

# The Yamaha Club

MAGAZINE

Martin Harris



## TYROS2

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2005



### Introducing Tyros2

Six page guide to Yamaha's new star... (pages 6-11)

Happy Anniversary

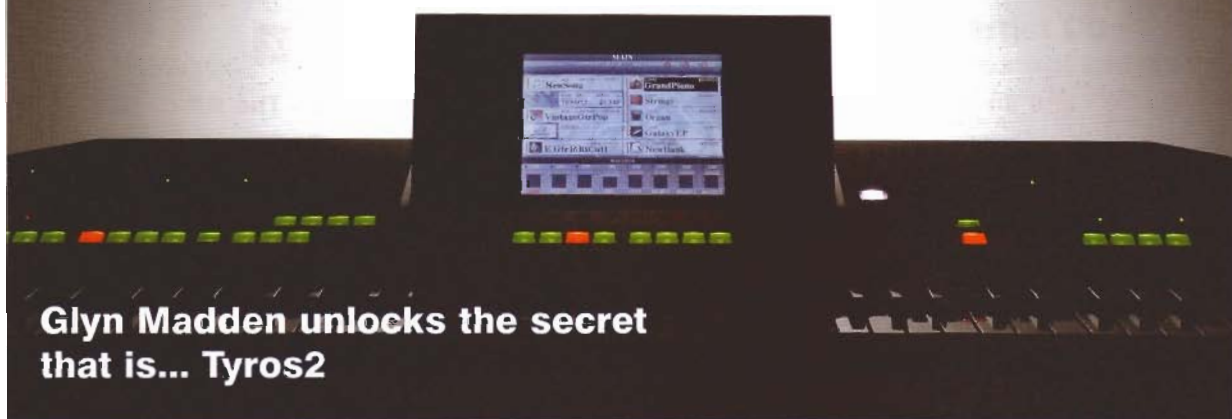
10 Years

### Radio Show CD

Hear Tyros2 on our Radio Show - Free with this issue (page 5)

Introducing...

# TYROS2



Glyn Madden unlocks the secret that is... Tyros2

**The task, albeit a pleasant one, of introducing an instrument that has been the subject of so much speculation is not easy. It's difficult to decide where to begin because everyone knows the original Tyros so well and each has his or her own expectations of the newcomer...**

I can only write as a dyed-in-the-wool Yamaha player - and I should point out straight away that this is by no means an unbiased review of Tyros2. I stand with the rest of you as... a FAN!

### First impressions...

When the first pictures were posted on the Internet some months ago I was a little surprised that Tyros2 appeared to be so similar to the original model. Like most who viewed the images I wasn't really sure whether this was just a mock up 'working model' or whether it would indeed be the final look.

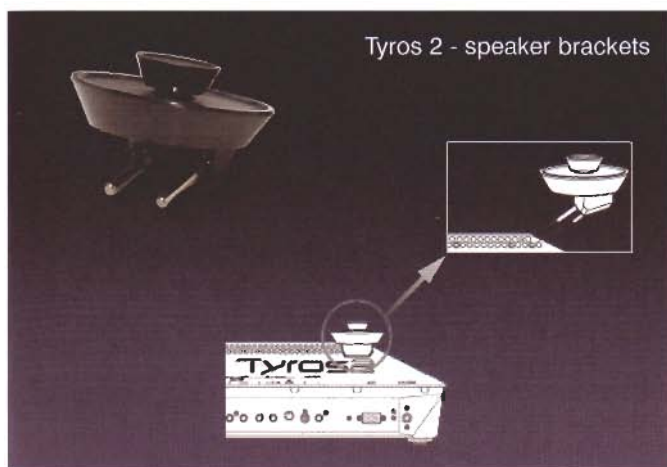
I needn't have worried - although I do think the similar layout will offer some the opportunity to dismiss Tyros2 as "just an upgrade". I'm sure that this phase will soon pass though - because you only have to sit at the new model to realise that Yamaha have gone upmarket with this one. The appearance is sleeker than Tyros and the overall weight of the keyboard is a little heavier - possibly due to the quality of the actual key-bed itself which feels so much more positive. One criticism levelled at Tyros was that the keyboard action was inferior to that of the earlier 9000pro. Well, this one is excellent with the feel of a Motif professional synth or, indeed a 9000Pro. Yamaha didn't go for the 6-octave



version though. It seems that, although popular with the professionals, not enough of the public felt it was important.

