

## EAST WEST QUANTUM LEAP PIANOS THE NEW MEANING OF HEAVYWEIGHT

\$445, [www.soundsonline.com](http://www.soundsonline.com)



Players agreed that Quantum Leap has by far the most detailed and biggest-sounding pianos of the bunch. "The dead center of the Bösendorfer's dynamic range sings out for a long time," noted Fortner, "exactly like the real thing, and the nine extra notes below bottom A [a famous feature of the real thing] are just thunderous." Richard Leiter said, "This sounds like a *good* recording of a *good* piano. It makes me want to play late

19th Century classical – if I could!" Aikin added, "This'd be lovely for Chopin, but not the patch you'd load for Bach . . . or Little Richard."

Trying the Steinway, Aikin said, "I'd sit down and play this for pleasure over the Bösendorfer. It's very lively, with just the right combination of depth and brilliance." He was even happier with the Bechstein: "This makes

me want to play Mozart. There's a nice singing quality and melodic projection over chords. I have a sense of comfort here, even more than with the Steinway." The Bechstein was also Fortner's favorite for his R&B-derived playing style: "Lean into it, and it doesn't go quite as far as the Yamaha, but the bell-like harmonics you want for pop come forward. Lean back, and it's brooding and mellow. Gorgeous."

### NEED TO KNOW

**Pianos sampled** Bechstein D-280, Bösendorfer Imperial 290, Steinway D, Yamaha C7.

**Sample folder size** 259.55GB with all four pianos; you can also install each separately.

**Max. velocity layers** 10–18, depending on note.

**Stands out because** It's the biggest, most ambitious sampled piano project ever, with the sound quality to prove it. You'll need a bad-ass computer to play the full-size presets with abandon, but if you have one – wow!

**Adjusts to touch** Drag visual curve to make response heavier or lighter.

**Realism details** Separately loadable samples for: notes with and without sustain pedal, single-note repetitions (with and without sustain), soft pedal, soft + sustain, staccato, and release samples. Mix up to three mic positions.

**Room ambience/effects** Convolution reverb with presets based on real acoustic spaces.