

# VirtuosoEar – A Companion Software to our book titled “A Totally New Approach to Ear Training based on the 12 Note Solfege”

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*Data Sheet*

*August 2010*

## *Caution*

This software is for Advanced MIDI Users only. We do not like this statement, but unfortunately at this point of time, we can not make this program for everyone. It requires either a GM (General MIDI) complaint Hardware MIDI Synthesizer or low latency Software Synthesizer to operate correctly. The default (built-in) Microsoft GS Software Synthesizer is not adequate due to its latency. You can try our evaluation copy with this synthesizer to learn how it operates, but it is not usable in real life since it introduces too much delay. You need to be equipped with a skill to configure whatever your synthesizer to operate with this software.

## *Introduction*

This software makes your daily practice routine as added Ear Training session. It is a great way to extend what you learn with our book in real life materials. Although the initial setup involves some technical expertises, using the software is very easy. You will improve your awareness as you practice everyday. This version runs on Microsoft Windows. We have a plan to introduce a Mac version since Apple eliminated a latency issue with their synthesizer. However, we do not know the release date yet. Please check our website for more updated information.

## *Features:*

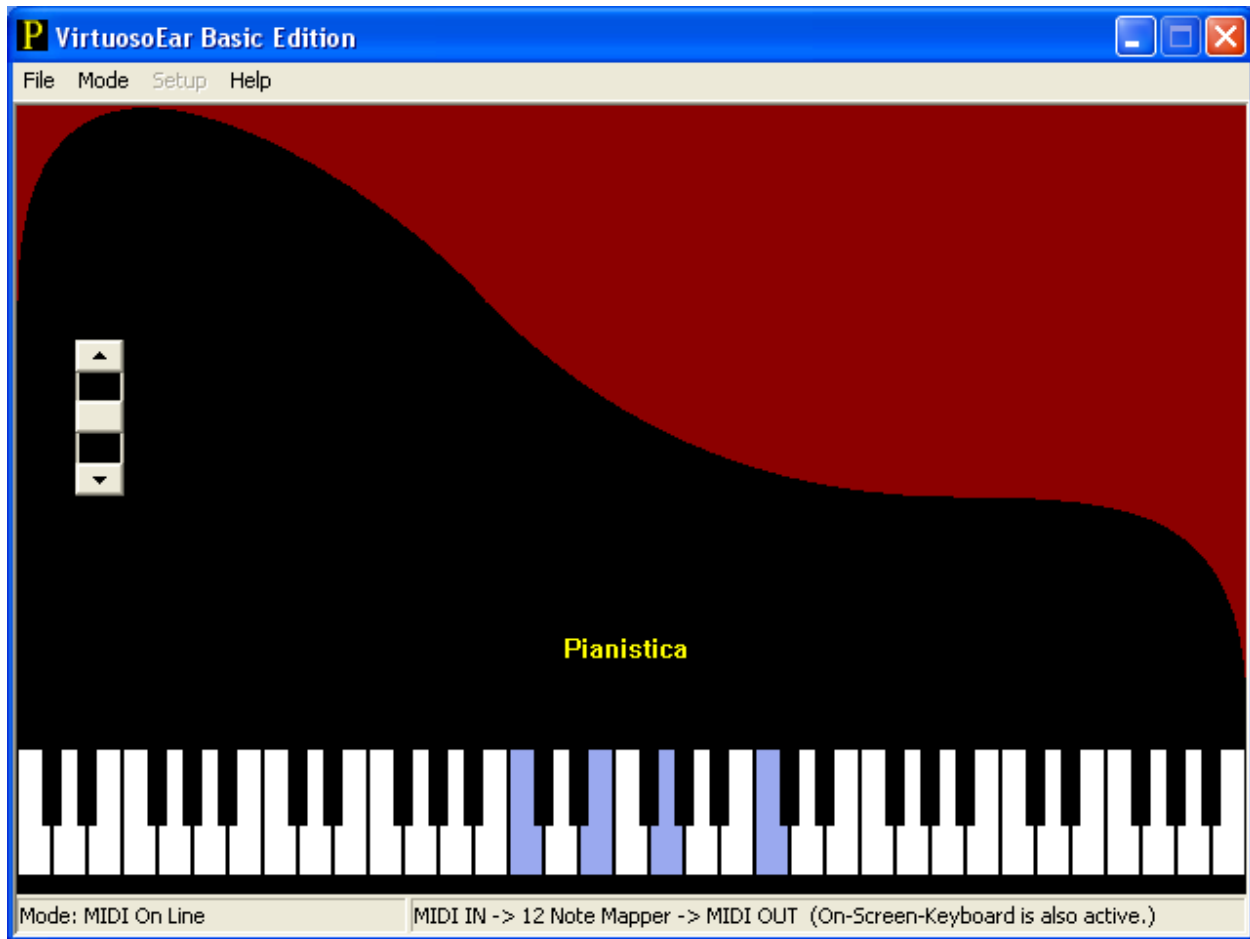
1. Easy to use intuitive User Interface. You can learn basic operations under 10 minutes.
2. No installation required – Just double click on the icon to start.
3. Very compact – The program fits perfectly into any media such as USB stick if you need to borrow someone elses’ computers. A floppy is also usable for this option.
4. You can use any Windows PCs from Windows 95 including Vista and Windows 7.
5. Automatic Saving feature remembers where you left off. You are right back to where you were next time you start the program.
6. The program is a very good companion to our new book: A Totally New Approach to Ear Training.
7. You can download an evaluation version to try out. There is no risk in your part.

## *Download*

What are you waiting for? Please go to [www.pianistica.com](http://www.pianistica.com) to try out the product. Thank you very much for your interest.

## Screen Shot

This is what it looks like on your screen though it is best to see it for yourself.



## Practical System Requirement

You need a MIDI enabled input device, such as a MIDI keyboard.

As discussed earlier, you need either a GM (General MIDI) compliant Hardware MIDI Synthesizer or low latency Software Synthesizer. A Hardware Synthesizer does not have to be a fancy standalone unit. An old sound card with a MIDI capability will just do fine. In fact, if you have an old desktop computer, we suggest you give a try. It might work just fine for this application. If your computer is a desktop machine, using a PCI based sound card with a MIDI capability is probably the easiest and cheapest solution. You can often find such a card free. Unfortunately, you need to have some hands on experience with this sort of things.

We cannot make a practical suggestion on Software Synthesizer. You should try their demo version to see if it really works. The latency is usually a function of a buffer size and a CPU power requirement. Quite often, you need to tune those parameters to get a desired result. On top of it, you also need to find a software patch cable to connect the software with your software synthesizer, if your synthesizer does not function as a MIDI Output device. One such software is MIDI Yoke NT. This is not our recommendation, by the way. You have to choose one such software. You can now see why this software is not for everyone at this moment.