Existing Tyros owners will feel immediately comfortable with the layout - as will anyone coming from any recent Yamaha keyboard or CVP Clavinova - because the operating system is (with a few refinements) essentially the same. The screen is a little 'tidier' than before - the floppy disk port has gone, to be replaced by a sensibly front mounted 'USB to Device' port. The only new panel buttons I noticed immediately however were the controls for the Hard Disk Recorder - but more of this later.

Tyros owners will be pleased to learn that the designers have taken note of the criticisms levelled at the original speakers and music-desk mountings - and that no such problems should beset Tyros2 owners. If the new system continues to work as well as appears on first inspection all will be well, as the speakers and music desk simply 'plug in' to the rear of the keyboard.



### Voices and styles...

To play Tyros2 is to fall in love with the instrument. Okay - so I was already sold, having enjoyed playing Tyros (1) more than any previous keyboard but really, Tyros2 is something else! I remember Yamaha saying that the PSR8000 was "Awesome" when they introduced it back in 1997. Well "awesome" obviously isn't the word to describe Tyros2 - because I have simply never heard anything like it before! I've completely run out of descriptive terms - so you'll have to listen to the CD (or, better still, to the instrument 'live' at your local Yamaha dealer's store). For now I'll just tell you what appealed to me the most...

Amongst the panel voices you'll find the familiar Sweet! Voices ; Cool! Voices ; Live! Voices ; Live! Drums ; MegaVoices ; Organ Flutes and a brand new category - Super Articulation! Voices. There are some great new sounds - such as the spine tingling Silver and Golden Trumpet sounds that have been added to the Sweet! Voice selection... and many more besides.

MegaVoices have, until now, been exclusively the domain of the guitar department - but within Tyros2 we see the first MegaVoice String and Brass sounds, and boy!, do they add an extra 'something' to the styles.

The most exciting development is the introduction of Super Articulation! voicing. These voices provide the benefits of MegaVoice technology, but they are designed to be used in

live performance - rather than, as at present, only in the programmed accompaniment. They allow you, the player to bring out the natural characteristics of each instrument - for example, the guitar fret noises and the breath in the sax you hear on our Radio Show CD (Volume 3). You may find that, to play these natural sounds effectively in performance, you'll need to use the pitch bend wheel or a foot-switch.

In our last Radio Show CD (Volume 2) Ryan Edwards explained how you can use the on-board voice demos to get the feel of how a sound should be played. Now Yamaha have gone a stage further - adding an 'Information' window that gives instructions on how to best play each voice.



Given the vast quantity of sounds now included in all top-of-the-range instruments, any guidelines to help us distinguish the qualities of one from another must surely be welcome.

The 42 Super Articulation voices are astonishingly realistic, and will sound even better as you learn to control all the subtleties of the sound. You'll find that extra 'musicality' is often added to a performance automatically - with no practice necessary - as in the case of the sax's fluid legato phrasing when playing a smooth passage. Other voices may include effects best used carefully (and sparingly), as demonstrated by the breath or fret noises - which are achieved by pressing the foot-switch between phrases. I can see that these could easily be worked to death - and become really, really irritating. Used well, however, they will add a thick layer of 'icing' to the 'cake' of instrumental realism that Yamaha have achieved with Tyros2.

Some Super Articulation voices may take a little time and practice to master and I'm glad of this, because it confirms my view of the electronic keyboard as a valid *musical instrument* - requiring a level of skill to play - rather than as a toy for the musically idle. All too often 'real' musicians and teachers dismiss electronic keyboards because they see the player's reliance on automatic style features as a dumbing down of the 'art' of performance. I can understand where they're coming from, but would argue that an instrument such as Tyros2 can, and should, be used at many levels. Super Articulation provides a good illustration of how, by working on your technique, you can raise your performance to a new level as some of the voices - such as 'tremolo bowing' on the strings and 'falls' and 'shakes' on brass voices - respond directly to touch .

Tyros2 is a huge step forward and no amount of words I write here can hope to do it justice. You just have to try it!





