Reviewed By: Marty Peters

Rating: 5-Star Showcase

We get a lot of submissions that are created totally from samples and virtual instruments. Imagine our great surprise, then, when this short composition turned out to be one of the most "real" recordings we have heard among the thousands of submissions we have received over the years, and the first entirely-virtual song to make it into our Spotlight.

Let us first commend John on his obvious musical/arrangement savvy. “Cutthroat” has got “pro” written all over it, and the fact that it was done entirely in the confines of a home studio should make all of us home recordists proud. The impressive nature of John’s work also speaks volumes as to just how far the quality of virtual instrumentation has come.

Working in Logic Pro 8, and using a combination of East West and NI samples, John tells us that his biggest challenge was to ensure that his recording had enough low end presence. Well, rest assured John, not only did you nail the low end, but the entire piece is brimming with great tone and dynamics. The fact that he mixed on a combination of headphones and small Yamaha speakers forced John to work hard for his results, and it shows.

With the surging popularity of music for film, television and games, John’s excellent recording serves to remind us that the opportunities in our field are no longer limited to rock, country and other “traditional” styles, an encouraging fact indeed. So sit back and enjoy. Maestro, take it away...

Summary: A new flavor, and a tasty one to boot!