

## **Band-in-a-Box® 2020 for Mac® is here!**

Using Catalina? Band-in-a-Box® 2020 for Mac is 64-bit and fully compatible with macOS Catalina!

It works with the latest plugins and 64-bit OS features and is also legacy compatible back to Snow Leopard 10.6.8.

We've been busy and added **50 new features** and an amazing collection of new content, including 202 RealTracks (double the 101 that we've often released in the past), new RealStyles, MIDI SuperTracks, Instrumental Studies, RealDrums transcriptions, Xtra Styles PAK 8, and more!

We have a 2020 49-PAK with 40 RealTracks in addition to the 202 new RealTracks, so in total an amazing 242 new RealTracks are available! The 2020 49-PAK also include 5 new Instrumental Studies Sets with 3 sets featuring world-class country guitar licks, and two sets focusing on soloing studies for rhythm changes and jazz blues. There are also 15 new MIDI SuperTracks, 280 new RealCharts for RealDrums (transcriptions), and new "Look Ma! More MIDI!" Sets 3 and 4 with 30 new MIDI styles!

In addition, there are over 250 new RealStyles that use the new RealTracks. These include great Americana, Gospel Vocals, new Blues, Country Pollwinners, Bossa Flute/Horn sections, Jazz Blues and Rhythm Changes, British and Hazy 60s guitars, Modern Funk, Island Grooves with steel drum and marimba, Singer-Songwriter, and more! Plus, we've made a new Xtra Styles PAK 8 with 164 Xtra styles. (Xtra styles are styles based on previously released RealTracks.)

### **Band-in-a-Box® 2020 Features and Additions**

There are over 50 new features in Band-in-a-Box® 2020! There are enhancements to RealTracks (Smoother Sounding Vocal RealTracks, RealTracks Thickening, "Find-a-Sub" RealTracks, and MultiRiffs). Most RealDrums now have RealCharts (with accurate Drum Notation). There's a new RealTracks Artist Browser to find info/bios/links/lists of RealTracks on all the artists. A new Feature Browser allows the new or "forgetful" user to easily find and use most features/hotkeys/docs from a single window. Equalize Tempo allows changing a recorded rubato song to a fixed tempo. Enhanced audio time/pitch stretching (Élastique) included. There are SongPicker enhancements, Bass/Drums or Drums only Auto-Intros, 3,400 titles added, MusicXML enhancements, "Left-Handed" and "Student View" guitar, Drag and Drop enhancements, Audio Chord Wizard Multi-Window Display, and more!

### **Band-in-a-Box® 2020 DAW Plugin**

There are over 40 enhancements to the Band-in-a-Box® DAW Plugin, including Audio Harmonies (apply to any DAW audio track, 1-4 voices, using intelligent BIAB harmonies with passing tones). New features allow Customizing Tracks, Bar and Song settings. RealTracks and RealDrums sound improvements (gap filling, thickening), enhancements or reading/writing more data types to/from BIAB song files and much more!

More details...

### **Additional New Content for Band-in-a-Box® 2020!**

Along with Band-in-a-Box® 2020, we've released 202 new RealTracks, 15 new MIDI SuperTracks, 170 new Instrumental Studies, 30 new MIDI Styles, 280 RealDrums Transcriptions, the 2020 Free Bonus PAK and 49-PAK, and new Xtra Styles PAK 8 & Loops-with-Style PAK 1!

