prins@gmail.com)
- An external soundcard, connected to the computer (firewire/USB)
- A small webcam – not necessarily a very expensive one (for example: Logitech C270)
- An (active!) USB extension/repeater cable to be placed in between the webcam and the computer (the webcam needs to be placed far enough from the performer to have the desired image/perspective)
- a video adaptor to go from computer to video-projector

Audio & P.A.:

- 2 D.I.Boxes (to go from sound card outputs 1 & 2 to mixing table)
- Two good condensator microphones on a stand for the amplification of the piano
- Two footswitch-pedals, connected to the MIDI-keyboard/computer (for example: Yamaha FC4)
- two good speakers
- a subwoofer
- a mixing table with at least 2 AUX SENDS, 4 INPUTS, 2 OUTPUTS

Video:

- a good and bright projector
- a good screen on which to project on (see below for instructions about the screen)
- vga-cable (or similar) to go from computer/adaptor to video projector



AUDIO						
MIXING DESK						
Channel on mixing table	Phantom	INPUT	MICROPHONE	STAND	OUTPUT	goes to
1	/	(from soundcard, OUT 1, through DI-box)	/	/	1	speaker L + subwoofer
2	/	(from soundcard, OUT 2, through DI-box)	/	/	2	speaker R + subwoofer
3	X	condensator mic 1 (Piano Low)	x	x	AUX 1	to soundcard IN 1
4	X	condensator mic 2 (Piano High)	x	x	AUX 2	to soundcard IN 2

Piano Hero #2

Performance notes



Pno mic/vid pedal

Midi sustain pedal

PREPARATIONS



Piano

all the strings of these pitches are prepared with putney/or tuning mutes in such a way that the resulting sound is very dry and almost identical for both pitches

the f# strings are prepared with one screw in such a way that the pitch becomes a complex, gamelan-like compound.

all keys with a x-notehead on the midi-staff are activated with the "midi sustain" pedal and don't need to be fingered in any way

the "MIDI sustain" pedal functions as a sustain pedal, but for the midi-keyboard. All keys pressed while pressing down this pedal will be sustained until the pedal is released. When no keys are played and the pedal is pressed down, it reactivates the keys that were pressed last time that the pedal "sustained".

ca. 13"

go from p to fff ad lib. for the indicated duration

4-7"

(sounding) "cluster": press all keys between lowest and highest pitch of the cluster

silently press as many keys as possible using both fore arms; release the keys (at the end of the duration) very abruptly.

keys on the piano staff with this X-notehead are silently pressed, so that they sympathetically vibrate when other keys are struck.

"normal" piano sustain pedal (in this case "tremelando" (pressing loudly and rapidly up and down)

Piano

Pno sustain

Pno ampl/vid.

sfz

the "ampl/vid" (or "mic/vid") pedal, activates both the amplification/microphones and the live-images of the webcam

F1: fermata 1 (also see Piano Hero #1): relatively short fermata (for example 1"-3")

