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This document is a compilation of the 36 Cantabile Tips & Tricks Emails sent to Cantabile Users.

Please Note: The original Emails often included URL links to additional externally hosted materials and information, shown as plain language labels underlined in blue text. When embedded in document formats these links may or may not work when clicked upon so the original full URL for each link is also provided next to or just below such external links. If necessary to view the linked information, the user may need to manually copy the URL text and paste it directly into the address bar of their browser of choice and hit return to view the linked material.

Also Note that not all versions of Cantabile support all features mentioned in these Tips and Tricks emails. please see the [feature comparison](https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/compare)

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/compare

For details.

Tip #1 - Select the High Performance Power Plan

If you're using a PC for music performance then without doubt the most important thing you should check is that you're running Windows in High Performance mode. Without this you're likely to experience random pops, clicks and glitches.

1. Click the Window's start button
2. Type "Power Options" and press Enter
3. You might need to click "Show Additional Plans"
4. Choose "High Performance"
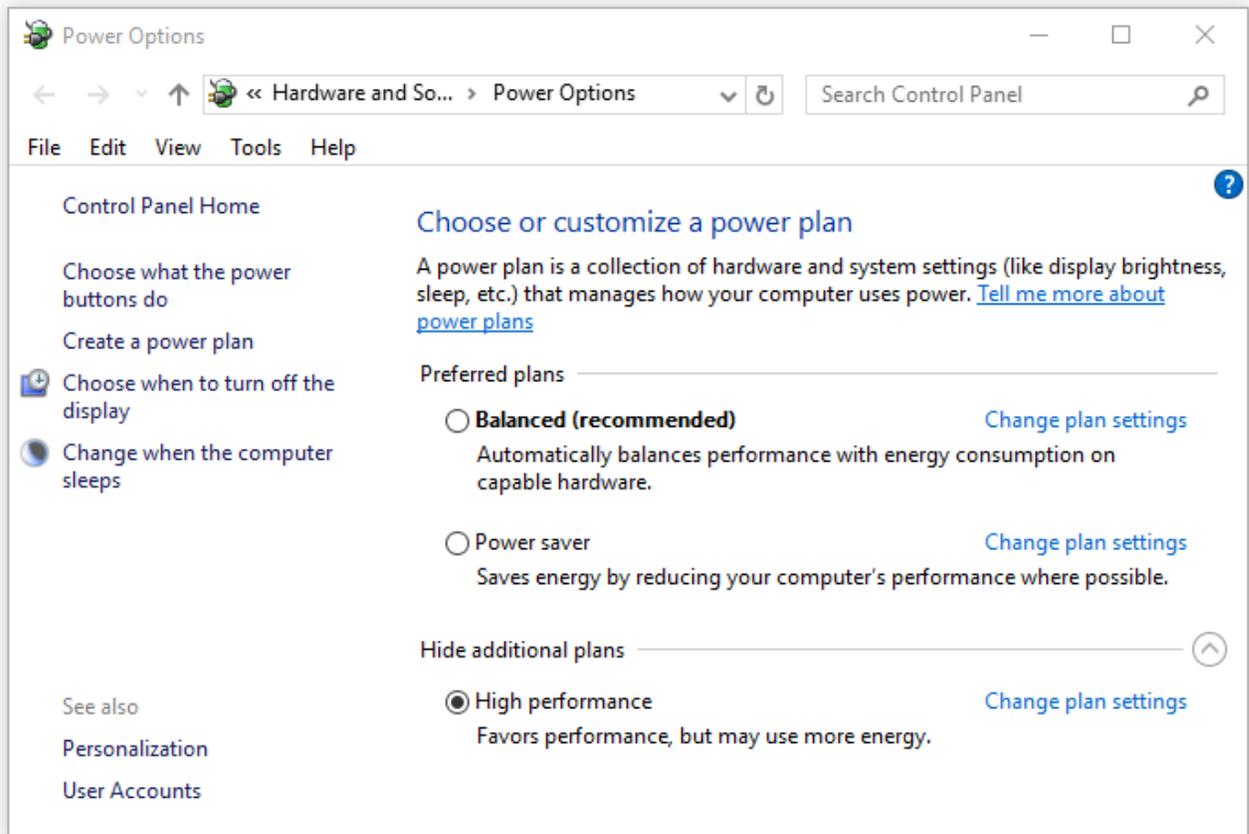
Tip #2 - Watch the Walkthrough Videos

There's no quicker way to learn Cantabile than by watching the walk-through videos.

- If you're just getting into computer based music I recommend starting with the first video "Getting Started". It covers all the basics - everything from installing Cantabile to downloading plugins and loading them into Cantabile.
- If you have previous experience with VST plugins and other DAWs then I recommend starting with the second video "Ports and Routes". Ports and routes are a key concept in Cantabile and once you've learned about this you'll be well on your way to understanding how Cantabile works.
- If you're about to setup your system and you're using Cantabile Performer you should definitely watch the "Fast Song Switching" video - it shows the best way to setup your songs so you can quickly switch between them.

Watch the videos: **Watch the Videos**
https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/videos

Getting Started:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvUL2rte-YY&list=PL1PQg6oOZdtDDw6MME0B12p0kCs3LAHbx&index=1

Ports & Routes:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L5I-giaIKU&list=PL1PQg6oOZdtDDw6MME0B12p0kCs3LAHbx

Fast Song Switching:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xWDTzq8W8s&list=PL1PQg6oOZdtDDw6MME0B12p0kCs3LAHbx

Tip #3 - Join the Community

Cantabile has an awesome, friendly community of fellow users with a broad range of knowledge and experience.

If you need an answer quickly this is by far the best place to ask (or use the search feature and you might find your question has already been answered).

You'll also find discussions on configuring your gear, photos of other people's rigs and performances and more...

Visit the Cantabile Community

http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/

Tip #4 - Keyboard Shortcuts

Did you know just about everything in Cantabile can be controlled using your PC keyboard? This can be a great time saver over fiddling with the mouse. Here's some handy short cuts to get you started:
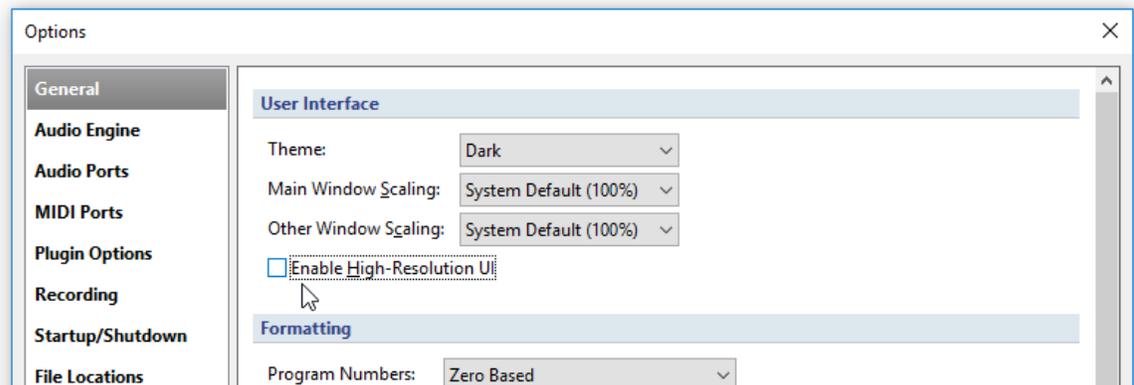
1. Any command in the main menu can be accessed via **Alt+<menuLetter>+<commandLetter>** (look for the underlined letters in the menu)
2. **Arrow Keys** work just about everywhere
3. Use **Ctrl+Left** and **Ctrl+Right** to expand and collapse groups
4. To re-order things, use **Ctrl+Up** and **Ctrl+Down**
5. If focus is in a side panel or control bar, pressing **Escape** will bring focus back to the main work area
6. Or, you can press **Shift+Escape** to close the panel/bar and return to the main work area
7. **Ctrl+Tab** and **Ctrl+Shift+Tab** will switch tab panels

Finally, you can create your own keyboard short cuts - just to **Options | Hot Keys** and you can configure things however you like.

Tip #5 - Plugins Too Tiny?

