



FLOW - USER MANUAL  
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## WHAT IS FLOW?

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FLOW is an Integrated Composition Environment that helps you to focus on composing your music. FLOW takes care of connecting your software and offers functionalities that will speed up your composition workflow.

FLOW is not just an orchestral template, it is the basic frame that allows you to easily build every template you need.

FLOW is specifically programmed for composers that create orchestral music with VST instruments, is modular and is programmed to deliver the most performant results also in machine with limited resources.

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## IS IT FOR YOU?

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Every composer has his own DAW and workflow.  
FLOW is for you if you use or plan to use:

- Cubase Pro 9.5 (pro version is required to use expression maps)
- Vienna Ensemble Pro 6
- Lemur
- Spitfire Audio Libraries\*

Please note that FLOW comes with Spitfire Audio Libraries already programmed but any other sound library can be easily integrated.

\*For the list of libraries integrated refer to the documentation of the version that you have downloaded.



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## MARCO DI STEFANO

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I started creating music back in the 90s using a primitive midi software. Music and Information Technology have, since then, sculptured my life. Today my time is split between being an IT freelancer and a composer. My musical studies kicked-off with guitar and piano lessons; very early I started to write my music and focus more on composition and orchestration techniques.

Since then I had the pleasure to study with three respectful composers: Giovanni D'Aquila (Palermo), Adriano Guarnieri (Bologna) and Luc Brewaeys (Bruxelles). Together we explored both the classical and contemporary composing approaches.

My personal composing style can be described as a mix of both paradigms with a continuous reminiscence of my early classical influences from composers like Chopin and Debussy.

I use music as a story telling tool, most of my compositions have been inspired by introspective reflections, stories or pictures. In 2017 I decided to kick start a professional career as composer with the vision to become a composer for movies and for classical exhibitions.

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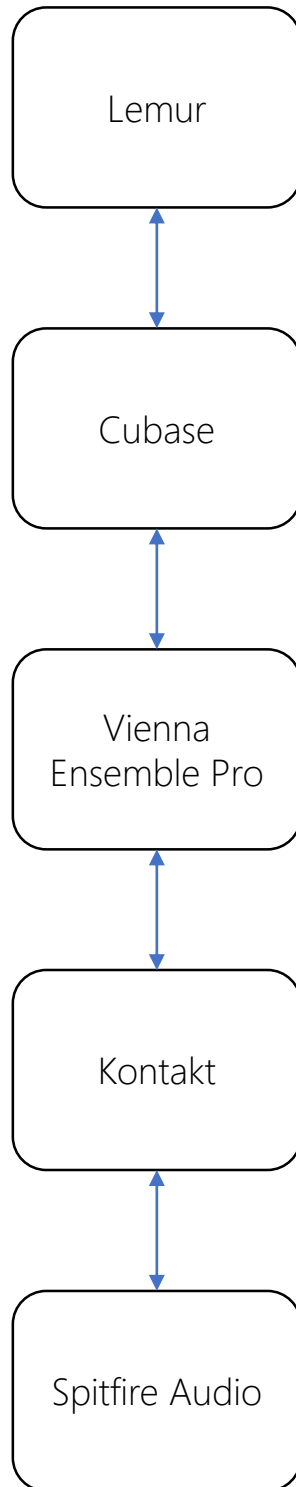
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# 1. HOW DOES IT WORK?

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## 2. SETUP LEMUR

Lemur is a professional MIDI and OSC controller app. The choice of using Lemur in FLOW is simply related to its flexibility which let's you do whatever you want (if you know how to use its programming language). There are many ways you can setup the connection between Lemur and your PC, and all of these will work. For more information visit: <https://liine.net/en/products/lemur/>.

In this chapter I will show you one of these methods which is very simple and for which you will need a WiFi connection (same network as your DAW) and LoopMidi, a free Virtual Midi application: <https://www.tobias-erichsen.de/software/loopmidi.html>.