F2: medium long fermata

F3: long fermata

Piano Hero #2

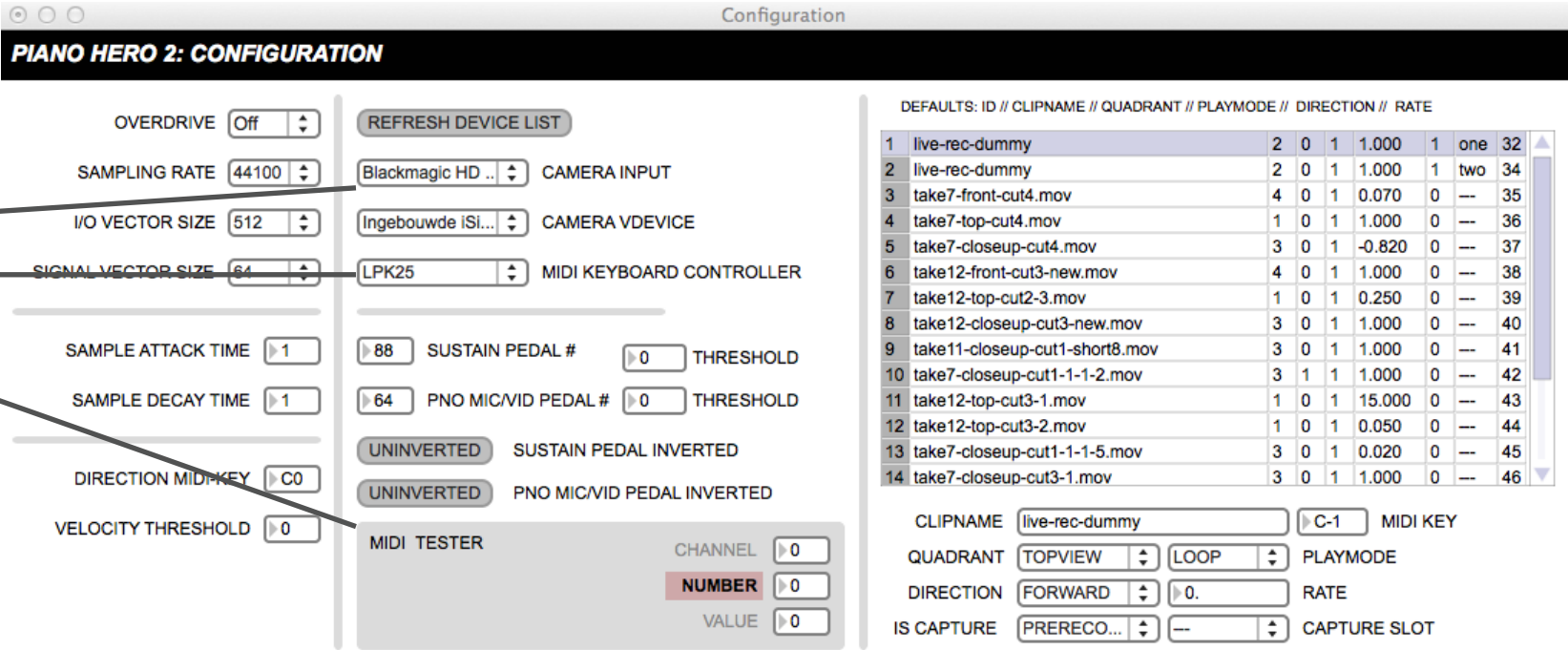
Performance notes
Electronics - User Interface

HOW TO PREPARE PATCH:

1. connect all external devices to your computer (sound card, webcam, keyboard - with pedals connected to the keyboard)
2. open PianoHero2.app and wait until all videos have loaded (you'll get a notice in the Max window when they have loaded)
3. click on "DSP" and set the audio device to the external sound card