**Connect via USB to...**

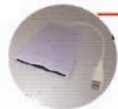
USB Memory Stick



USB Card Reader



USB Floppy Disk Drive



USB Fan



USB Light



USB Christmas Tree

*Now we're getting silly!*



**Data storage...**

It looks as though the Smart Media card slot has now been given the old heave-ho - after a fairly short life-span - to be replaced by a much more sensible arrangement. Tyros2 has two [USB TO DEVICE] terminals, one on the front (as illustrated) and another on the rear panel. USB storage devices, such as a floppy disk drive, hard disk drive, CD-ROM drive, flash memory reader/writer, etc., can be connected to the [USB TO DEVICE] terminal.

This means, of course, that you can choose the storage medium best suited to your needs - and, because a USB terminal (unlike a floppy disk or Smart Media slot) can also be used to power low voltage accessories, you can plug in a range of these - such as those listed on the left.

**Internet Direct**



You can also use the [USB TO DEVICE] terminal to connect a USB-type LAN adaptor to access special Yamaha Internet websites as Tyros2 now supports the Internet Direct Connection



**Just for fun...**

When people see the small flat area on the right-hand side of Tyros 1's panel we always hear the joke about "somewhere to keep your pint" or "cup of tea" - and, believe me, it's always funny. Honest!



It's a pity therefore that this panel is now too small to hold a mug because we've found the perfect USB powered add-on... the USB Cup Warmer. Apparently it costs just £12.95, keeps your beverage at "the optimum operating temperature" - whatever that means - and has the added bonus of being a four-port USB hub. I kid you not!!

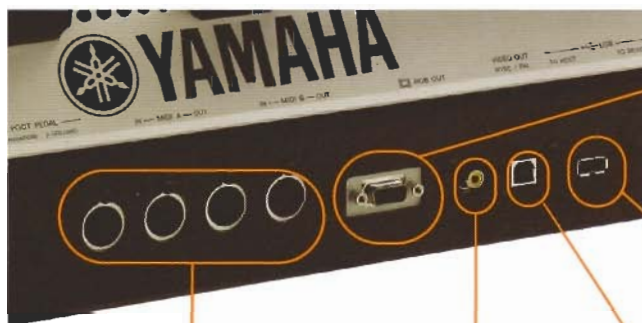
I should point out that Yamaha says...

*"The instrument does not necessarily support all commercially available USB storage devices. Yamaha cannot guarantee operation of USB storage devices that you purchase. Before purchasing a USB storage device, please consult your Yamaha dealer, or an authorised Yamaha distributor."*

Go to your dealer with that one... if you dare.

### Behind the scenes...

The rear panel of Tyros2 is almost as interesting as the front with a range of sockets and terminals to connect your keyboard to a wide variety of external devices. In addition to the standard foot-switch and speaker terminals there are two sets of MIDI ports, a video monitor output, a new RGB out for use with high resolution computer monitors - we saw the effect of this at the launch and it was really quite impressive - and a second USB to Device terminal.



#### RGB Out - Mini D-Sub 15-pin

You can connect Tyros2 directly to a computer monitor for displaying the lyrics and chords of your song data on a large screen. This output terminal delivers higher resolution than the VIDEO OUT jack.

#### 2nd USB To Device terminal

Connect Tyros2 to a second USB device or to Yamaha's web site via a USB type LAN adaptor.

#### MIDI A and B

Although MIDI is designed to handle up to sixteen channels, the use of separate MIDI ports allows for even more. Tyros2 has two MIDI ports, allowing simultaneous use of thirty-two channels.

#### Video Out

Connect Tyros2 to an external monitor to display the lyrics and chords of your song.

#### USB To Host

By connecting to a computer, you can transfer data between the keyboard and the computer via MIDI. You can use the computer to control, edit and organise data on the Tyros2 using the Voice Editor program provided with the instrument.

## TYROS2 The Launch at "EXPO 2005"

Martin looked like the proverbial 'kid in a sweet-shop' as he introduced Tyros2 to the UK dealers at Yamaha's EXPO-2005 in September. It was interesting - to me, at least - that he didn't dwell on any of the instrument's technical specification in the 45-minute demonstration, concentrating instead on the thing that lies at the heart of the instrument - its sound. And isn't this really what it's all about?