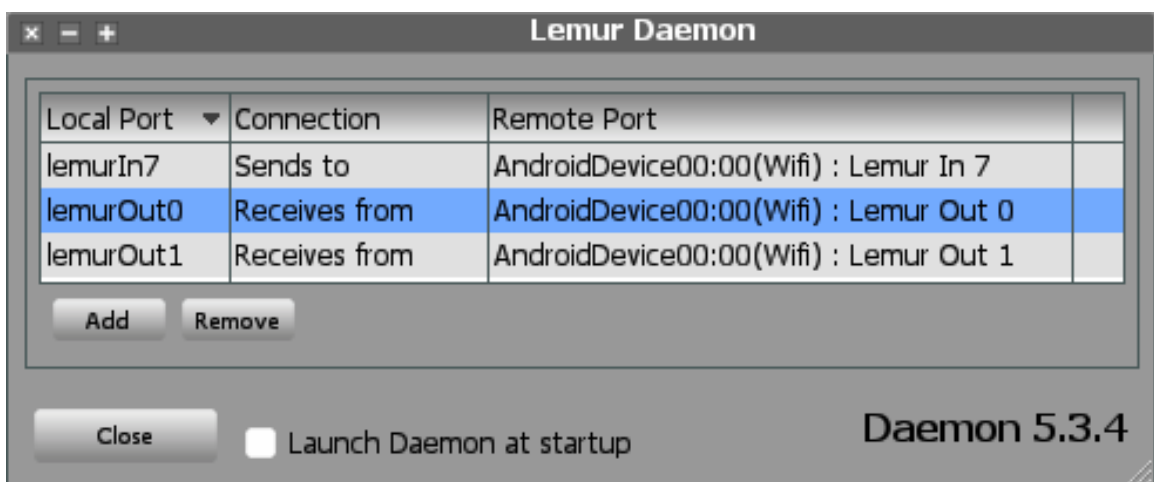
After installing LoopMidi create the following ports:

My loopback MIDI ports

Name	Total data	Throughput / sec.
lemurOut1	0	0 Byte
lemurOut0	0	0 Byte
lemurIn7	0	0 Byte

After creating these midi ports you need to stop the Lemur daemon if already running and launch it again (important otherwise your newly created ports will not be visible).

Setup Lemur Daemon to look like the picture below:



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## 3. SETUP VIENNA ENSEMBLE PRO

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Vienna Ensemble Pro is a cross-platform network solution that allows to decouple the sample management from your DAW with terrific improvement on the workflow and use of resources.

In FLOW Vienna can be used for one single machine, but the template can easily be split to be used in a network of computers.

The "disable" function allows to create a huge template that starts with nothing loaded in memory, thus you can enable only the tracks you need and optimize the use of your resources.

In FLOW Vienna is fully setup with several of the most used libraries from Spitfire Audio. Also all the automations are set so that you can later enable/disable channels easily from the tablet.

There is only one configuration to change in Vienna: go in Preferences and set the midi channels, audio input and output as shown in the picture below:



You can set the amount of cores per instance depending on your machine, for further information on these options you can visit:

[https://www.vsl.co.at/en/Vienna\\_Ensemble\\_PRO/Product\\_Info](https://www.vsl.co.at/en/Vienna_Ensemble_PRO/Product_Info).

After these settings are changed you need to restart Vienna and finally load the FLOW project, you will see it will load in a few seconds and without any error.

You are now ready to proceed to the next step.

## 4. SETUP CUBASE PRO

Cubase is one of the most popular digital audio workstations of our time. FLOW uses the version Pro of Cubase because of its capability to handle the switching of articulations through expression maps, this can happen internally in Cubase (through the midi editor) or remotely via an external MIDI controller (Lemur in this case).

To setup Cubase you need to add a generic remote (Studio -> Studio Setup -> +), Import the FLOW remote file and set the input and output as shown in the picture below. Do not forget to apply to save the changes.