## 202 NEW RealTracks in Sets 329-352!

69 Jazz, Blues, Funk & Latin RealTracks (Sets 329-336): The Jazz, Blues, Funk & Latin collection this year features a vast assortment of new RealTracks. We've added more amazing funk and fusion styles from legendary favorites Alex Acuna, Jeff Lorber, "Sput" Searight, and more (33). We have "RealTracks firsts" such as marimba and steel drum, playing over Latin "island" grooves (3). We've added a smokin' rhythm section of jazz & Latin drummer Wes Little and bassist Brian Allen playing over these and other Latin grooves such as Soca & Merengue (13). On the blues front, we've added blues from long-time RealTracks artist Sol Philcox (3), among others. And, a special treat for jazz students, or any musician who wants to improve their jazz chops, we have two special sets of RealTracks which were specifically designed to work great over "rhythm changes" and jazz blues, respectively (16). These sets feature superb musicians such of PJ Perry on sax, Oliver Gannon on guitar, Neil Swainson on bass, and Miles Black on piano. And, we also have sophisticated new bossa horn section styles (8) with options for a simple, elegant trio, or a melodic "lounge" horn section style.

66 Pop, Rock and World RealTracks (Sets 337-344): We have some amazing new pop, rock, and world styles with Band-in-a-Box® 2020. Our users have been requesting "Classic" rock guitar styles, both soloing and rhythm, and we've provided with three distinct sets, including blues-infused classic rock (8), "hazy" 60s hard rock (6), and psychedelic 70s & 80s guitar styles (9). Our "cinematic" guitar styles from last year were so popular, we've added a new set, this time a "cinematic metal" set (4) with both rhythm styles and a soloist. We've also added to our collection of vocal RealTracks with exciting gospel vocals (7). With these vocals, we have a 6-voice choir, with an improvised gospel part singing over the whole thing! That set also includes new RealDrums and piano RealTracks to go along with the choir. Our users have been requesting ska styles, and we've provided! We now have a set of ska styles (10) with drums, percussion, bass & electric playing over a variety of ska tempos and feels. For the singer-songwriters out there, we have a singer-songwriter set with lots of contemplative acoustic guitar and mellow banjo from Quinn Bachand (10) as well as mandola, 5-string fiddle and drums (3). And, we have some down-and-dirty blues-inspired baritone guitar from RealTracks favorite Brent Mason (8).

67 Country, Americana & Celtic RealTracks (Sets 345-352): The Country, Americana, and Celtic collection this year has added a beautiful variety of RealTracks. We have two sets of "Country Pollwinner" RealTracks, featuring musicians who have been awarded some of the most prestigious awards in the industry, such as the Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards. This includes RealTracks from guitarists Danny Rader (2) and Brent Mason (4) who have both won the CMA guitarist of the year, drummers Miles McPherson (1) and Fred Eltrington (3) who have won CMA drummers of the year, as well as renown bassists Steve Mackey (3) and Jimmy Carter (1) who are some of the busiest first-call bassists in Nashville! And we have new Country soloist RealTracks from Nashville greats (2). On the Celtic side of things, we have a RealTracks first: Jaw harp! (3) These styles provide a colorful addition to our previous Celtic styles, and also work equally well with Bluegrass and folk styles! Played by Canadian Celtic master guitarist Quinn Bachand, we also have some excellent new guitar and bodhran styles from him (12) which include 12-string guitars and nylon guitars. And we have several sets of "Old Time" Americana RealTracks, with mandolin, fiddle, and another RealTracks first: Banjo Guitar, or "Ganjo". This instrument is built like a banjo, but has 6 strings and is tuned like a guitar, and it also has a softer, more mellow tone, which gives you great versatility in Band-in-a-Box®! These "Old Time" styles were created with Nashville fiddle/banjo/mandolin great Andy Leftwich (22), Quinn Bachand on guitar (4), and Neil Swainson on bass (4).

## **Xtra Styles PAK 8**

Xtra Styles PAK 8 is here! We've added 164 fantastic new RealStyles in Xtra Styles PAK 8! These are imaginative new combinations of our existing RealTracks library that fall into four categories: Rock/Pop 8, Jazz 8, Country 8, and Celtic 1.