If you're running on a high-resolution monitor, you might find that the editors for some plugins appear too small. This is because Cantabile supports high-resolution monitors but many plugins haven't yet been updated.

If this is causing you problems, the work around is simple... just to **Options | General** and turn off **Enable High-Resolution UI**. The UI won't be as crisp but the plugins will now appear at the correct size.

If you're interested in understanding more about why this is the way it is see here.

https://blog.cantabilesoftware.com/vst-plugins-and-high-pixel-density-screens-ccb1a850537c

PS: Cantabile builds 3500+ (available here)

http://www.cantabilesoftware.com/download

Have improved support for this and can display hi-resolution Cantabile windows and regularly sized plugins. See this blog post for more about this.

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/blog/cantabile-3500---technology-update-828ca9d8893c/
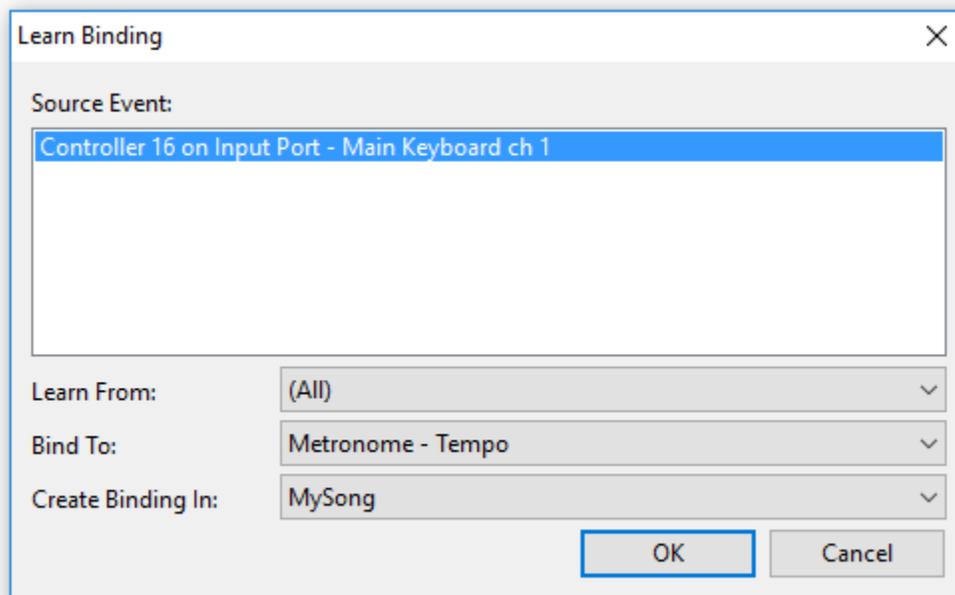
Tip #6 - Mapping MIDI Controllers

Cantabile Solo and Cantabile Performer support creating "bindings" between external MIDI gear and settings in Cantabile and loaded plugins.

Bindings can be configured to do many different things, but the easiest way to get started is to simply right click on just about any Cantabile setting and choose **Create Binding**.

For example, suppose you wanted to control the metronome tempo, using a slider or knob on your MIDI keyboard. Just right click on the setting in Cantabile and choose **Create Binding**:
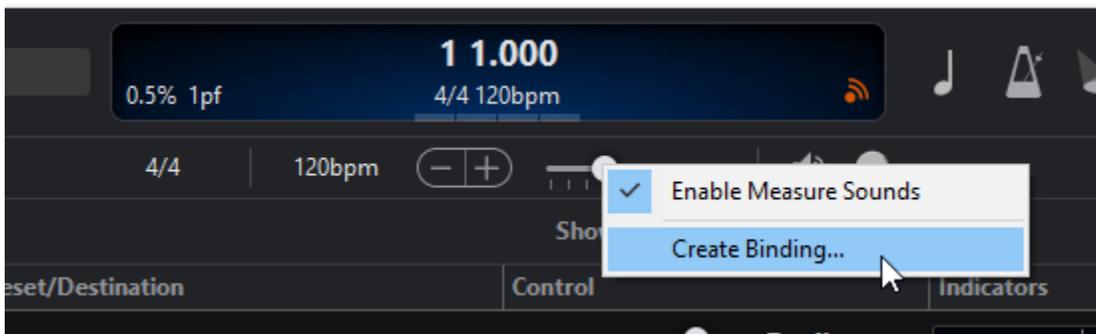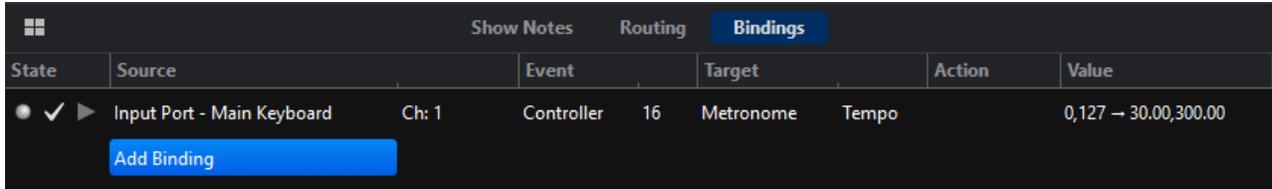

The **Learn Binding** window will appear and as you move the controller on your keyboard the MIDI events it is sending will be shown in the list. Now just hit **OK** and the binding will be created.

Tip #6 - Mapping MIDI Controllers - Continued

You can edit bindings in the **Bindings** tab:

There will be more tips on working with bindings coming soon, but in the meantime you can...

Watch the Bindings Walkthrough Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czc9PU7opSs&list=PL1PQg6oOZdtDDw6MME0B12p0kCs3LAHbx

or **Read More About Bindings**

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/guides/bindings

Tip #7 - Check Your Cables

If you're having seemingly random issues with the stability of your rig, one thing you should consider checking is your USB and MIDI cables. I'm constantly surprised by how often I'm contacted by users with spurious problems that simply disappear after swapping out the cables.

For audio devices this is particularly important. If an audio device is temporarily disconnected, most drivers won't recover well and many will lead to a crash. For MIDI only devices the effect is generally more subtle (but also more frustrating) leading to dropped notes, stuck notes, random controllers triggering and other strange behavior.

You generally won't be able to spot a bad cable via physical inspection. Of course if the cable is frayed, the plug falling apart or not fitting securely in the socket that's a good indicator, but more often than not cables will fail without physical signs of wear.

At the very least, I recommend having at least one spare cable for any device you're using. Even if you never need to replace the cable the spare can be used for diagnostics to at least confirm the cable isn't the cause of any problems. And if it is the problem you can be up and running again in minutes.

Tip #8 - MIDI Channel Mapping

One of the most basic concepts in MIDI is that of channels. A single MIDI connection supports up to 16 channels where each channel is a separate stream of information.

(Basically what's happening here is each MIDI event is tagged with a channel number and the receiver can choose to listen to only the events on the channel(s) for which it's interested)

All editions of Cantabile support MIDI routing by channel number and here's a quick walk through of how it works...

Let's suppose you have two instrument plugins that you'd like to be able to play independently. You could setup the routes as follows (take particular note of the last column).

Here we've said to connect the Main Keyboard port to both the Piano and Organ plugin, but to send events on channel 1 to the piano and events on channel 2 to the organ.

To configure the mapping just click in that last column and choose the source and target channel as desired:

Tip #8 - MIDI Channel Mapping - Continued

Most keyboards have a way to configure the MIDI channel they transmit on so by switching the channel you can switch the sound that will be played.

Some keyboards can also split the keyboard and send notes played on one half the keyboard on one channel and the other half on another channel which in this example would give you a split organ/piano setup (although Cantabile Solo and Performer offer simpler and easier ways to configure splits which will be covered in an upcoming tip).

Tip #9 - How do I hide the on-screen keyboard?

Cantabile has an on-screen keyboard that you can show by pressing **Ctrl+K**, or by choosing **View | On-screen Keyboard**. But how does one hide it again?

You might think by pressing **Ctrl+K** again, but that just activates it again. Well, there's two ways:

- By pressing **Shift+Escape** while it's active, or
- By resizing it down to nothingness with the mouse.

I'm often asked why this was designed this way and answer is for predictability. With this approach, pressing **Ctrl+K** will always activate the keyboard (showing it if necessary).