**Generic Remote**

lemurOut0 MIDI Input

lemurIn7 MIDI Output

Control Name	MIDI Status	MIDI Channel	Address	Max. Value	Flags
Track Selection	Controller	1	126	127	,T,,
Toggle Woodwinds	Note On	1	0	127	R,,
Toggle Brass	Note On	1	1	127	R,,
Toggle Strings	Note On	1	2	127	R,,
Toggle Mix	Note On	1	3	127	R,,
Toggle Percussion	Note On	1	4	127	R,,

Control Name	Device	Channel/Category	Value/Action	Flags
Track Selection	Midi Mixer	Selected	4000	,,
Toggle Woodwinds	Command	Process Project Logi	Toggle Woodwinds	P
Toggle Brass	Command	Process Project Logi	Toggle Brass	P
Toggle Strings	Command	Process Project Logi	Toggle Strings	P
Toggle Mix	Command	Process Project Logi	Toggle Mix	P
Toggle Percussion	Command	Process Project Logi	Toggle Percussion	P



## 4. SETUP CUBASE PRO

Next step is to setup the quick controls, so that you will be able to record automations on a selected set of channels that depends on the selected track.

Select the "Track Quick Controls" device and set the Address from 1-8 as shown in the picture below. Please double check that all parameters are exactly the same as showed in the picture.

**Track Quick Controls**

**lemurOut0** MIDI Input

**Not Connected** MIDI Output

Control Name	MIDI Status	MIDI Channel	Address	Max. Value	Flags
QuickControl 1	Controller	1	1	127	R, ,
QuickControl 2	Controller	1	2	127	R, ,
QuickControl 3	Controller	1	3	127	R, ,
QuickControl 4	Controller	1	4	127	R, ,
QuickControl 5	Controller	1	5	127	R, ,
QuickControl 6	Controller	1	6	127	R, ,
QuickControl 7	Controller	1	7	127	R, ,
QuickControl 8	Controller	1	8	127	R, ,

If you have your own fader and you would like to use this instead of using Lemur you can do it without any issue, just set the quick controls to the midi CC of your faders.

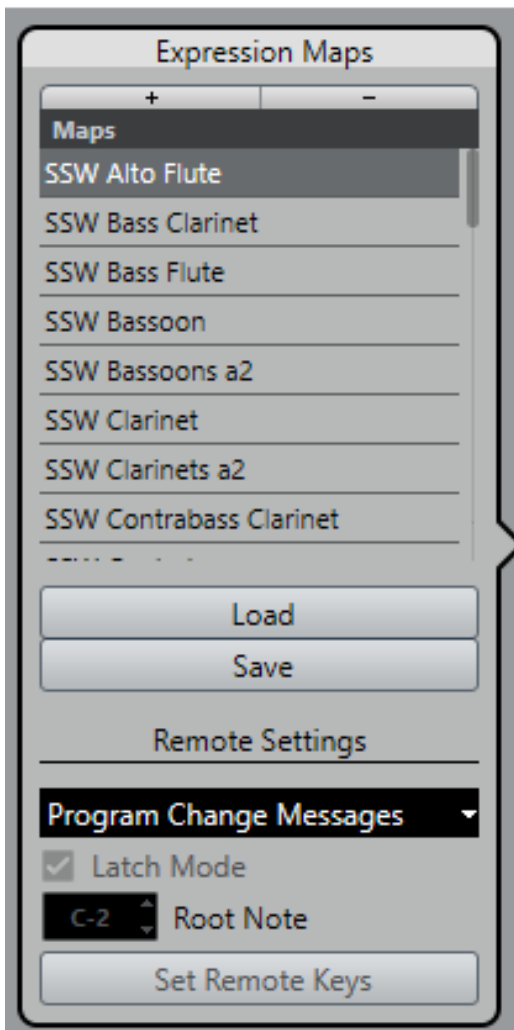
Each channel in Cubase is set to have these 8 quick controls with the most important Midi CC, for example the first two are always CC1 (Modulation) and CC11 (Expression). The others 6 depends on each instrument.

## 4. SETUP CUBASE PRO

Finally you need to change the way Cubase receives trigger to change articulations from a remote. The default setup is with a MIDI CC, you will need to switch to program change since this is the way Lemur communicate with Cubase to ask for an articulation switch.

Cubase will later transform this Program Change message into a MIDI CC and sent it through to Kontakt which will then apply the change.