These inventive new styles include fretless-bass indie rock, stormy electric-piano blues, an outer-space rock waltz, Hawaiian crooner jazz pop, a rumba flamenca big band, several simplified jazz practice styles, a bowed-bass 12/8 jazz ballad, dreamy fingerstyle-guitar country, an atmospheric pedal-steel soundtrack, chicken pickin' western, Irish folk rock, a romantic Celtic air ballad, many new Celtic jigs and reels, and much much more! We've also included two new MultiStyles that use up to eight substyles each. Give these new styles a listen and I'm sure you'll agree that they belong in your collection! Learn more...

## **Loops-with-Style PAK 1**

Loops-with-Style PAK 1 gives you the chance to expand your loops collection with 100 new loops! We took RealDrums and RealTracks source audio and remixed, remastered, and combined it to create these original loops. We have all of your favorite genres covered, like jazz, funk, rock, pop, electronic, hip-hop, and more! To show them in action, we created 50 new RealStyles that each include two of the loops. And, if you use the loops in Band-in-a-Box®, we've included intelligent versions of the loops that automatically switch at A and B part markers. Each loop has a matching sister loop that works perfectly for another substyle! Learn more...

## **40 Unreleased RealTracks (Included in the 2020 49-PAK)**

There are 40 amazing bonus RealTracks available with our 2020 49-PAK! This includes more great "OldTime" mandolin, banjo-guitar, and fiddle from Nashville great Andy Leftwich (8). There are more baritone and standard guitar styles from Brent Mason (4). We have, for the first time in Band-in-a-Box®, "jaw harp" styles (5), great for use with existing Celtic and Bluegrass styles, with options for playing just the root or 5th of the key throughout an entire song (which is what a jaw harp would typically do), or options that actually follow the progression. There are "Classic Rock" acoustic guitarstyles (2) as well as more Celtic and Folk styles (7) from favorite Quinn Bachand. We also have some great bass and drum styles from "pollwinner" artists such as drummer Miles McPherson (5), drummer Fred Eltringham (7), and bassist Steve Mackey (2). Learn more...

## **MIDI SuperTracks Set 30: Jazz, Funk, and Gospel Keyboards (Included in the 2020 49-PAK)**

MIDI SuperTracks Set 30 adds 9 new keyboard MIDI SuperTracks to our collection. The set focuses on Jazz, Funk & Gospel, and includes both rhythm "comping" styles as well as soloists. Included are styles that were specifically designed for use with jazz blues and "rhythm changes" progressions, with both comping and soloist options for those. There is a "cool swing16" gospel piano style, with great bluesy gospel licks. There are rhythm funk styles, playing a variety of funk grooves and tempos, as well as a soloist that was intended to be used with an analogue synth sound. But of course, as with all of these MIDI Supertracks, you can pick whatever instrument patch you like, since it's all MIDI! Learn more...

## **MIDI SuperTracks Set 31: All Bass (Included in the 2020 Free Bonus PAK)**

Our Pop Bass MIDI Supertracks set last year was so popular we added more basses to the MIDI Supertracks library! The set features new Americana & pop country basses, along with new funk styles and a cool fast ska style. And, there are also Band-in-a-Box® styles and demos to go along with these MIDI Supertracks, and you can pick whatever bass patch you like, acoustic, electric, or even synth bass sounds! Learn more...

### **Instrumental Studies 9: Western Swing Guitar Licks (Included in the 2020 Free Bonus PAK)**

This new set of Instrumental Studies features 50 licks, each looping multiple times for you to play along and learn with! Not only do you get the chance to learn these licks from a master, you'll get to see how they would work over a variety of chord changes, as each time it loops, the backing tracks play variations on the progression. And, you can view these licks in notation, TAB, and on the on-screen guitar fretboard, so there are lots of ways to learn! You can slow them down to learn them, and gradually bring the tempo up until you've got them down! Learn more...

### **Instrumental Studies 10: Train-Beat Guitar Licks (Included in the 2020 49-PAK)**

Get ready for more amazing Country Train Beat licks with Instrumental Studies 10! This set features 50 licks that are presented in a way that is great for learning! The idea is that each of these 50 licks is presented in a separate Band-in-a-Box® file, with the same lick repeated over a variety of chord changes. This gives you great insight into different ways these licks can be used. You can slow them down to learn, and speed them up as you get better at them! And, you can view these licks in notation, TAB, and on the on-screen guitar fretboard, so there are lots of ways to learn! Learn more...