It was music all the way as Martin played solidly for the duration of the performance - repeatedly hammering home the message that everything we heard was achieved on an instrument taken, brand new, straight from its box, with no pre-programming and, definitely, no sequencing. Those of us lucky enough to be signing up for Tyros2 ownership *should* be able to create exactly what Martin did - and, if we can't, it's no good blaming the instrument. Ours will arrive just as his did... with everything we'll need to give a world-class performance built in. The rest is up to us. Ha ha ha ha ha...

As expected he placed huge emphasis on the role of the brand new Super Articulation! voices - which make it possible to use Yamaha's MegaVoice technology in a live performance - and, even though we had seen and played the instrument before, albeit briefly, both Yamaha artist Ryan Edwards (who sat beside me throughout the show), and myself were suitably astonished by the result. By the finish we both agreed that Tyros2 made us *want to play it*. And you can't ask more of any musical instrument than that.

Technical talk and feature lists are all very impressive but for a musician it's the sound that really counts - and that's why I'm so pleased to be able to supply our latest "Radio Show" CD with this issue. When you've listened to it you'll understand why I've struggled to find the words to adequately describe it.

Glyn Madden



Martin Harris

# Tyros2

## Price... & Home Pack Options

To make sure everyone gets the system that best meets their requirements Yamaha have set their Tyros2 prices based on a range of purchase options. Each component can be bought separately - so, for example, if you play professionally and use stage amplification you can buy Tyros2 on its own and simply plug into your existing system. The SPS80 speaker stands are the latest addition - for those who want to create a better stereo effect.

### Home Pack Options



#### Option 1 - £2790.00

Tyros2 keyboard



#### Option 2 - £3000.00

Tyros2 keyboard +  
TRS-MS02 Speakers

+



Other accessories, such as the FC5 / FC4 sustain/function pedals and FC7 Expression (volume) controller are also available for Tyros2.

### Accessories



#### L7S - £120.00

Keyboard stand (matching silver)



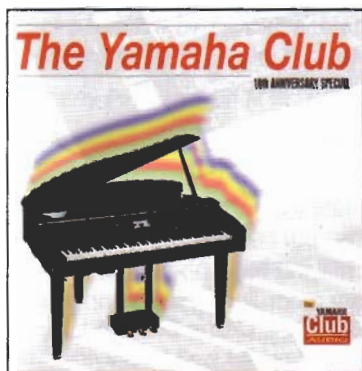
#### TRS-MS02 - £210

Tyros 2 Speakers



#### TRS-SPS80 - £149.99

A pair of Tyros 2 Speaker stands - slimline design in matching silver.



## 10th Anniversary CD

Featuring tracks by - Richard Bower, Simon Inkley, Harry Harris, Andrew Leitch, Glyn Madden, Steve Marsden, James Sargeant, Simon Smith, Chiho Sunamoto, Tony Stace, Max Takano and many more fabulous Yamaha artists...

To mark the Yamaha Club's 10th anniversary we're issuing a special audio CD featuring the cream of Yamaha's UK performers - as well as a couple of special tracks performed by Club members. As we go to press the final track listing has not been completed but the CD will be out in time for the Yamaha Club weekend at Alveston Hall at the end of October.

All the artists have supplied their performances for this album free of charge - and proceeds from the sale of the recording will be donated to various charitable causes supported by The Rotary Club. All categories of Yamaha's electronic keyboards are represented in the programme with performances on Clavinova digital piano, Electone organ and Portable Keyboard instruments. Some tracks are played on brand new instruments - such as those performed on Tyros2 - whilst others feature vintage instruments such as the HX1 Electone. Many were recorded specifically for this CD, some have been audio mastered from Yamaha Club performance software and others have been donated from existing albums. This special album represents a fabulous souvenir of our Club's musical history - and showcases the instruments (and artists) we have enjoyed listening to over the past ten years.

**TO ORDER: Price: £9.99 + £1 p/p - from Yamaha Club Ltd. 1 Reynolds Close, Dronfield. S18 1QP**  
Tel/Fax: 01246 290454 (Major credit/debit cards welcome)

\* A full track list will be published on our website [www.yamaha-club.co.uk](http://www.yamaha-club.co.uk) as soon as it is available

In association with  
the Rotary Club of  
Drone Valley

