

About the Gamer Symphony Orchestra

In the fall of 2005, Michelle Eng decided she wanted to be in an orchestral group that played video game music. With four others from the University of Maryland Repertoire Orchestra, she founded GSO to achieve that dream. By the time of the ensemble's first public performance in the spring of 2006, its size had quadrupled.

Today, GSO provides a musical and social outlet to 90 members. It is the world's first college-level ensemble solely dedicated to video game music as an emerging art form. Aside from its concerts, the orchestra also runs "Deathmatch for Charity," a video game tournament in the spring. All proceeds benefit Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., via the "Child's Play" charity (www.childsplay.org).



We love getting feedback from our fans! Please feel free to fill out this form and drop it in the "Question Block" on your way out, or e-mail us at umd@gamersymphony.org. If you need more room, use the space provided on the back of this page.

How did you hear about the Gamer Symphony Orchestra?

What arrangements would you like to hear from GSO? Other comments?

Please write down your e-mail address if you would like to receive messages about future GSO concerts and events.

The University of Maryland's Gamer Symphony Orchestra

<http://umd.gamersymphony.org/>



FALL CONCERT 2009

University of Maryland Memorial Chapel

Saturday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m.

Conductors

Anna Costello

Kira Levitzky

Program

Medal of Honor

Composer: Michael Giacchino

Medal of Honor: Frontline (2002)

Arrangers: Tom Holtz, Robert Garner

A favorite of GSO's brass section, this piece is an adaptation of "The Halftrack Chase." The driving piece captures the danger and excitement of Lt. Jimmy Patterson's mission to infiltrate a secret aircraft facility in Nazi Germany in 1944. GSO adapted its version of this piece from a Mighty Sound of Maryland marching band arrangement first performed in 2004.



Composer: Koji Kondo

Super Mario Bros. 2 (1988)

Arrangers: Michelle Eng, Robert Garner

Piccolo Solo: Peter Fontana

The GSO originally performed this piece in October 2006. Since then, it has changed only slightly to account for the current instrumentation. The medley follows the general story arc of the game, from Mario's entry through the magic door to his ultimate victory over Wart. GSO plays the piece here as a nod to the ensemble's early days and a tribute to Nintendo's classic era. The themes in this medley first accompanied the Japanese release of *Yume Kōjō: Doki Doki Panic* in 1987. As such, this music is older than most current GSO musicians.

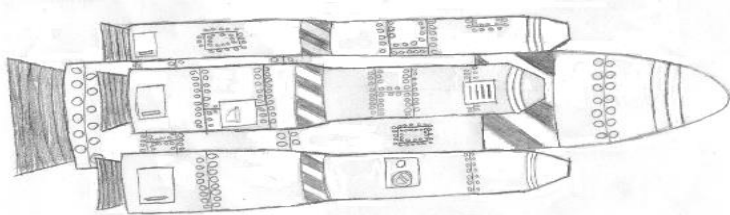
Cid -- Wings of Song

Nobuo Uematsu

Final Fantasy VII (1997)

Arranger: Dan Barnaba

All Final Fantasy games have had an important character named Cid. Cid is usually a pilot capable of flying many of the airships or other vehicles used in the games. His theme evokes a sense of the grandeur of flight and freedom as the party meets *Final Fantasy VII*'s Cid Highwind, an air pilot who aspired to create a rocket ship to become the first man in space. The original score is modified to fit the available instruments in the GSO.