### **Instrumental Studies 11: Workin' Guitar Licks (Included in the 2020 49-PAK)**

This set features 50 individual files, each examining a different lick, repeating it over a variety of chord changes, so the student can practice along with the licks looping, and they'll also get a sense of the various ways these loops could be used in a real musical situation. You can slow them down to learn, and speed them up as you get better at them! And, you can view these licks in notation, TAB, and on the on-screen guitar fretboard, so there are lots of ways to learn! Learn more...

### **Instrumental Studies 12: Rhythm Changes Guitar Soloing (Included in the 2020 Free Bonus PAK)**

For anyone learning to play jazz, "rhythm changes" is the most essential progression to get under your fingers. This set features Jazz soloing in the keys of Bb, C, Eb, F, and Ab with multi-chorus guitar solos. Since Bb is the most common key for rhythm changes, that key has the most number of choruses. Slow them down, loop bars to learn specific loops, and gradually speed them up as you improve! And, you can view these licks in notation, TAB, and on the on-screen guitar fretboard, so there are lots of ways to learn! Learn more...

### **Instrumental Studies 13: Jazz Blues Guitar Soloing (Included in the 2020 49-PAK)**

For any jazz musician, being able to play the blues is an essential skill. This Instrumental Studies set features Jazz Blues soloing in the keys of Bb, C, Eb, F, and G. There are 5 multi-chorus guitar solos, with notation and tab allowing you to follow along. You can slow these down to really get them down, loop bars to learn specific loops, and gradually speed them up as you improve! Learn more...

### **30 MIDI Styles - "Look Ma! More MIDI 3!" (Included in the 2020 Free Bonus PAK)**

We haven't forgot about all of you MIDI enthusiasts out there! We're back at it again with "Look Ma! More MIDI 3." This collection of all-MIDI styles fuses together traditional MIDI parts with MIDI SuperTracks, and includes Latin grooves, jazz fusion, blues, smooth jazz, R&B, and Gypsy jazz. An essential collection for anyone who loves MIDI! Learn more...

### **30 MIDI Styles - "Look Ma! More MIDI 4!" (Included in the 2020 49-PAK)**

An assortment of old and new folk, rock, country, and rockabilly awaits you in this amazing pack of MIDI styles. "Look Ma! More MIDI 4" fuses MIDI SuperTracks with classic MIDI parts to bring you new and original arrangements. Whether you're looking for half-time reggae, Celtic jigs, or bent-note country, this collection of MIDI styles is an absolute must-have! Learn more...

## **280 RealCharts for RealDrums (301 Total) (Included in the 2020 Free Bonus PAK)**

280 more RealDrums now have drum notation, which can be viewed by filtering "RealDrums with RealCharts" in the RealDrums Picker. Learn more...

### **We've added over 50 new features to Band-in-a-Box® 2020, including...**

#### **Feature Browser**

Clicking on the new [?] button at the top of the screen or pressing the / Enter keys on the Chord Sheet opens the Feature Browser. This dialog lists many features in Band-in-a-Box® and allows you to browse them, find the feature by text filter, read descriptions about the feature, find how to launch the feature, access to the online information or video about the feature, and do more. This dialog helps in the following situations.

You know about a feature but don't know how to find it. Just type a part of the feature name and you'll see the hotkeys, menu, and toolbar info on how to launch it. For example, if you want to launch the Chord Builder but don't know how to do it, type "builder" in the text filter, and you will quickly find the Chord Builder.

You are exploring available features for Band-in-a-Box®. For example, if you are a guitar player, type the word "guitar" and you'll see what's available.

You prefer "one-stop-shopping" and would like to launch features from the same dialog.