If the **Ctrl+K** keystroke was to toggle it on/off then you might have to press the keystroke once or twice to activate it - depending whether it is already visible.

If you still don't like this behavior you can change it.

1. Go to **Options | Hot Keys**.
2. Scroll down to the entry for **View -> Onscreen Keyboard**
3. Double-click it and change the command drop down to **View - Toggle Onscreen Keyboard**
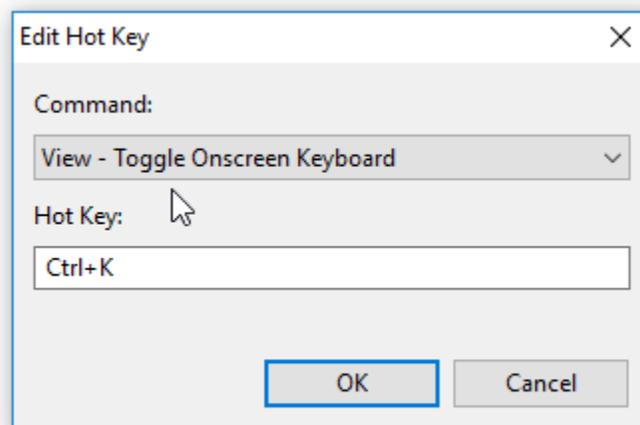
The same logic applies for other panels in Cantabile too. e.g.: the side panel, the ticker bar etc...

Tip #10 - Re-ordering a Set List (or anything else)

Just about anything in Cantabile can be re-ordered:

1. Select the item you want to move
2. Press **Ctrl+Up Arrow** to move it up, or
3. **Ctrl+Down Arrow** to move it down.

This works in the set list, the states panel, for plugins, racks, media players, bindings etc...

Starting with builds 3500+ you can also re-order things by dragging them with the mouse.

Finally, the set list and states panels also support moving a whole group of items. Try selecting multiple songs in a set list and pressing **Ctrl+Up/Down** and you'll see the whole group move.

Tip #11 - Run Cantabile Minimized

If you're using Cantabile as a stand-alone sound module and don't generally interact with it, you might like to configure it to run minimized.

There's no built-in option for this however you can use a Windows short-cut to get the same functionality. Here's how to setup it up:

1. Click the **Windows Start Button**
2. Type **Cantabile**
3. Right click and choose **Open File Location**
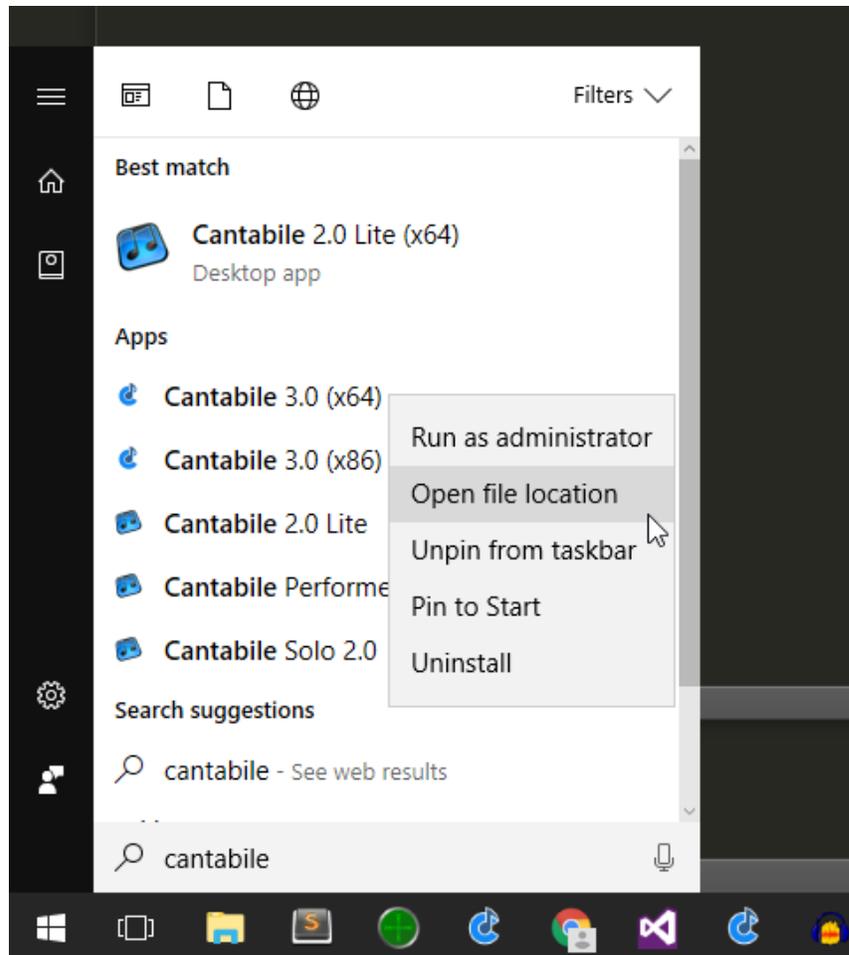
4. Right click on the short cut right and choose **Properties**
5. Change the **Run** setting from **Normal Window** to **Minimized Window**:

Tip #11 - Run Cantabile Minimized - Continued
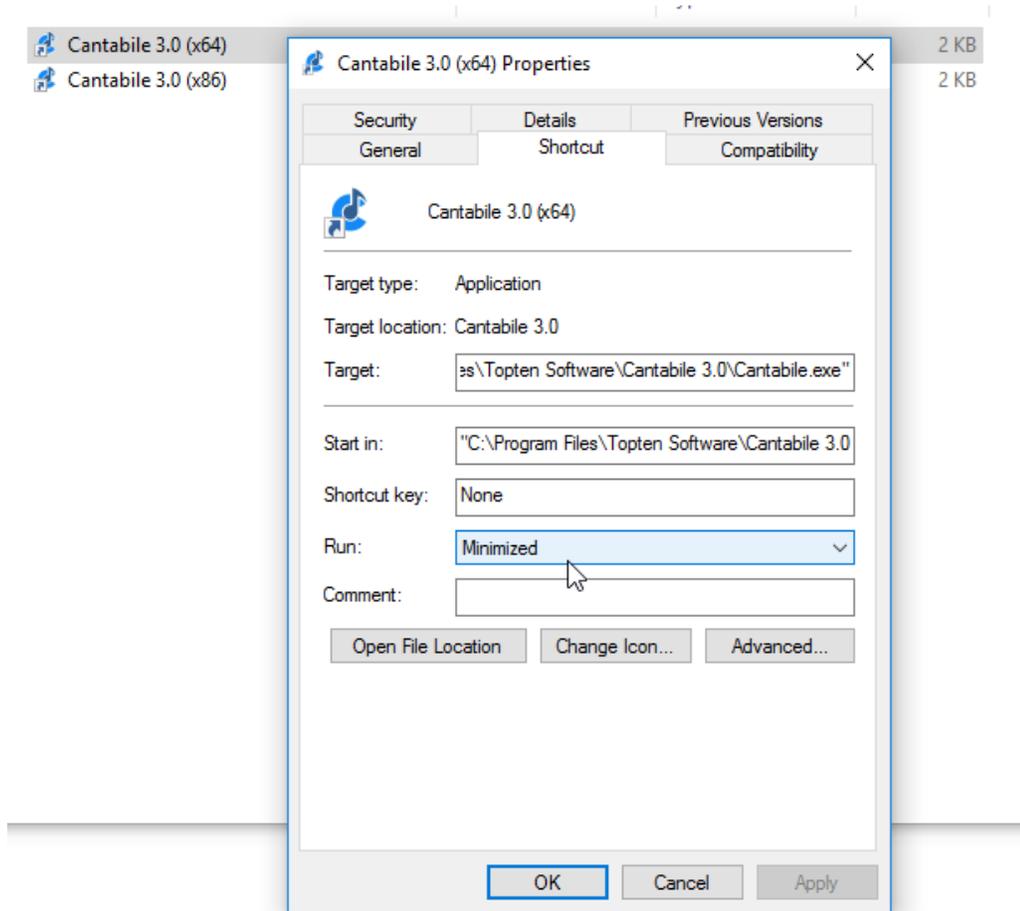
If you'd also like to run Cantabile automatically when Windows starts you can copy that short cut and place it in the Windows Startup folder:

1. Copy the shortcut from above by right clicking and choose **Copy**
2. Hold the **Windows Key** on your keyboard and press **R**
3. Type **shell:startup** and press Enter
4. Paste the shortcut into the folder that was opened.