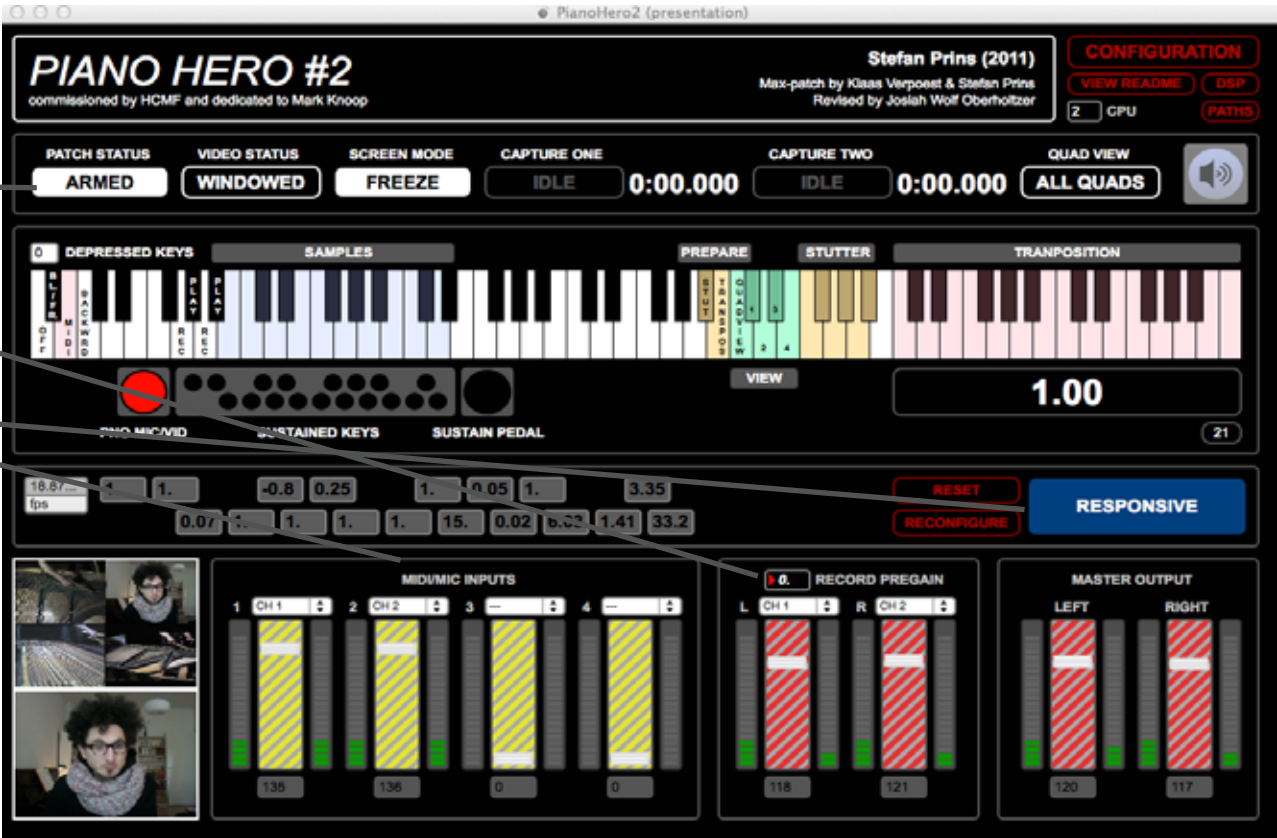
CONFIGURATION WINDOW

1. Make sure the (correct) webcam is selected in "CAMERA INPUT"
2. Make sure the midi-keyboard is selected in "MIDI KEYBOARD CONTROLLER"
3. Press the sustain pedal and check in the "MIDI TESTER" window which midi-number appears. Then type that number in the "SUSTAIN PEDAL#" box. The pedal should give 127 as a value (in the MIDI TESTER window) when pressed down and 0 when released. If it's the other way around, press the "UNINVERTED" button until it shows "INVERTED"
4. Repeat the instructions of 3. for the "PNO MIV/VID PEDAL".
5. Close the CONFIGURATION window - all settings are saved for the next time you open the patch (If the patch would crash, the settings won't be stored though).



PIANO HERO 2 MAIN USER INTERFACE:

1. Press the Patch Status button until it says "ARMED"
2. Adjust the "RECORD PREGAIN" faders so that the input of the microphones is as high as possible without distorting.
3. Repeat the instructions of 2. for the "PNO/MIC INPUTS" faders
4. Press the "UNRESPONSIVE" button until it says "RESPONSIVE" (from now on keys pressed on the midi-keyboard will be communicated to the patch)



Piano Hero #2

Stefan Prins (2011, rev. 2013, 2016)

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[illegible]

(*) Slowly press down as much keys as possible with both forearms without making any sound; Hold down the arms on the keys for several seconds, then release with a "shock" and continue immediately. (this entire sequence taking 4-7 seconds)

27 (no electronic sound, only sound of hitting the keys)

MIDI

MIDI sus.

Pno.

Pno sus.
Pno vid.

31

33

34

MIDI

MIDI sus.

Pno.

Pno sus.
Pno vid.

36

38

[illegible]

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. The score is arranged in three systems, each with two staves. The first system is labeled "MIDI" and the second system is labeled "Pno." (Piano). The third system is labeled "Pno. sus." (Piano Sustained) and "Pno. vid." (Piano Video). The score is written in 2/4 time and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics. The MIDI part features a bass line with notes and rests, and a piano part with notes and rests. The Pno. part features a piano line with notes and rests, and a piano sustained line with notes and rests. The Pno. sus. part features a piano sustained line with notes and rests. The Pno. vid. part features a piano video line with notes and rests. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics. The MIDI part features a bass line with notes and rests, and a piano part with notes and rests. The Pno. part features a piano line with notes and rests, and a piano sustained line with notes and rests. The Pno. sus. part features a piano sustained line with notes and rests. The Pno. vid. part features a piano video line with notes and rests. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics.