You are learning the program and like to browse or watch videos about topics you're interested in.

You can't remember hotkeys and want to review them.

#### **"Find-a-Sub" RealTracks**

Musicians with bands are familiar with the need to "find a sub" when you're looking for a replacement. In Band-in-a-Box®, "Find-a-Sub" means to find a different RealTracks that is the most similar in sound (genre, feel, tempo, and time signature). This helps to "freshen up" or vary the sound of an arrangement and allows you to explore different sounds for the band.

#### **MultiRiffs**

MultiRiffs is a popular feature that has been available in the Band-in-a-Box® DAW Plugin. Now it is available in Band-in-a-Box®. It allows you to quickly generate 7 variations of riffs from the same RealTracks for either a portion of the song or the whole song.

#### **RealTracks Thickening and Panning**

When you select multiple RealTracks on the same track and have them play simultaneously, the followings are possible.

The RealTracks can be the same but will play differently on each sub-track.

You can set the stereo panning (-64 to +64) for each sub-track.

Panning added for Multiple RealTracks on a Track (Medley) for Songs, Styles and RealTracks

Some demo songs, styles, and RealTracks have multiple RealTracks on the same track with panning in each sub-track.

#### **Left-Handed and Student View Guitar Window**

The Guitar window has been remade and now supports the left-handed (in addition to right-handed) guitar and student view. The student view is the view a student (or YouTube video watcher) would have of the (right-handed) guitar facing him with the head at the right and low notes at the top.

There's also a left-handed student view, so all 4 possible views are supported.

### **Equalize Audio Tempo**

If you have an audio file that wasn't recorded at a fixed tempo, you can change so that the tempos in the audio are all at the same. We call this an "equalization" of the tempos.

### **Built-in Audio Chord Wizard Enhancements**

The built-in Audio Chord Wizard is now accessible from the [Audio Chord Wizard] button.

The Audio Edit window now displays chords and tempos for each bar. They are shown when the Audio Chord Wizard mode is active so that you can see the tempo for each bar as you set the bar lines.

When you start entering bar lines, the program automatically sets the tempo to the tempo of the first bar.

Once the tempo of the first bar is set, the program automatically moves the location of the first bar of audio over so that the visual space of the count-in bars is visible.

After you've added the bar lines, IF you adjust the first or second bar and the tempo of the first bar changes accordingly, the program automatically changes the tempo of the song to match.

### **Multi-window display.**

This gives the Audio Chord Wizard a multi-window view so that you can see and edit both the Audio Edit window and the Chords Sheet at the same time. This display is best viewed with a small toolbar mode. This allows you to see the chords as they are being interpreted by the wizard.

The Audio Chord Wizard can send the transcribed MIDI notes to the Soloist track for further analysis by the user (via Piano Roll or Notation window). Note that this is a "snapshot" view every 8th note of the pitches present, not an attempt at polyphonic transcription. To use this feature, enable the "MIDI to Soloist" check box.

### **Selectable Render Bit Depth and Sample Rate**

The Render to Audio File dialog now has settings for bit depth (16, 24, 32 bit) and sample rate (44.1, 48, 96 kHz).

The settings are also accessible from the Drop Station via dragging and dropping to the [+] button.

### **Drag and Drop from Mixer**

You can now drag track labels from the Mixer and drop them to the Drop Station to render audio or MIDI files.

### **Drag & Drop Files to Band-in-a-Box**

You can drop many file types onto the Band-in-a-Box® screen and they will be loaded into the program, either as a new file or added to the current song. File types include Band-in-a-Box® songs (.SGU/.MGU), MIDI (.MID), and audio (.WAV/.M4A/.MP3). Simply drag the file and drop it anywhere on the Band-in-a-Box® screen, including various windows.

### **SongPicker Enhancements**

The SongPicker now builds faster for large song lists (>30K and up to 60,000 songs). The [Song] button (or the [Open] button) now has 3 additional menu items to launch the SongPicker.