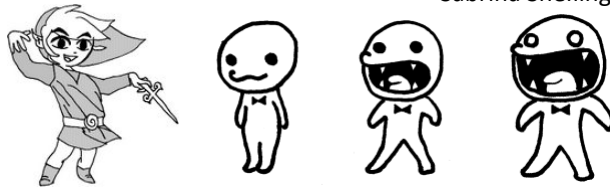
4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS 24 HOUR NONSTOP GAMING AND MUSIC
JANUARY 1-4 2010 - HILTON MARK CENTER - ALEXANDRIA, VA - MAGFEST.ORG

Chorus and Conductors

<u>Bass</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Soprano</u>
Alexander Booth*	Chris Apple	Craig Abrom	Diana Bestul-Taylor
Brandon Hauk	Kevin Henke	Alexandra Blasgen	Ayla Hurley
Brian Kwong	Brett Holbert	Brittany Klein	Jen Johnston
Andrew Mertz	Jeff Nickerson	Sasha Petersen	Elizabeth Kallgren
Steve O'Brien	Xiaobo Tang	Holly Wu	Christine Lau*
	Ben Walker		Christa Lee
			Sabrina Snellings

Conductors

Anna Costello
Kira Levitzky



Administrative Positions

President	Rob Garner
Vice-President	Steve O'Brien
Secretary	Erin Gilbert
Treasurer	Alan Eng
Assistant Treasurer	Edd Tsao
Music Director	Chris Apple
Choral Director	Chris Apple
Conductor	Anna Costello
Conductor	Kira Levitzky
Orchestra Manager	Andrew Bishop
Officer At-Large	Matt Phipps
Officer At-Large	Alex Booth
Advertising Director	Ting Liu
Social Director	Samantha Kretschmer
Webmaster	Steve O'Brien
Assistant Webmaster	Brandon Hauk
GSO Logo	Matt Maiatico,
	Katie Noble
Audiovisual	Alan Libbee
	Robert Lodge
	Nick Piegari
Program Layout	Alex Booth
Program Imagery	Jeff Nickerson
	Xiaobo Tang
	Ayla Hurley
	Holly Wu
	Craig Abrom
	Alex Booth



Rob Garner



Steve O'Brien



Chris Apple



Andrew Bishop

Fire Emblem: Genealogy of the Holy War

Composers: Eiji Nakagawa, Hiroaki Watanabe,
Kenichi Kimura, Etsuo Kawasaki, Naoyuki Horikou
Fire Emblem: Genealogy of the Holy War (1996)

Arranger: Andrew Bishop

The drums of war are beating, Verdane has invaded and villages all over are being pillaged by bandits. It is time to take up sword, bow, axe, lance and tome and defend what you hold dear. Will you succeed or will darkness cover the land? Join us as we go through the introduction and main theme of a classic RPG from the 16 bit era, remade for full orchestra. Genealogy of the Holy War is the fourth game out of 11 in the series that created and continues to define the tactic RPG genre.

To Zanarkand

Composer: Nobuo Uematsu

Final Fantasy X (2001)

Arranged and performed by Samantha Kretschmer

To Zanarkand, a tribute to the city of lights, is a beautiful and compelling piece that serves as the opening theme to Final Fantasy X. The piece conveys a sense of sorrow and loss for the grand city that was destroyed 1,000 years prior. The song moves from a slow, sad beginning to a more passionate body and conclusion.



Melodies of Life

Composer: Nobuo Oematsu

Final Fantasy IX (2000)

Arranged and performed by Jacob Coppage-Gross

Originally composed for the soundtrack of *Final Fantasy IX*, "Melodies of Life" was remade for the Final Fantasy Piano Collections. It begins with a simple yet graceful lullaby and develops into a beautiful hymn that represents the lush Final Fantasy world in all its glory. It is a classic melody of the Final Fantasy series that sits alongside the Main Theme of *Final Fantasy VII* in grandeur and wonder.

The Promised Land

Composer: Nobuo Uematsu

Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children (2006)

Arranger: Chris Apple

This *capella* piece was chosen to give a voice to *Final Fantasy VII's* Lifestream, a torrent of spiritual energy deep within our planet. Unlike the decaying piano melodies of the mortal world, the sustained chords of the Lifestream depict eternal tides of joy and sorrow: raw emotions of the deceased, watching the tragic events of the living unfold.



