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## About this Site



This page tells my story in music; and the story of this site.

[How it all began - and continued - Story of this site - CASM Haze Manager - Styles - midi2style - Other software](#)

### Introduction to this site - and me

This site was created at October 22 1999 as "The Unofficial YAMAHA PSR 740 Home Page". To reflect the contents development it was renamed at April 22 2001 to "The Unofficial YAMAHA PSR Resource Site"; and once again at December 5 2005 to "The Unofficial YAMAHA Keyboard Resource Site".



Besides founding this web site, I began programming software and creating styles in 1999. And this is what it has developed to. Enjoy!

You can mail me from the link in the top right corner of the page.

### ↑ How it all began

I started playing keyboard in an age of 35 in 1984. My first keyboard was not a keyboard, but a home organ: a Yamaha B 55N. I had this "heavy" instrument for three years and learned what is up and down in music.



### ↑ - and continued

And then I bought a brand new Yamaha PSR 6300 in 1987 (price app. \$2,500 in 1987). This was a lot more exciting. The voices (32 ordinary and 32 solo voices) were much better and the styles (32 with one variation!) were much better.

In 1991 I got a pc with a MIDI connection. But I had a lot of work (and trouble) with this as the keyboard was \*not\* General MIDI. At that time I learned the MIDI specification.



To spice up the sound and facilities of the PSR 6300 I added EMR-1 (Digital Drummer)

an EMT-1; an EME-1; an EMQ-1; an EMR-1 and a FB 01 - and a zillion of MIDI cables! A problematic setup as some/all elements was not General MIDI.  
Well - gave me some MIDI experience.

EMT-1 (Sound Expander)



EME-1 (Digital Reverb)



EMQ-1 (Disc Recorder)



FB 01 (Sound Module)



Later on I got a PSR 620. A very nice keyboard too.

During the spring of 1999 I was thinking about buying a new keyboard. This thinking activity was forced by the fact that I was going to be 50 years later that year. My family and my friends kept asking me for what I wished for my birthday present. I told them that I really, really wanted a new keyboard. And what happened at my birthday: I got a tiny little children's keyboard - and some money to buy a real one. Great.

In the meantime I began searching the internet for information. And I found out that Yamaha was going to market new models later that year. After my research I decided to wait until I had seen and heard the new Yamaha before deciding what to buy. There were not many information sources at that time; the internet has really grown rapidly since then.



At September 22 1999 I finally got my PSR 740.

It was definitely the first available in Aarhus (the second biggest city in Denmark) and as far as know one of the first sold worldwide too. And now the interest exploded. How were the voices? Better or similar to PSR 8000? (top model that year). What about the new 4 variation styles? (PSR 740 was the first Yamaha model having this). Can the new styles be played at older models? Can 740 play the "old" 2 variation styles? etc.

At that time the only place for discussions was Chris Hansen's now closed board. But this was going to change soon. (Read the "Story of this site" section below).

While developing new software in 2005 to mid 2006 I had a Tyros 1 keyboard at my disposal.



Later on I got my current keyboard: PSR 3000.



And what is going on right now? Check the **What's Up ?** page.

### ↑ **Story of this site**

At October 22 1999 I founded this site as "The Unofficial YAMAHA PSR 740 Home Page".

The site was just a tiny little one in the beginning. Just a picture, specifications and features from the promotion material, style and voice list, a few articles and links to the very few PSR sites available at that time.

Mostly it was the information I had collected in my research phase before buying the PSR 740. I had filed all of it, and why not make it public?

"Rome was not built in one day" (Danish saying). And this site was not build in one day either. Since the beginning this site has continuously been updated with Yamaha keyboard related stuff. And now a lot of people tell me that this site is *\*the\** keyboard resource site worldwide. Thanks.

At the **very same day** I got a mail from Bob Gelman with this subject line: "Synchronicity of Brains on Different Parts of Earth is discovered".