### Expression Map Setup



To be able to change this parameter you need to have a project opened first.

So now you can load the FLOW Cubase project, and when it is loaded select any instrument track, go to expression map, click on setup Expression Maps (bottom of the long list) and set to Program change the parameter as shown in the picture on the left.

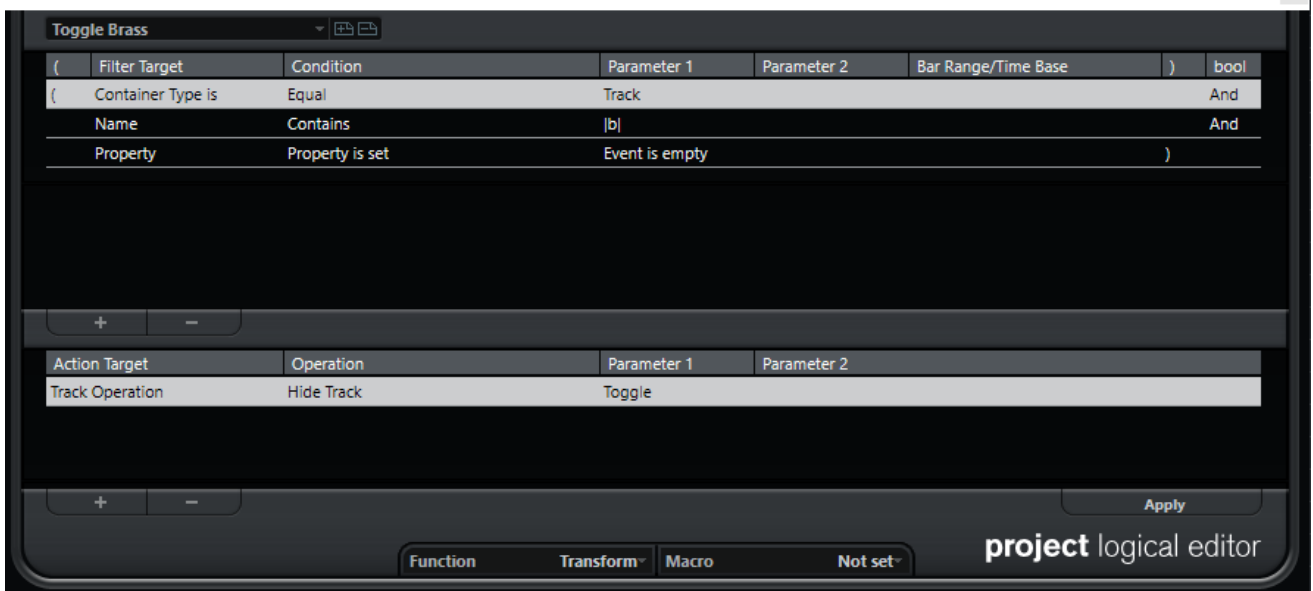
## 4. SETUP CUBASE PRO

The last step to configure Cubase is to create the logic which takes care of hiding/unhiding tracks following the buttons on the first tab of Lemur.

To do that you need to go in Edit → Project Logical Editor... and use the + button to create 5 new functions.

Here is the “Toggle Brass” function. The only difference between the 5 functions is in the Parameter 1 for the Name condition in Filter Target.

Project Logical Editor



Function name	Parameter 1 for Name
Toggle Woodwinds	w
Toggle Brass	b
Toggle Percussion	p
Toggle Strings	s
Toggle Mix	m

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## 5. START USING FLOW

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Congratulations!

You can now start using FLOW.