Now whenever you start Windows, Cantabile will also automatically start and run minimized in the system tray!

Tip #12 - Switching Editions

Cantabile comes in three editions - Lite, Solo and Performer - all of which are included when you install Cantabile.

You can switch between the different editions whenever you like - this is a great way to evaluate the different editions if you're considering purchasing.

To switch editions:

1. From the **Help** menu, choose **Change License**
2. You'll be presented with a list of available licenses for your account
3. **Double Click** the edition you wish to run

Cantabile will restart with the new feature set enabled.

PS: If you want to re-evaluate an edition for which your trial license has expired just Get in touch

http://www.cantabilesoftware.com/contact

And we'll reset your trial. :)

Tip #13 - Dark or Light

Cantabile includes two built-in color themes for its main window - most users stick with the default Dark theme, but you might prefer the Light theme:

1. Start Cantabile
2. From the **Tools** menu choose **Options**
3. Switch to the **General** page
4. Change the **Theme** setting to **Light**

If you're really keen, you can also create your own themes https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/guides/themes

Tip #14 - The On-screen Keyboard

Cantabile has a built-in on-screen keyboard which is not terribly useful for real performance but is super handy when you want to audition plugin sounds or test your setup.

The on-screen keyboard works just like any other MIDI device and can be connected to any MIDI port (in **Options** | **MIDI Ports**). Less well known is that it can also be used as MIDI target device (ie: if you send MIDI to the on-screen keyboard it will light up the keys with notes that are received).

Here's some more tips for working with the on-screen keyboard:

- The keyboard can be played using two rows of keys on your PC keyboard - the first row starting on the letter **Z**, the other on the letter **Q** and working to the right in the same pattern as a piano keyboard.
- Turning on Keyboard Capture (**F12** or **Tools | Capture Keyboard**) will let you play the on-screen keyboard using your PC keyboard even when it's not active. This is great for auditioning plugin sounds because you can play using your PC keyboard while having the plugin GUI visible.
- You can hold a note on by pressing **Ctrl** while playing the note. Playing it again while holding **Ctrl** will release it.
- Pressing the **A** key will release all held notes.
- The **Shift** key works like the sustain pedal.
- Notes played using the mouse are louder when played near the bottom of the keys than at the top.
- You can change which octaves the PC keys map to using the two bar indicators shown just below the on-screen keys.

Want more information? Check out these posts:

Working with the On-screen Keyboard

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/blog/working-with-cantabile-s-onscreen-keyboard-a15110e60cff/

Using Cantabile as a Stand-alone On-screen Keyboard

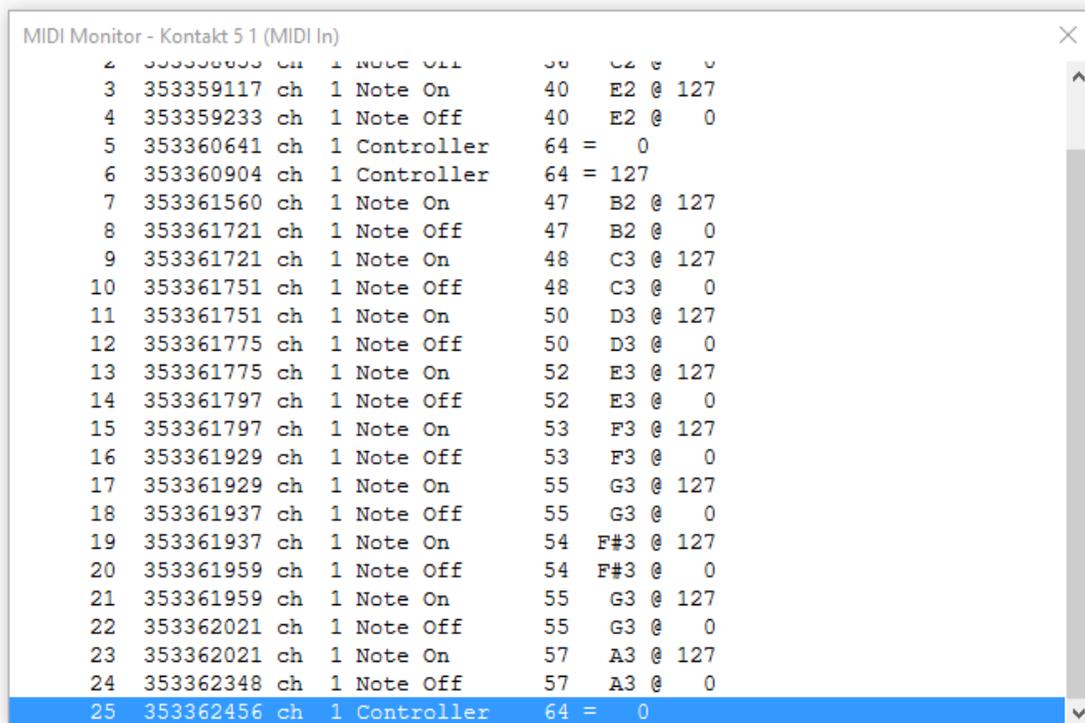https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/blog/using-cantabile-as-a-standlone-onscreen-keyboard-6d54baaed5c7/

Tip #15 - MIDI Monitoring

Sometimes you might need to diagnose why a plugin isn't responding to MIDI in the way you expect. The first thing you should check is that the plugin is actually receiving the MIDI events that you think you're sending.

The easiest way to do this is with the MIDI monitor:

1. **Right Click** on the plugin
2. Choose **MIDI Monitor**

You'll be presented with a log window where any MIDI events received by the plugin will be shown.

```
MIDI Monitor - Kontakt 5 1 (MIDI In)                                    ×
 2   353358653 ch   1 Note Off       36    C2 @    0
 3   353359117 ch   1 Note On        40    E2 @  127
 4   353359233 ch   1 Note Off       40    E2 @    0
 5   353360641 ch   1 Controller     64 =    0
 6   353360904 ch   1 Controller     64 =  127
 7   353361560 ch   1 Note On        47    B2 @  127
 8   353361721 ch   1 Note Off       47    B2 @    0
 9   353361721 ch   1 Note On        48    C3 @  127
10   353361751 ch   1 Note Off       48    C3 @    0
11   353361751 ch   1 Note On        50    D3 @  127
12   353361775 ch   1 Note Off       50    D3 @    0
13   353361775 ch   1 Note On        52    E3 @  127
14   353361797 ch   1 Note Off       52    E3 @    0
15   353361797 ch   1 Note On        53    F3 @  127
16   353361929 ch   1 Note Off       53    F3 @    0
17   353361929 ch   1 Note On        55    G3 @  127
18   353361937 ch   1 Note Off       55    G3 @    0
19   353361937 ch   1 Note On        54   F#3 @  127
20   353361959 ch   1 Note Off       54   F#3 @    0
21   353361959 ch   1 Note On        55    G3 @  127
22   353362021 ch   1 Note Off       55    G3 @    0
23   353362021 ch   1 Note On        57    A3 @  127
24   353362348 ch   1 Note Off       57    A3 @    0
25   353362456 ch   1 Controller     64 =    0
```

Also, if you just want to check MIDI activity you can use the monitor panel where you'll find indicators showing which MIDI ports are sending and receiving data. (**View menu | Side Panel | Monitor**)

Tip #16 - Quickly Inserting a Plugin

With the number of great plugins available these days it's fairly common to build up a substantial list of installed plugins. This can make locating the plugin you're after a little daunting.