(*) The strings of the F-sharp are prepared (see performance notes)

The musical score is for 'The Wind' by Gustav Mahler, featuring four staves: MIDI, MIDI sus., Pno., and Pno sus. The score is divided into measures 70 through 80. The MIDI part is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The MIDI sus. part is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The Pno. part is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The Pno sus. part is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The score includes various musical notations, including notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The MIDI part has a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 71 and *ff* in measure 80. The MIDI sus. part has a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 71. The Pno. part has a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 71 and *ff* in measure 75. The Pno sus. part has a dynamic marking of *ff* in measure 75. The score also includes performance instructions such as 'with both hands' and 'with 1 hand' for the Pno. part.

81 Play 4 times

2"-5" for each repetition

mf

83 ♩ = 113

fff

85 Play 5 times ♩ = 128

p

87

81

(no sound!)

p

fff

with both hands

81

83

85

87

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Williams is presented in a multi-staff format. The score includes the following parts:

- MIDI:** The top staff, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mf*, *fff*, *ff*, *mp*, and *fff*. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ is shown at the beginning, and a key signature change to F major (F2) is indicated later.
- MIDI sus.:** The second staff, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 64$ and a key signature change to F major (F2). It also includes a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ and a key signature change to F major (F2).
- Pno.:** The third staff, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ and a key signature change to F major (F2).
- Pno sus. Pno vid.:** The bottom staff, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 96$ and a key signature change to F major (F2).

The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 88, 92, and 96 indicated. The key signature changes from one flat to F major (F2) at measure 92. The tempo markings are $\text{♩} = 96$ and $\text{♩} = 64$. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

6
99 *senza tempo* ♩ = 64 *senza tempo* Piano Hero #2 107

MIDI

MIDI sus.

Pno.

Pno sus.

Pno vid.

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Adams is presented in a multi-staff format. The score is divided into three main sections: MIDI, Pno., and Pno. sus. The MIDI section includes a MIDI sus. part and a MIDI part. The Pno. section includes a Pno. part and a Pno. sus. part. The Pno. sus. section includes a Pno. vid. part. The score is marked with a tempo of 64 (♩ = 64) and a time signature of 4/4. The MIDI part features a complex rhythmic pattern with a 3-measure rest and a 3-measure triplet. The Pno. part includes a wavy line indicating a tremolo or sustained note. The Pno. sus. part includes a wavy line indicating a sustained note. The Pno. vid. part includes a wavy line indicating a sustained note. The score is marked with various dynamics including *mf*, *f*, *ff*, and *ff* (stutter). The MIDI part includes a section labeled "(FREEZE-SCREEN MODE)" and a section labeled "(BLACK-SCREEN MODE)". The Pno. part includes a section labeled "(FREEZE-SCREEN MODE)" and a section labeled "(BLACK-SCREEN MODE)". The Pno. sus. part includes a section labeled "(FREEZE-SCREEN MODE)" and a section labeled "(BLACK-SCREEN MODE)". The Pno. vid. part includes a section labeled "(FREEZE-SCREEN MODE)" and a section labeled "(BLACK-SCREEN MODE)".

(*) Always hold the arms as closely over the keyboard as possible after playing the cluster and take the minimum amount of time necessary to go to the next action.

[illegible]

[illegible]

(*) Move as if you're going to play the cluster (m.156), but when you're almost there, move away (without playing the cluster) to play the next events (m.157)

163

166

168

MIDI

MIDI sus.

Pno.

Pno sus.
Pno vid.

Proceed only after video shows a "palm slap" on the strings

Release c# on a "palm slap" in the video

pp *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *p* *sfz*

8^{vb} 8^{vb}

20" - 40"

169

176

MIDI

MIDI sus.

Pno.

Pno sus.
Pno vid.

fff *fff* *sfz* irregular