There are a few things you can do to check that everything works perfectly:

1. Select any instrument track in Cubase and check that Lemur gets updated; you should see changing
  1. the name of the track in the first tab,
  2. the assigned quick controls to faders
  3. the articulations
  4. the midi control changes
2. Now click on the red button close to the name of the track in the first tab of Lemur, if you switch it to green the selected channel will be loaded in Vienna, if you switch it to red the selected channel will be disabled in Vienna
3. Now start to play and check that the articulations in the Kontakt instance inside Vienna changes when you switch them from the Lemur tab
4. Now go in the MIDI control tab and start to move the faders, you must see this reflected in the Kontakt instance associated with the instrument
5. Finally select a track in Cubase, enable the recording (W button) of automations and move one of the quick controls on the Quick Controls Tab of Lemur

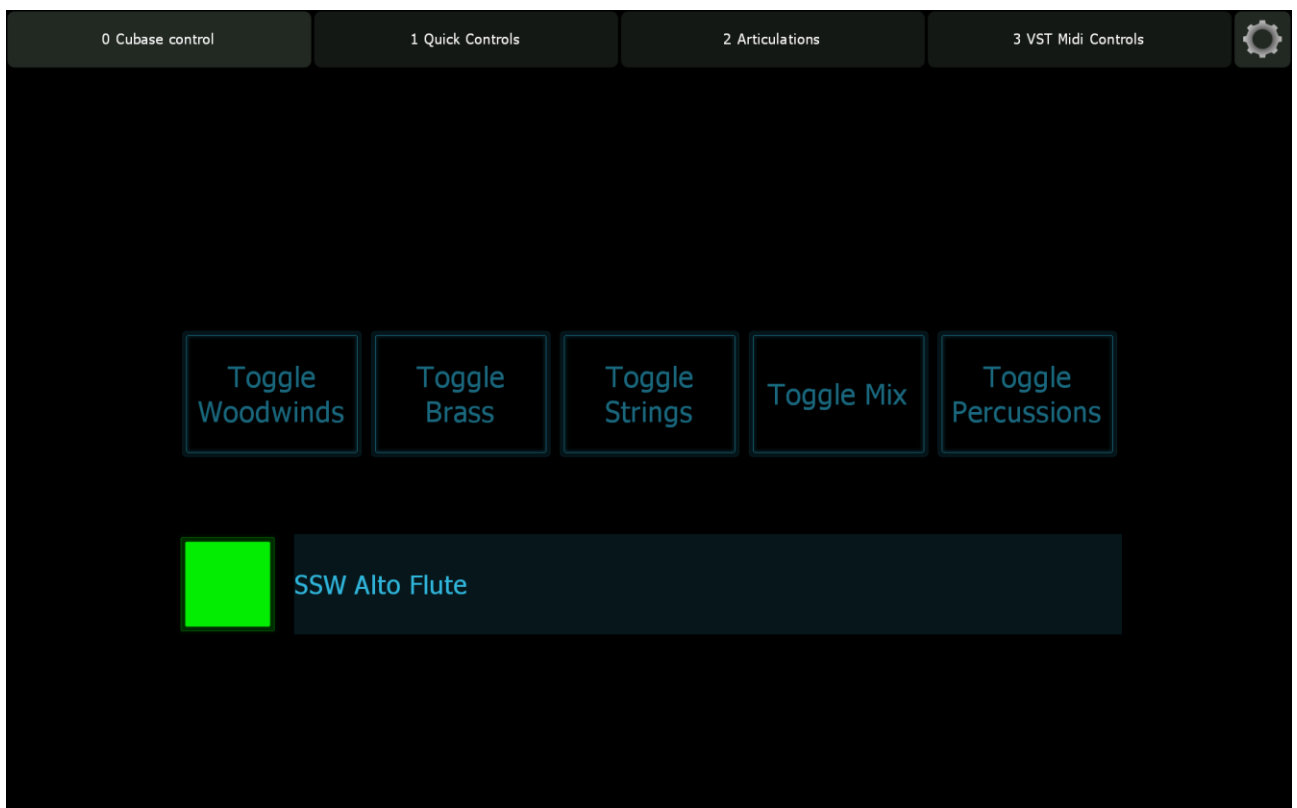
If all of this is working then you can start to compose.