Cantabile's plugin selector however includes a handy feature where you can just type a few letters of the plugin name and it'll filter down the list.
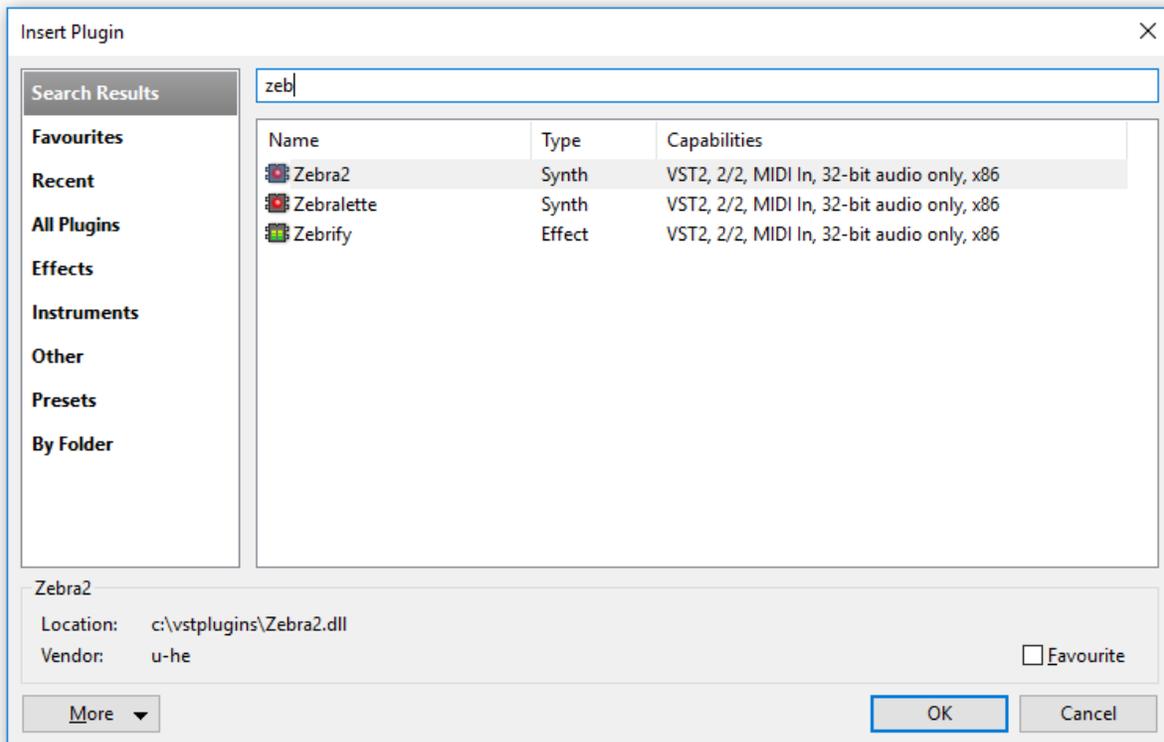
Say for example you have a couple of hundred plugins installed and you want to quickly load the plugin "Zebra". All you need to do:

1. Bring up the **Insert Plugin** dialog (by pressing **Alt+I+P**)
2. Type "zeb"
3. Confirm the correct plugin is selected and press **Enter**.

Too easy!

Tip #17 - Send Your Feedback

Regardless of your experience with Cantabile, your feedback is invaluable so please let us know what you think.

- What works really well?
- What do you find confusing?
- Your favourite feature?
- Ideas for improvements?

Perhaps you've got an idea for the next killer feature - let us know!

Also, you might like to consider writing a testimonial (see other testimonials here:

http://www.cantabilesoftware.com/testimonials

If you're a fan of Cantabile they're a great way to help spread the word. Thanks!

Tip #18 - Using 32-bit plugins in 64-bit Cantabile

By default the 64-bit (aka x64) edition of Cantabile can't load 32-bit (aka x86) plugins. There is however a third party product named **jBridge** that provides a bridging layer that makes this possible.

To use jBridge with Cantabile:

1. Download and install jBridge.
2. Update your plugin path to include your x86 plugins (in **Options | Plugin Options**)
3. Run a plugin scan. (**Tools |Scan Plugin Folders (Quick)**)
4. Start using your x86 plugins.

Get jBridge : https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/guides/jBridge

Note that you don't need to build the jBridge proxy .dll files as you normally would when using jBridge. Cantabile detects when jBridge is installed and uses it automatically when needed.

You can also use jBridge in the opposite direction e.g.: for loading x64 plugins into Cantabile x86.

Tip #19 - No Penalty Upgrades

Did you know that if you purchase Cantabile Solo, you can upgrade to Cantabile Performer at any time by simply paying the difference in price between the two products.

I call this "No Penalty Upgrades" and it's a great option if you're not sure which edition of Cantabile is right for you. Start with Cantabile Solo and upgrade to Performer when (and if) you outgrow it.

See Cantabile Pricing

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/purchase

BTW: if you're concerned about the mention of subscriptions, it's probably not what you think, please read this explanation

https://blog.cantabilesoftware.com/explaining-cantabile-s-subscription-model-86d18460763/

And of course feel free to contact me (by replying to this email) if you have any questions.

Tip #20 - Annoying Prompt When Restarting?

If you're using Cantabile in an unattended mode where the PC is sometimes simply turned off with being shutdown, you'll notice than on restarting Cantabile will prompt with a set of recovery options (in case there's something loaded that causes it to crash every time it starts).

This prompt can be annoying if the PC is unattended (say in a box under your keyboard) and you don't know that there was a problem starting up. For these cases you can suppress the recovery options prompt:

1. Start Cantabile
2. Go to **Options | Diagnostics**
3. Turn on **Don't check for clean shutdown**
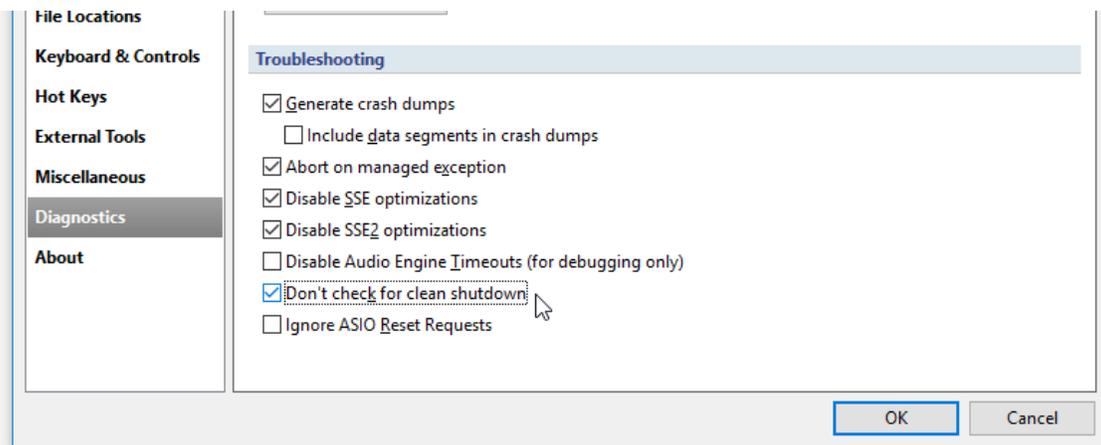
Now Cantabile will always start up as if it was cleanly shutdown.

Tip #21 - Global Transpose

Cantabile Performer has a Global Transpose feature that can be used to transpose all MIDI events passing through Cantabile.