Korobeiniki

Traditional Russian folk song

Tetris (1989)

Arranger: Gregory Cox

Bass Solo: Steve O'Brien

"Korobeiniki" ("The Peddler"), made famous as the background music to the Game Boy edition of Tetris, is in fact a Russian folk melody. It acquired its name from a poem written by Nikolai Nekrasov that was set to this melody in 1861. The lyrics tell the story of a handsome peddler who becomes taken with Katya, a young woman. The two meet secretly, and though only the night knows how they came to terms, Katya manages to acquire a single turquoise ring...



Dämmerung

Composer: Yasunori Mitsuda

Xenosaga: Der Wille Zur Macht (2003)

Arranger: Chris Apple

German for "twilight," this arrangement explores philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche's concept of moral relativism: that no universal "right" or "wrong" exists. In the first section, a proud people herald their religion. But after the discordant battle in the second section, those same voices cry out in perdition, singing a haunting reprise of their original melody.

Civilization IV

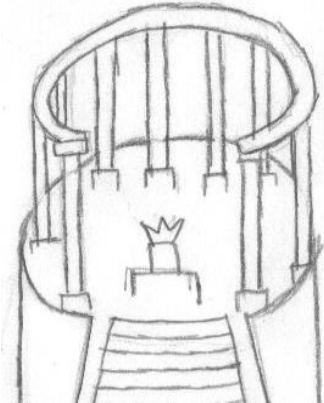
Composer: Christopher Tin

Civilization IV (2005)

Arranger: Alex Song

Tenor Solo: Brett Holbert

Civilization IV begins with the player as a single settler in 4,000 B.C. who must build an empire while contending with rival countries. The two movements of the arrangement, "Coronation" and "Baba Yetu," are featured in the game's introduction movie and the main menu, respectively. The lyrics of "Baba Yetu" are based on a Swahili adaptation of the Lord's Prayer; listen for our tenor soloist who will be singing the Lord's Prayer in Swahili.



Roster

* Section leaders

Concertmaster

Clinton Rebello

Horn

Grace Chang
Joe Cross
Robert Garner
Rachel Kassman*

Trombone

William Ardanuy
Devon Callan
Bill Campbell
Dvir Kafri

Brass

Trumpet

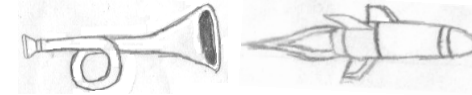
Mike Charles
Sam Nassau
Matthew Phipps*
Alex Ryan

Tuba

Christopher Davis *

Euphonium

Nadine Simpson



Violin

Matt Costales
Rebecca Parker
Julie Heffernan
Marilyn Joseph
Clinton Rebello
Christopher Lee
Laura Stayman*
James Wissman
Jonathan Poplawski

Violin (cont.)

Ting Liu
Erin Durkin
Diane Ye
Katie Noble
Curtis Mitchell
Melissa Ou*
Daniela Miller
Alexa Stott

Strings

Viola

Stephanie Cross
Adrian Francisco
Sonya Lu
Victor Ontiveros
Carrie Quattlander*

Cello

Tina Dang
Alan Eng*
Carli Follett
James Lynch



Piano

Andrew Baer
Tevis Tsai
Cody Zhang

Bass Guitar

Elise Arao



Rhythm

Guitar

James Tarkenton
Edward "Edd" Tsao

Percussion

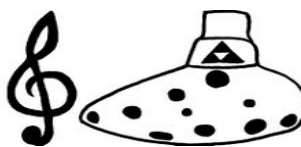
Sean Robert
Jeremy Ulrich

Clarinet

Melissa Apter
Andrew Bishop
Dee Chou
Scott Miller
Alex Song*
Erin Grand

Basoon

Randall Perrine*



Woodwind

Oboe

Jake Coppage-Gross

Flute/Piccolo

Peter Fontana
Erin Gilbert*
Samantha Kretschmer
Karen Murad
Vaidehi "Vai" Patel

Alto Sax

Amy Kim
Evelyn Sievert
Anna Trejo

Baritone Sax

Laura Peregoy

Tenor Sax

Benjamin Tousley*