If you encounter trouble you can get in contact with me or consult the FAQ available at:

[www.flow.marcodistefano.com](http://www.flow.marcodistefano.com)

### TAB 0 CUBASE CONTROL

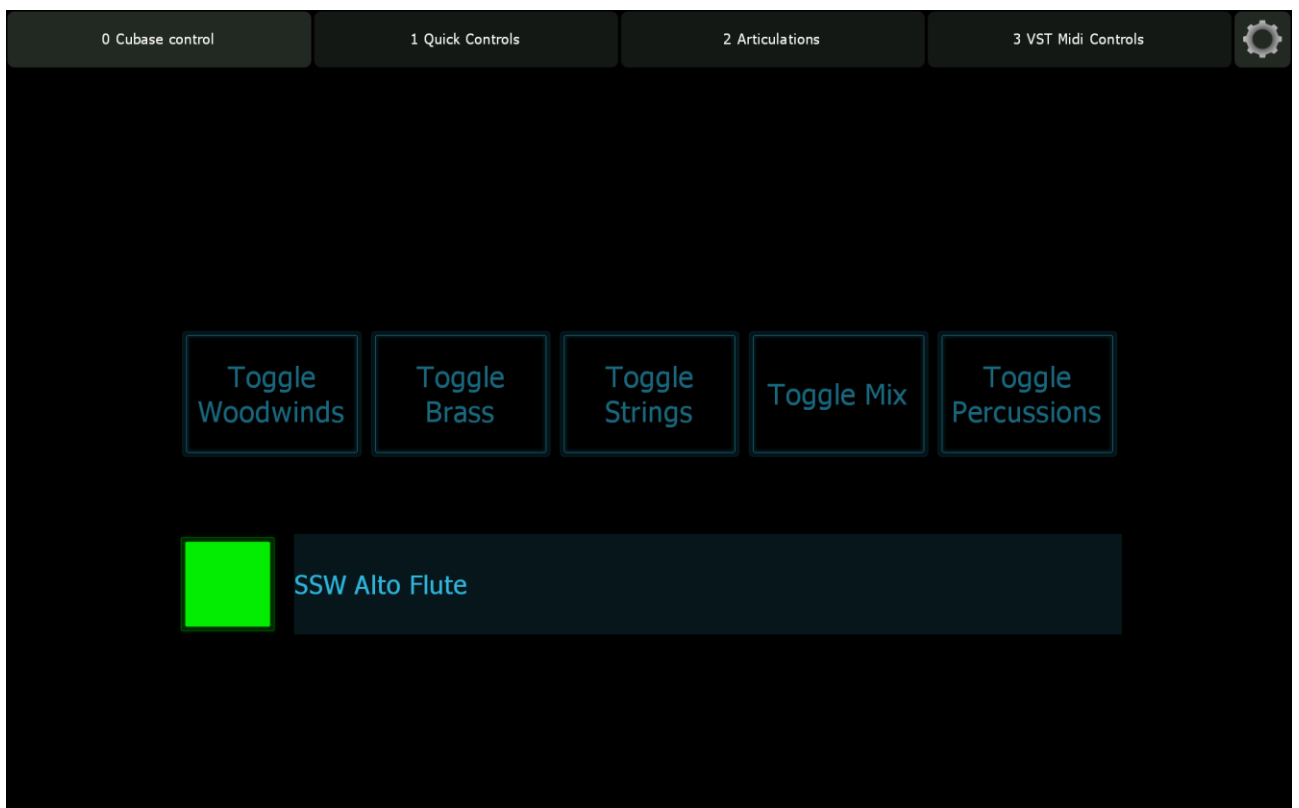
In this Lemur tab you will find 8 faders which I have mapped to the quick controls in Cubase. The label of the faders is synchronized with the track selected in Cubase, what it remains for you to do is to setup the quick controls so that they match the ones in the lemur project, or viceversa.