There are a few different ways to set the global transpose:

- By selecting the **Global Transpose** command from the **Control** menu
- By clicking in **Control** column of the **Inputs Ports** row of any song
- By using the **+/-** transpose buttons on the **Controller Bar**
- Via the **Song / Transpose** binding point to remotely set the transpose setting

The global transpose setting is applied to any MIDI routes that don't have the **Ignore Global Transpose** option selected.
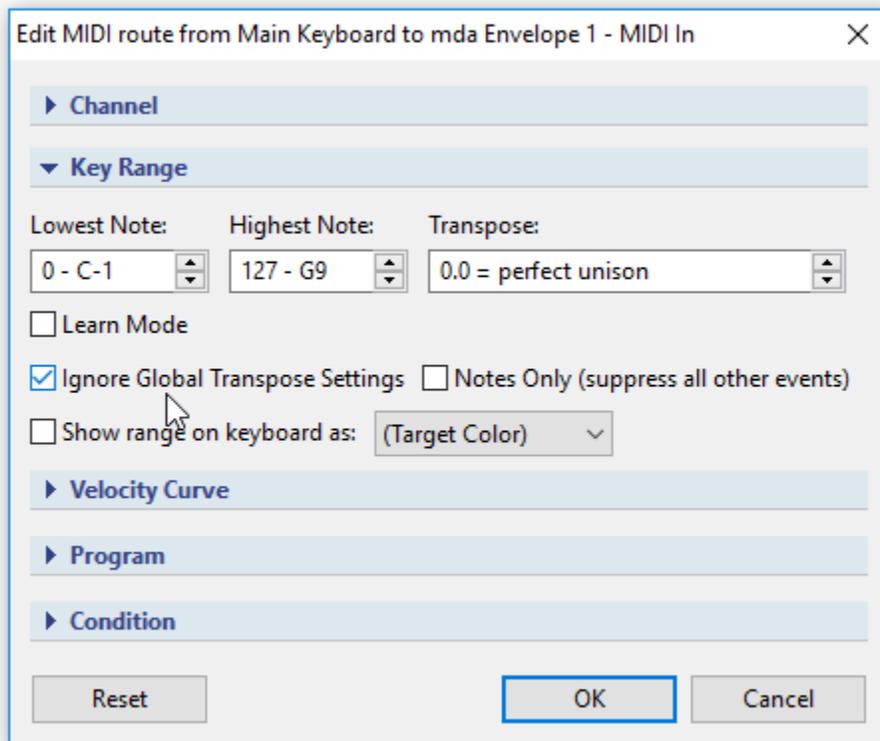
Note: The **Ignore Global Transpose** setting is typically used for percussive instruments where notes represent different sounds rather than different pitches and therefore shouldn't be transposed.

Tip #22 - ASIO4ALL

The best audio drivers to use with Cantabile are ASIO drivers and most audio devices will come with an ASIO driver to suit the device.

If however you're having trouble with the supplied driver, or if the manufacturer doesn't provide such a driver then ASIO4ALL is a great general purpose audio driver that works well with Cantabile.

ASIO4ALL is regularly maintained and performs very well - sometimes even better than the drivers supplied by some sound card manufacturers.

Visit the ASIO4ALL Website

http://www.asio4all.com/

At the very least it's a great fallback to have installed in case something goes wrong with your regular driver or if you just need to do some testing.

Tip #23 - Multiple Configurations

If you ever find yourself constantly switching between two different sets Cantabile options you might find Cantabile's support for multiple configurations handy.

Multiple configurations are a way to setup two or more different sets of Cantabile's global options. This includes everything from audio driver selection, MIDI device and port mapping and everything else you can configure in Cantabile's **Options** pages.

Learn more about Multiple Configurations

https://cantabilesoftware.com/guides/multiConfig

Multiple configurations are handy if you perform in multiple locations or with multiple bands. e.g.:

- one configuration for home practice that connects to your headphones
- one for practice with the band that connects to your mate's USB audio device

Another for live performance that connects to the house speakers

Tip #24 - Set List Grid

Cantabile's set list grid provides an easy way to jump between the songs in your set list and is specifically designed for touch screen devices - with large easy to read and easy to tap buttons representing each song.

To use the Set List Grid simply setup your set list as per normal and then press **Ctrl+G** or click the set list grid button
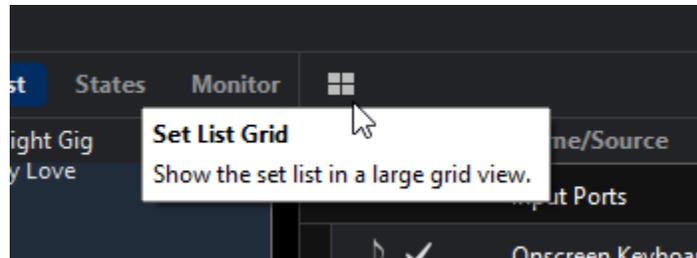
And the set list grid will appear:

Tap a song to load it!

Bonus tip: you can also create a binding from a button on your keyboard to open the set list grid.

Tip #25 - Velocity Curves

If you find the instrument plugins you're playing aren't responding exactly as you like them, you might be able to get a better response by using a *velocity curve*.

A velocity curve maps the velocity you're striking notes on the keyboard to match the response of the instruments you're using.

The easiest way to adjust a velocity curve is to click in the **Control** column of the MIDI route that's connecting your keyboard to the plugin and expand the section titled **Velocity Curve**:
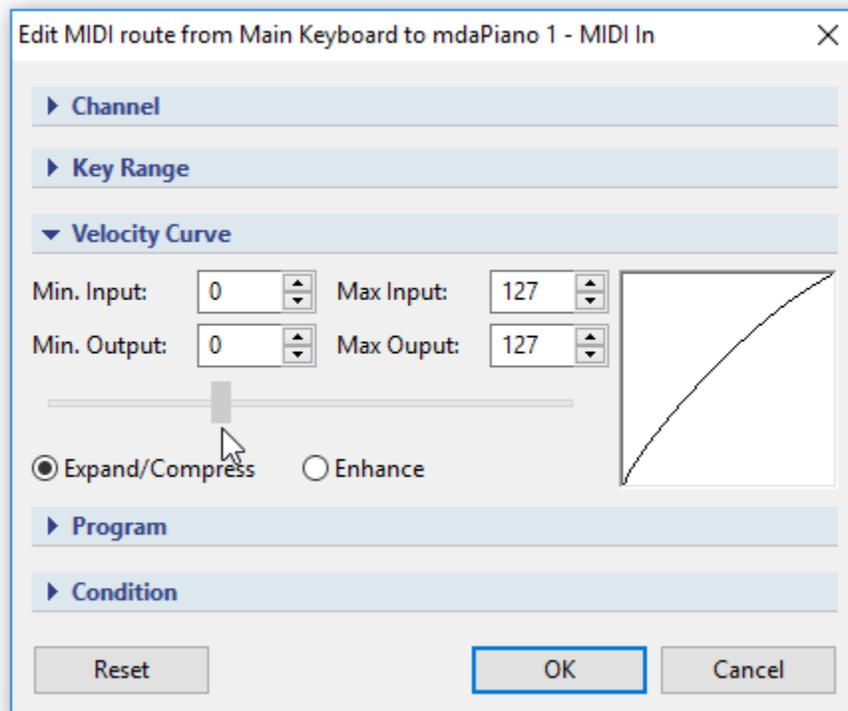
It might take a bit of trial and error but you should be able to get the exact response you like.

Tip #26 - Sending Program Changes to External Gear on Song Load

If you're using external sounds modules in your rig, it's highly likely you'll want to send program changes to those modules when you load a song in Cantabile - this way the module will be automatically configured with the correct sound for the song.

In Cantabile Performer this is pretty easy to setup:

1. Load the song that needs to send the program change
2. Switch to its **Bindings** tab
3. Click the **Add Binding** button
4. In the **Source** column choose **Song / On Load**
5. In The **Target** column choose the port your external MIDI device is attached to
6. In The **Action** column choose **Program Change**
7. And in the **Value** column choose the program number you want to send.

For example the following binding will send a MIDI Program Change event to select sound 123 every time this song is loaded:

State	Source	Event		Target		Action		Value
● ✓ ▶	Song	On Load	0ms	Output Port - External Synth	Ch: 1	Program Change	-	123

Of course you could setup as many of these bindings as you like...

- Configure multiple devices or
- Configure different programs on different MIDI channels.

To send other MIDI events like CCs, Banked Program Changes, SysEx data and more - just choose the required MIDI event in the **Action** column.

Tip #27 - Quickly Finding a Song

If you play in a band where you jump around in your set list you might find that you need to quickly locate a song and scrolling through lists while performing is too tedious.

Cantabile has a neat trick to quickly locate a song in a set list - just press **F3** and **type a few letters**. The set list grid will be shown and as you type the letters it will be "filtered down" to just show the matching songs. Once you find your song, just hit **Enter** and the song will load.

This also works in the set list panel.

Tip #28 – No Longer Applicable

Tip #29 - Smart MIDI Routing

Did you know Cantabile can handle dynamically changing the settings on a MIDI route without getting stuck notes?

Suppose you have a MIDI route configured with different targets for different states...

When you switch states the new target will be selected for new notes, but if there were any held notes at the time the route was switched then Cantabile will track those held notes and when they're finally released will send the note off events to the original target and not the newly selected target.