Open SongPicker in Current Folder: This opens the SongPicker in the current folder of the last loaded song.

Open SongPicker in Home Folder: This opens the SongPicker in the home folder, which is Applications/Band-in-a-Box/MySongs or as set in the SongPicker.

In the SongPicker, there is a new "Open in Home" option. If this is enabled, the SongPicker will always open in the home folder instead of the current folder when you press the default [Song] button to open the SongPicker.

Searching for songs matching a chord progression or melody has been enhanced. There are three new checkboxes: "Key must match exactly," "Chord Extension must match exactly", and "Time Signature must match."

### **Bass/Drums or Drums only Auto-Intros**

When you automatically generate an intro for a song, you can now specify if you want the "whole band" or "drums only" or "bass and drums only" to play.

### **Customized track settings don't interfere with style settings.**

If you have customized track settings of a song (e.g. by overriding the settings in a style and putting a different RealTracks), the program will now ignore the settings in the style that might affect the sound (such as custom panning, reverb, double-time, etc.). Tracks that have been customized are indicated by an '=' in the track name.

### **Select "Best" RealTracks Dialog Enhancements**

The dialog can now change its list based on the type without leaving the dialog.

### **RealTracks "subs" filter is available.**

Three filters have been added for Instrument, Instrument Family, and Custom Instrument Range. (These are present in all RealTracks selection dialogs.)

There is a new [Artist Bio] button. Pressing this button will open the Artist Browser, which shows more info for RealTracks artists.

### **Drums Quicklist Dialog Enhancements**

The dialog is now resizable. You can change the size by dragging the dialog border.

An [Artist Bio] button has been added. Pressing this button will open the Artist Browser, which shows more info for RealDrums artists.

### **Artist Browser**

Clicking on the artist bio in the RealTracks/RealDrums Picker or the [Artist Bio] button in other RealTracks/RealDrums selection dialogs will open the new Artist Browser dialog.

It lists all artists and the instruments they play.

It shows the total number of artists.

You can read the biography of the artist.

A text filter if available.

The [More Info] button will launch the PG Music web page.

The [OK - Show Artist RealTracks] button will go back to the RealTracks/RealDrums selection dialog and list all the RealTracks/RealDrums that the selected artist plays.

### **Auto-updating for new content at bootup**

When new contents (styles, RealTracks, or RealDrums) have been added to your Band-in-a-Box®, it will detect this at bootup and display a message. If you respond YES, the StylePicker will open and rebuild the list of the styles, RealTracks, and RealDrums.

### **Enhanced Audio Stretching**

The latest version 3.3.0 of Élastique from zplane.de is included.

Song Titles Browser has 3,400 more titles

We've added 3,400 more song titles including requests from users, so there are now 14,000 titles.

### **Auto-set key signature option and reminder**

New songs start out in the key of C. If you have typed chords in Ab, for example, but forget to set the key signature when you try to save the song, a green message will appear on the bottom right of the screen, offering to correct the key signature to Ab. If you click on it, the key signature will be set. This feature is also available with the key signature button on the toolbar.

### **Notation Enhancements**

The "N" mode (keystroke notation entry) now has "R" to insert a rest.

The Section Text and Bar Lyrics layer display on the Lead Sheet and printout when the Fake Sheet mode is on.

### **MusicXML Enhancements**

Additional file types are supported, such as .mxl (a compressed format) and .musicxml, in addition to the existing .xml support.

When you load a MusicXML file, if the source track is drums, the track type of the destination track (Melody or Soloist) will be automatically set to Drums.

### **Improved note overlap removal, with option to specify channel match**

This feature is accessed from main menu Melody | Edit Melody Track | Quantize, Time Adjust | Eliminate Note Overlap. In the dialog that appears, you'll see a new option to treat each channel as a separate track for purposes of eliminating note overlap. So, for example, a MIDI guitar file with 6 different channels will have note overlapped on a string by string basis.

...and more!