### TAB 0 CUBASE CONTROL

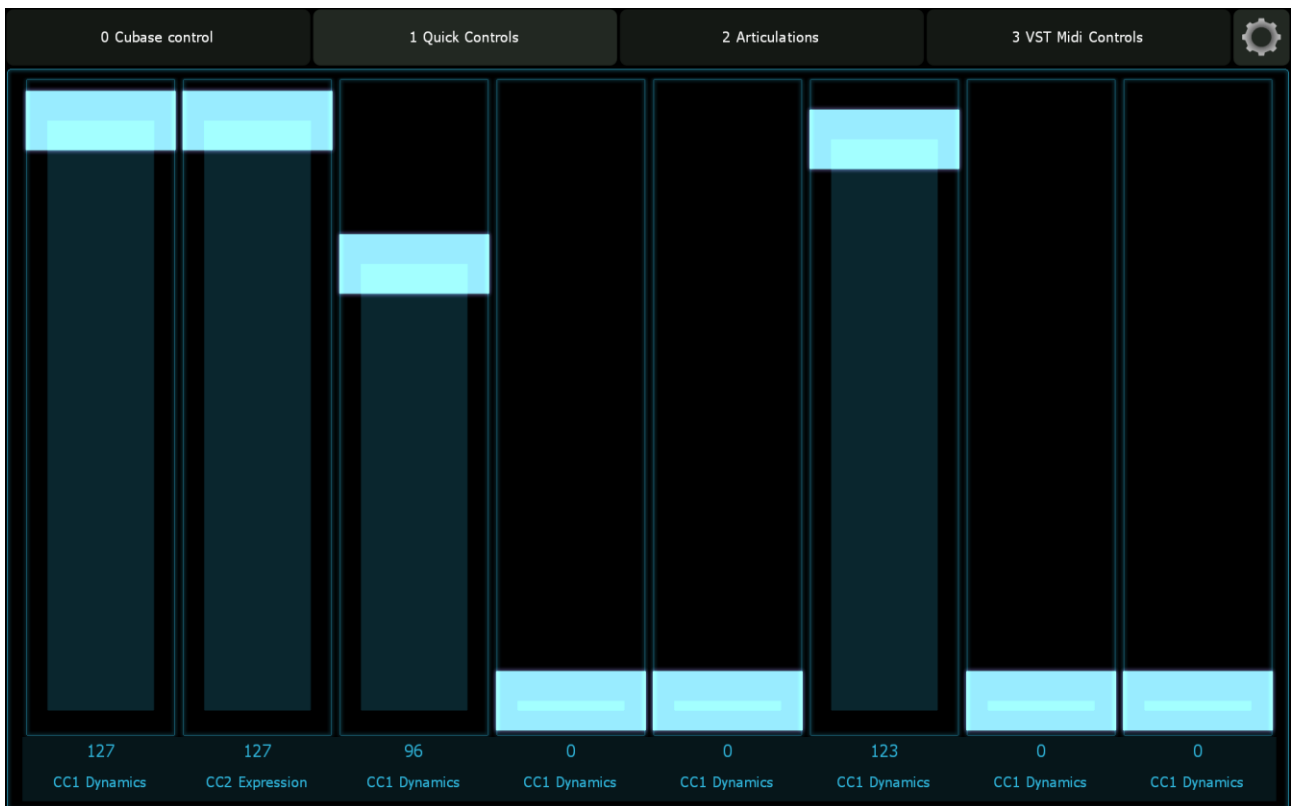
In this Lemur tab I have setup basic features to control the visibility of the track. It requires to make a small setup in Cubase.

It also contains a label showing the name of the selected track in Cubase and a button which allows you to enable/disable tracks in Vienna, allowing you to have an optimal usage of the RAM



### TAB 1 QUICK CONTROLS

In this Lemur tab you will find 8 faders which I have mapped to the quick controls in Cubase. The label of the faders is synchronized with the track selected in Cubase, what it remains for you to do is to setup the quick controls so that they match the ones in the lemur project, or viceversa.



### TAB 2 ARTICULATIONS

This is the core of the Lemur template, via this tab you can select and switch articulations based on the track which is currently selected in Cubase.





### TAB 3 VST MIDI CONTROLS

This Lemur tab allows to control all the midi parameter of the selected VST. The difference with quick controls is that here we can have more than 8 and instead of creating automation on the track it will edit the midi channel values in the midi editor.

I honestly find it much more interesting to work with automation on the track, it allows me to have an overall view of all that is going on with the different instruments.





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