I've just received your e-mail on your new site. As you will shortly discover, I have just sent you an e-mail inviting you to join MY NEW SITE which I created at the same time that you created yours! This is a pretty amazing coincidence, don't you think!!!

I think we'll have lots of fun in the future with these new sites.

Bob had founded the two very successful discussion groups: "yamaha-psr-songs" and "yamaha-psr-styles" at eGroups (now Yahoo groups) at the very same day as this site was founded.

Bob was right when saying: "We'll have lots of fun in the future". This has been and still is fun.

NOTE: The PSR 740 stuff has now been moved to the **PSR 740 Corner**.

### ↑ **CASM Haze Manager**

In November 1999 I began experimenting with style creation and modification.

I soon found out that style files were MIDI files with some extra non-MIDI data added in an extra data chunk. The identifier of this extra data chunk was "CASM".

Soon I realized that setting the "Ctabs" (= the CASM data chunk in the style file) at the keyboard was very time consuming.

The only style software at that time was Style Works from EMC and Julijan Zavernik's MSC designed for PSR 7000 (and therefore not able to handle the "new" styles).

I knew almost nothing about programming; but I knew I had to get the CASM data format. Yamaha never answered my questions about this. Nor did Klaus at EMC or Julijan.

Then byte by byte I reverse engineered the CASM format.

Afterwards I created an html file and a JavaScript for creating the CASM data after having learned JavaScript first! I soon found some limits in JavaScript, among others that JavaScript can not write to nor read from files.

At last I could create the CASM data into a text area at an html page using a lot of select boxes and a huge JavaScript. Then copy this and add it to a MIDI file using a hex editor. The first version was ready at December 23rd 1999.

In the meantime Jim McGoldrick wrote an ActiveX "save-to-file" control for me. Now I could create the CASM data and append it directly to the MIDI file. At January 3rd 2000 I published the first version.

Later on I created an installation program which handles some security problems. In September 2002 the program was replaced by better programs (read section "Other Software" below).

### ↑ **Styles**

In the autumn of 2001 I began style programming. My plan was to program 5 new styles from scratch per month. I did this for some months, and you can download the results **here**.

Besides the original styles, I have done a lot of MIDI to Style conversions using my midi2style software (read below). Some of these styles are **here**.

### ↑ **midi2style**

In January 2002 I started learning a real programming language: Java. This was very challenging for me, and I soon decided to try to program a "MIDI file to style file"-converter.

To each new version I have got an enormous response. Thanks a lot. Most positive and often with a question: Why can't I ... ? What about ... ?

In mid April the first conversion was made with a very simple user interface. But the important thing was: The methods in the program worked fine.

I have tried to fulfil the wishes from the users. And after each new version I have thought: "Now the program is finished"; but nevertheless new wishes keep coming up... Maybe a version 5 will come...

Then I added the user interface, a player and some other features and involved my beta testers in the project in the beginning of May 2002. They helped me a lot by pointing out features and documentation to improve.

The **midi2style page**.

### ↑ **Other software**

My programming work was continued, and soon more software programs were created. Now I have written more than 25 software programs using Java and .Net programming languages.

• Take a look at my other software programs **here**.

#### **Tyros 4 - Updated Software Programs**

31 of my 32 free software programs have been updated to Tyros 4.

The latest update include: **OTS Editor**.

Now one software program still need updating: **CASM Editor**. However the Voice List has been updated making it possible to handle converted Tyros4 styles.

Get all the recent news at **Site News**

#### **A wealth of wisdom**

One of the most appreciated Yamaha keyboard internet sites is **PSR Tutorial** run by Joe Waters. Besides a lot of styles, songs and links to software and books; Joe has written an enormous Lessons section.

The lessons cover most subjects; and whether you have a PSR-2000 or have just purchased the latest Tyros 4 keyboard, you can use the lessons provided to help you master the features available in your keyboard.

The link to **PSR Tutorial Lessons** is permanently stored at the **Resources** page.

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**The Unofficial YAMAHA Keyboard Resource Site**

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