This works for all settings on a MIDI route including its enabled flag, the source, the target, transpose settings, key range settings etc...

Tip #30 - Set List Verification

If you're got a complicated set list then it's a good idea to run Cantabile's *Set List Verification* before a performance.

The verifier goes through your entire set list including all songs, racks, plugins, routes, states, bindings and everything else and checks for common errors. At the end it will generate a report showing things like missing plugins, missing media files, broken routes and more...

To verify a set list simply load it into Cantabile and then from the **File** menu choose **Set List | Verify**.

Tip #31 - MIDI Filters

MIDI filters let you manipulate MIDI data as it passes through Cantabile. You can use MIDI filters to perform operations such as:

- Remapping from one MIDI channel to one or more other channels
- Remap a continuous controller (aka "CC") to another
- Change the range of a CC controller
- Convert different event kinds (e.g.: convert a CC to a NRPN)
- Perform note range limiting and transpositions
- Velocity mapping
- Sys-ex encoding and decoding
- Lots more...

MIDI Filters can be configured in various points in the MIDI pipeline. To set a filter on a MIDI route or on the input to a VST plugin, just click the MIDI filter button in that items slot in the main window:
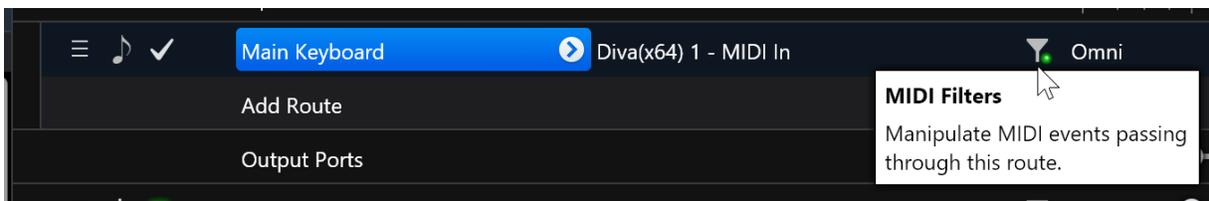
(Note: the little green indicator shows that there are active MIDI filters on this item).

You can also set MIDI filters on MIDI ports. For example if you go to Options -> MIDI Ports and double click on a port you'll see a button to setup the port's filters:
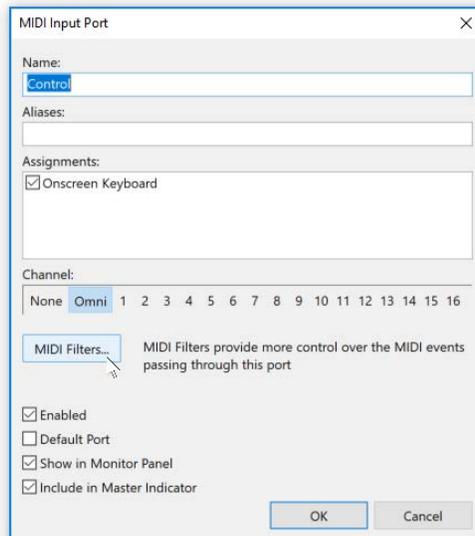
Tip #31 - MIDI Filters - Continued

Once you've opened the MIDI filters window, just click the add button and choose the types of MIDI manipulations you need. In this example, all MIDI events on channel 1 will be mapped to channel 2 and then any after touch, program change and pitch bend events will be suppressed.
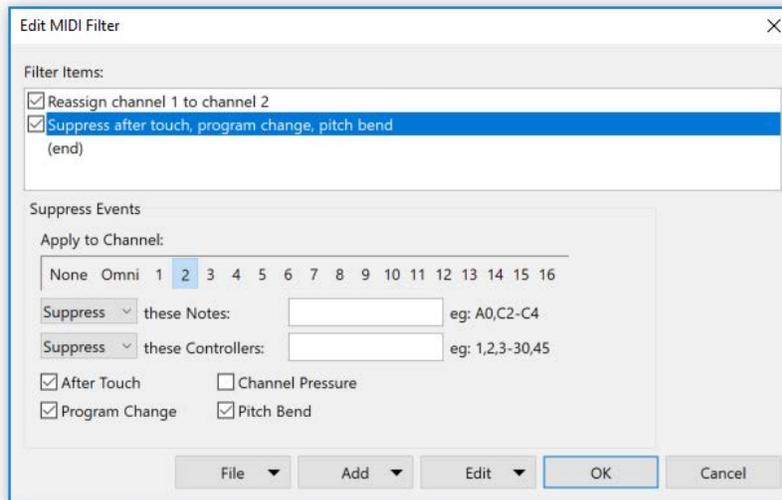
There are many different filters available and they can be combined in different ways to achieve different results.

Note that MIDI filters can't be controlled by States in Cantabile Performer but you can often use [MIDI Route Settings](#)

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/guides/midiRoutes

instead.

Tip #32 - Get Colorful

Once your songs and racks start to get a little complicated it can be convenient to use colors to highlight different aspects of your configuration.
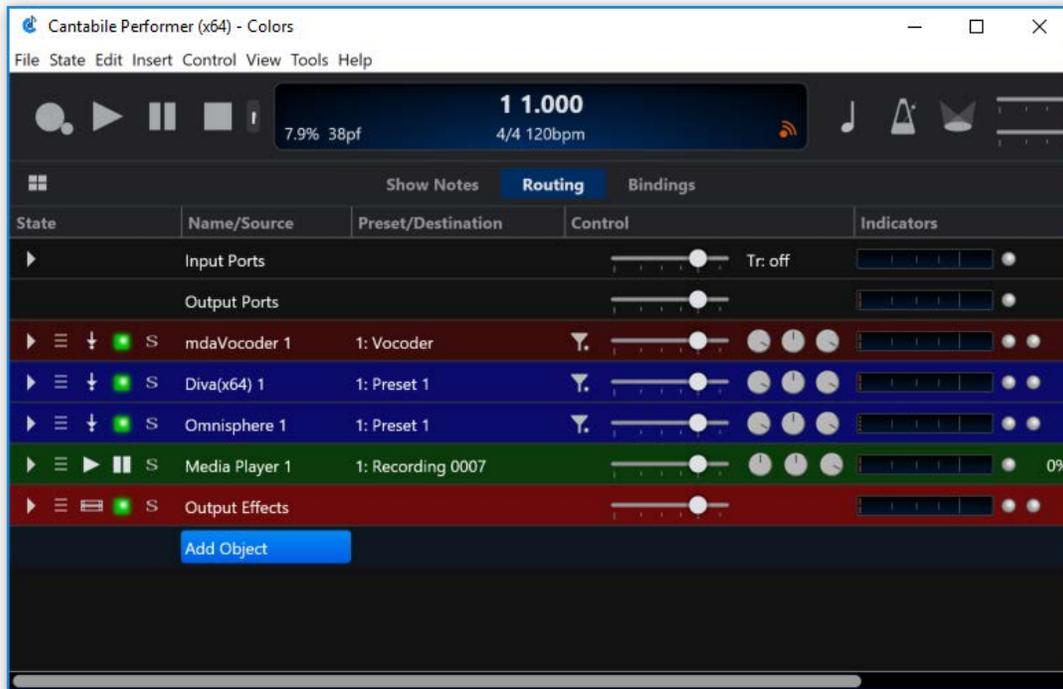

