



Now Playing

BY KATE KOENIG



EXTENDED PLAY

Listen to the Minimoog at musicalive.com/extended-play-october-2016.



NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

Minimoog Model D



Pictured above and below: The Minimoog's control panel features knobs to adjust volume and resonance, and can be left upright or folded back.

WHEN THE MINIMOOG MODEL D was introduced in 1971, it revolutionized popular music as the first portable synthesizer. Inspired by the 1963 Moog Modular synthesizer, the Minimoog was the brainchild of engineer and electronic music pioneer Robert Moog, who founded Moog Music in 1953. The original Moog (pronounced like "rogue") stood at several feet tall, and allowed users to generate raw sound waves and modify their textures in a variety of ways. It was also the first synthesizer to include a keyboard, which encouraged its use for musical experimentation. Due to its size, however, it was mostly sold to recording studios and schools.

At just 30 inches wide, the Minimoog made the Moog's innovations far more accessible to the average user. Some of its earliest and most influential adopters were progressive rock keyboardist Keith Emerson, jazz composer/arranger Chick Corea, and reggae icon Bob Marley. Though its production halted in 1981, the Minimoog's unique sound made it a mainstay in popular music through the '90s.

This summer, Moog Music announced the reintroduction of the Minimoog Model D, along with several of their vintage synthesizers. While staying true to the original design, the new version features more powerful overdrive effects and MIDI capabilities, making a piece of history accessible to a new generation of musicians. 🎹