# = Takahito Eguchi =

Takahito Eguchi ( ?? ?? , Eguchi Takahito , born August 28 , 1971 ) is a Japanese video game composer , arranger , and orchestrator . He is best known for collaborating with fellow composer Noriko Matsueda on numerous soundtracks , most notably The Bouncer and Final Fantasy X @-@ 2 . He became interested in music when he was six years old after hearing his neighbor playing the piano . He attended the Tokyo Conservatoire Shobi where he acquainted Matsueda .

Employed at Square Enix from 1998 to 2003 , Eguchi is currently working for Sega Digital Studio . He has also scored three anime series . In addition , he performed the piano on Yoko Shimomura 's album Murmur . Eguchi created mostly electronic music in the early part of his career , but now almost exclusively focuses on orchestral composition and arrangement , along with performing keyboards for various other musicians .

## = = Biography = =

Born in Nagasaki , Japan , Eguchi became interested in music at the age of six when he heard his neighbor playing the piano . While his father , a judo athlete , initially tried to push him into pursuing sports , he eventually agreed to let him take piano lessons , as long as he agreed to study with his sister . Eguchi enrolled at the Tokyo Conservatoire Shobi , where he met long @-@ term composing partner Noriko Matsueda . After graduating from the conservatoire , he produced numerous compositions , joined a band as a keyboardist , and worked as a software designer . He also gave Matsueda advice on music manipulation during her first game project , Front Mission , in 1995 . At her request , he also arranged and orchestrated " Theme of Bahamut Lagoon ~ Opening " for the bonus disc of the original soundtrack to Bahamut Lagoon ( 1996 ) .

Eguchi joined Square ( now Square Enix ) in 1998 ; his first job was composing the 1999 title Racing Lagoon alongside Matsueda . Although his role was minor compared to Matsueda 's , he was responsible for the opening and ending themes , the majority of the battle themes , and the bonus track " Taiman Battle Remix " . Eguchi and Matsueda collaborated once again in 2000 on the PlayStation 2 game The Bouncer . He created a lot more music than on previous soundtracks ; a large amount of the music produced was not used in the game and there were also many post @-@ production demands . He composed the pop ballad " Forevermore " , which was arranged and provided lyrics by Narada Michael Walden and Sunny Hilden and performed by Shanice in " Love Is the Gift " , the ending theme to the English @-@ language versions of the game . The song was also sold as a single and featured in a promotional album . In 2002 , Eguchi arranged the track " Hand in Hand -Reprise- " for Yoko Shimomura 's score to Kingdom Hearts .

Eguchi reunited with Matsueda to compose Final Fantasy X @-@ 2 ( 2003 ) . Despite being panned by critics and fans alike and having a low budget , the soundtrack was commercially successful . He was also the game 's orchestrator and the composer of the love ballad " Real Emotion / 1000 no Kotoba " . In 2004 , Eguchi and Matsueda composed Final Fantasy X @-@ 2 International + Last Mission and arranged three pieces in the Final Fantasy X @-@ 2 Piano Collection album . The Piano Collections album was their final project at while at Square Enix , which they both left afterward . Since his departure , he has been involved in several anime projects ; he was the co @-@ composer of D.N.Angel ( 2003 ) and Rental Magica ( 2007 ) and the sole composer of Trinity Blood ( 2005 ) . He has also mixed Shimomura 's arrangements for the Dark Chronicle Premium Arrange album and performed piano on her vocal album Murmur . In 2006 , he contributed three compositions and two arrangements to the Xbox 360 game Sonic the Hedgehog ; he also worked on the 2008 follow @-@ up Sonic Unleashed . He has since worked on a number of Sonic Team games , such as Super Monkey Ball : Step & Roll , Sonic Colors , Sonic Generations , Rhythm Thief & the Emperor 's Treasure , Sonic Lost World , and Sonic Runners .

## = = Musical style and influences = =

Eguchi and Matsueda are noted for creating mainly jazzy and electronic tracks for the scores they

have collaborated on ; Eguchi is credited for most of the electronic music . The soundtrack to The Bouncer , of which Eguchi and Matsueda co @-@ composed a lot of the pieces , featured among other genres rock , electronica , and jazz fusion . A professional pianist , Eguchi often utilizes the piano in his compositions . He has stated that most of the time he composes and arranges music is at his home studio , where his friends help out by recording acoustic instruments ; if the quality of these recordings are not adequate , however , Eguchi replaces them at the company 's studio . He has said that by the time he is finished creating the music , he is only sleeping three to four hours a week .

Since joining Sega Digital Studio in 2006 , Eguchi has switched over to almost an exclusively orchestral style . On recent projects , he has assisted his fellow co @-@ workers with string and keyboard arrangements , in addition to writing his own material .

He cites Igor Stravinsky , Ryuichi Sakamoto , and Miles Davis as musical influences . When asked about which musicians he would like to collaborate with , he replied , " A musician who has passed away , Miles Davis . There are too many living musicians to talk about . A few are Herbie Hancock , Aretha Franklin , and Ryuichi Sakamoto . " His interest in composition came about after being inspired by a variety of jazz , electronic , modernist , and pop musicians .

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