Most things in Cantabile have color settings including: all objects in the main routing panel, bindings, states and set list entries.
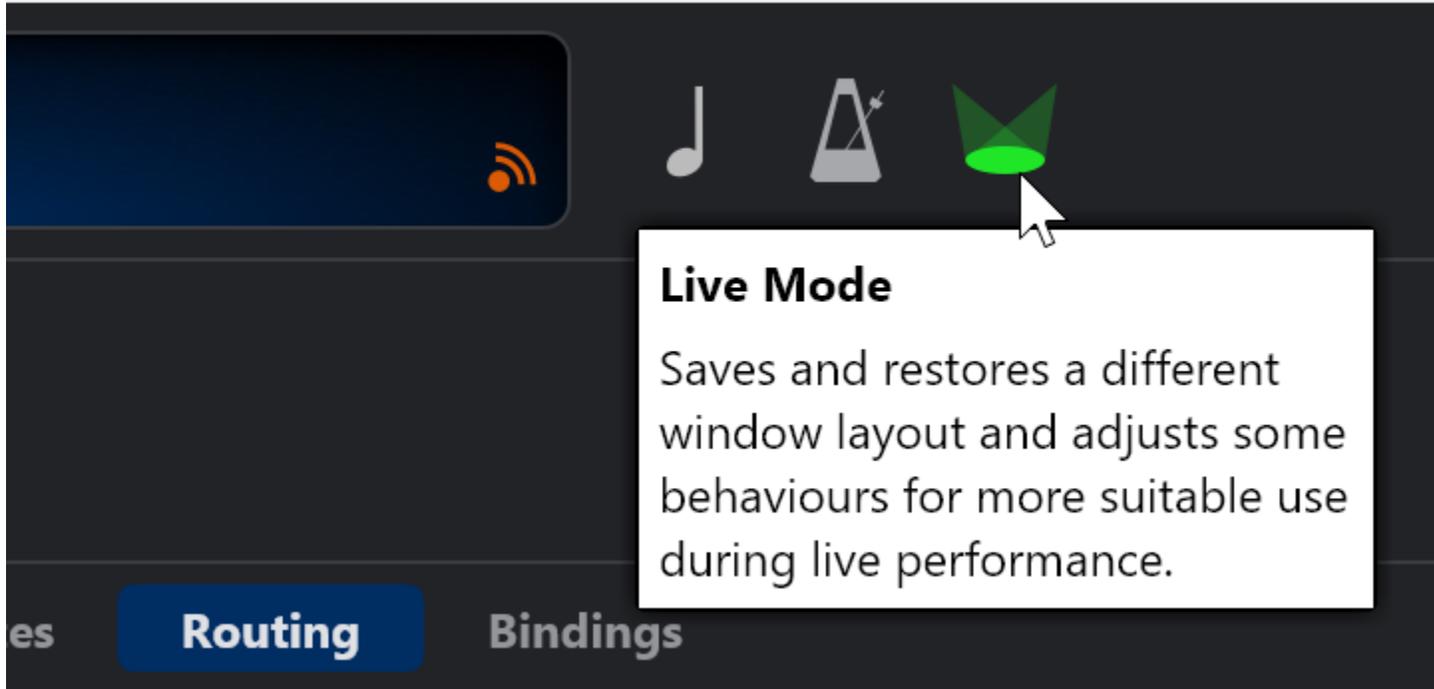
Tip #32 - Get Colorful - Continued

To set the color of an object simply right-click on it and choose "Set Color".

Starting with build 3512 you can also set the color on multiple items at once - just select all the items by click-dragging on the grippers and then right click:
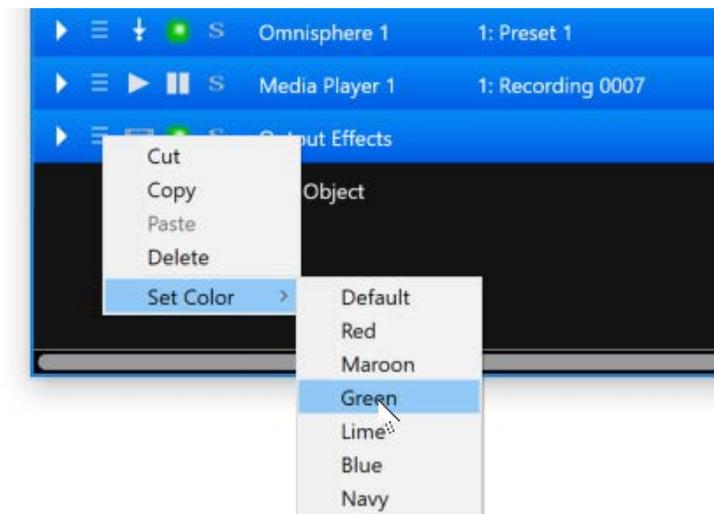
Tip #33 - Live Mode

Cantabile Performer supports a special mode call "Live Mode":

Live mode doesn't really change Cantabile's functionality at all - it's simply a different window arrangement that you can configure however you prefer things while you're performing.

For example during performance you might have:

- Cantabile's main window maximized,
- the ticker bar and controller bar visible and
- the show notes panel active

When not performing you're more likely to want the main routing panel visible and the main window not necessarily maximized.

Using Live Mode is easy - just switch to it by pressing the button on the main toolbar (or by pressing **F5**) and then re-arrange the layout how you want it while performing. Turn live mode off to return to your original window layout.

Tip #34 - How to Tune Your PC for Reliable Real-time Audio

Windows is a great platform for real-time audio but you need to set it up correctly otherwise you'll likely get glitches and drop outs. To get the most out of your machine check out our free eBook - Glitch Free.

.
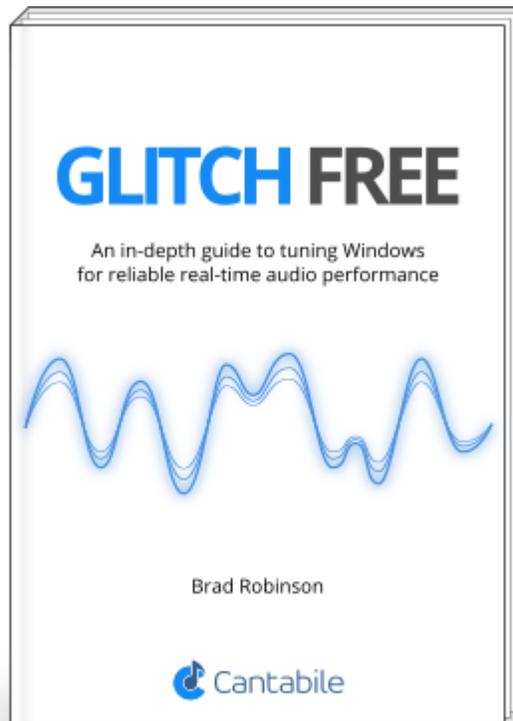
Download Glitch Free (free e-book)

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/glitchfree

Whether you're composing in your bedroom, recording a podcast or performing in front of a packed house this book can help you get your machine running at its best.

Tip #35 - Finding Great Plugins for Live Performance

Let's face it there's a ton of plugins out there! Some are great in the studio but for a performing musician there's an extra factor that needs to be considered: how well they work in a live situation. Are they reliable? Do they load quickly? Does this particular piano plugin cut through well enough in a live situation?

There's been a ton of great discussion about which plugins work well on the Cantabile Community forum. https://community.cantabilesoftware.com/

Here's some links to that should help you find that perfect plugin:

General Plugin discussions:

- Most Popular VST Plugin at the Moment
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/most-popular-vst-plugin-at-the-moment/2191
- What Are Your Favourite Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/what-are-your-favo-plugins-you-are-using/1171
- Collection of Free VST Instruments
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/collection-of-free-vst-instruments-effects/2245

Discussions about specific instrument sounds:

- Organ Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/organ-plugins-opinions/1295
- Piano Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/piano-plugins-opinions/1262
- Electric Piano Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/electric-piano-plugins-opinions/1297
- Saxophone Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/best-saxophone-vst/211
- Strings Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/strings-plugin-recommendations/529
- Lightweight Multi-Effect Plugins
    - http://community.cantabilesoftware.com/t/best-lightweight-multi-effects-plugin/1497

Of course, feel free to join the discussion and mention any gems you've found!

Tip #36 - Fast Song Switching

If you've ever tried to perform live with plugin based instruments you've almost certainly hit issues with slow switching between sounds and songs. Most the problems stem from slow loading plugins.

To help with this Cantabile has some great tools to streamline the song switching process - but it requires a little forethought and planning. This topic is too big to cover in "tip" email, but we've put together this video which explains the recommend best practice for this topic:

Watch the "Fast Song Switching" Video Walkthrough

https://blog.cantabilesoftware.com/fast-song-switching-video-9fb433a500dc

If you're wondering how all the features in Cantabile are designed to work together, then this is the video for you!

FINAL Reminder:

Note that not all versions of Cantabile support all features mentioned in these Tips and Tricks emails.
Please see the feature comparison

https://www.cantabilesoftware.com/compare

For details.