

= Music of the Mother series =

The Mother series is a role @-@ playing video game series created by Shigesato Itoi for Nintendo . The series started in 1989 with the Japan @-@ only release of Mother , which was followed up by Mother 2 , released as EarthBound outside Japan , for the Super NES in 1994 . A second sequel was released in Japan only , Mother 3 , for the Game Boy Advance in 2006 . The music of the Mother series includes the soundtracks to all three games ; the first game was composed for by Keiichi Suzuki and Hirokazu Tanaka , who were joined by Hiroshi Kanazu for the second game , while Mother 3 's score was written by Shogo Sakai .

The music has inspired several album releases . Mother saw the release in 1989 of an album primarily composed of vocal arrangements of pieces from its soundtrack ; this album was re @-@ released in 2004 in an expanded form . Earthbound had a soundtrack album associated with the game released in 1994 and again in 2004 that contained both original tracks from the game and medleys of multiple tracks . A compilation release , Mother 1 + 2 , received a soundtrack album release in 2003 , as well as an album of MIDI piano versions of songs from the two games in 2006 . The latest release in the series , Mother 3 , has two soundtrack albums : Mother 3 + , released in 2006 , and the online @-@ only release Mother 3i in 2007 .

The games ' soundtracks have received primarily positive reviews , and the music itself has gone on to some popularity . Multiple piano sheet music books of pieces from the series have been produced , and the " Eight Melodies " song originally featured in Mother has been included in some Japanese music textbooks . Music from the series has been used in the Super Smash Bros. series of fighting games , has been played in orchestral game music concerts , and been remixed for websites such as OverClocked Remix .

= = Mother = =

Mother (??? , Maz?) , later re @-@ released as EarthBound Beginnings , is a role @-@ playing video game published by Nintendo for the Nintendo Entertainment System video game console in 1989 . The game 's soundtrack was composed by Keiichi Suzuki and Hirokazu Tanaka . Tanaka was a video game composer working for Nintendo who had previously composed for games such as Super Mario Land and Metroid , while Suzuki was a composer and musician for bands of many different genres . The NES was only able to play three notes at a time , which Suzuki has noted greatly limited what he was able to produce , as he could not create some of the sounds he wanted . Melodies and themes from some pieces from the soundtrack were reused in the other games in the series . (" Pollyanna " and " Snowman " make an appearance in all three games .)

Some of the music from the game was recorded as a studio album by Suzuki and Tanaka in collaboration with various artists entitled Mother . The album was released by CBS / Sony on August 21 , 1989 . It consists of eleven tracks , seven of which are English vocal arrangements of songs from the game created by Suzuki , David Bedford , Takeshi Saitoh , and Michael Nyman . The lyrics to these arrangements were written by Linda Hennrick . Each of the first ten tracks were performed by a different artist or group such as Catherine Warwick and St Paul 's Cathedral Choir . The pieces were recorded at eight different studios in England , and a final 16 @-@ minute capstone track , " The World of Mother " , included most of the tracks from the game itself played back to back in their order of appearance in the game . The album cover shows the word " MOTHER " in a shade of brown over a red background ; the letter " O " of " MOTHER " is replaced by an image of planet Earth , also with a brownish tinge . The soundtrack was reissued on February 18 , 2004 by Sony Music Direct with its tracks digitally remastered , a song from EarthBound entitled " Smiles and Tears " was added , and the track " The World of Mother " was replaced with a version that is six minutes longer .

Despite being recorded in England , the album was only available in Japan , as the game was never released outside of the country until a Virtual Console release over 25 years later . Following a Kickstarter campaign , the American independent record label Ship to Shore PhonoCo worked with Sony Music to reissue the album on vinyl record in 2015 . Only 2 @,@ 000 copies were

pressed , though a limited run of CD albums was also produced .

Slugmag 's Gavin Sheehan wrote : " This soundtrack is gorgeous , at least for the time it was created in . " He noted the experimental style of the tracks , which he credited to the experimental style of the game itself as well as the relative newness of the genre of video game music at the time . Reviewer Patrick Gann of RPGFan received the album well , saying that he enjoyed the variety of genres presented in it , though he noted that the lyrics were " trite and cheesy " , though still " catchy " . He also applauded the production value , calling it " incredible , especially for 1989 " . Square Enix Music Online , in their review of the album , called it " a happy little gem with quirks and surprises " . Though unlike RPGFan they felt that the sound production quality was not as good as it could be , they still felt that the pieces had " stood the test of time in terms of good music " .

= = EarthBound = =

EarthBound , known in Japan as Mother 2 : Gyiig no Gyakush? (MOTHER2?????? , Maz? Ts? G?gu no Gyakush? , lit . " Mother 2 : Gyiig Strikes Back ") , is a role @-@ playing video game published by Nintendo for the Super NES video game console in 1994 . Keiichi Suzuki and Hirokazu Tanaka reprised their roles from Mother as composers for the game , and were joined by assistant composers Hiroshi Kanazu and Toshiyuki Ueno . In an interview with Weekly Famitsu , Keiichi Suzuki commented on how the SNES gave the composers much more freedom to compose what they wanted than the NES , which made development of the music for EarthBound much easier than for its predecessor . This freedom was partially a result of the larger memory space available , because one of the many problems the composers had in the first game was trying to get all of their music on to the cartridge . Another advantage was that the SNES could support playing eight notes at the same time , which when combined with the increased sound quality meant that he could compose music for the game in a similar fashion to how he would compose music for real life . Suzuki cited John Lennon as an influential figure to all the composers while the soundtrack was being developed , as his songs about love matched up with the feeling of the game . Critics and players have noted similarities between parts of some songs in the game to popular songs , including several suspected homages to songs by Lennon and The Beatles . Legal issues surrounding these similarities were suspected to prevent the game from being released on the Virtual Console outside of Japan , but the rumors were ultimately proved untrue .

In a Famitsu interview , Shigesato Itoi said that the amount of music that they fit into eight megabits of space , one @-@ third of the total size of the game , would be enough to fill two Compact Discs if released as a full album . He ascribed the amount of music to the " disorderly " , or broad , amount of styles of music that were included by Tanaka and Suzuki . He also noted his belief that EarthBound was the first video game to include vibrato , or " string @-@ bending " , in its music , and described one of the differences between the music of EarthBound and Mother as that this game had more " jazzy " pieces . Suzuki has estimated that he composed over 100 pieces of music for EarthBound , including songs that did not make it into the game , and says that his favorite was the music played when the player rode a bicycle in the game , which he had actually composed before starting work on the game .

The soundtrack album for EarthBound was released by Sony Records in Japan on November 2 , 1994 . It was re @-@ released a decade later on February 18 , 2004 by Sony Music Direct . The album has 24 tracks , where many of these tracks are arrangements combining several pieces from the game into one piece . The final three tracks on the album consist of remixes of multiple tracks merged ; for example , " Room Number (PSI MIX) " is a remixed version of several pieces of music played in different shops and hotels in the game combined into one song . The album was released again in 2016 by Ship to Shore as a set of two vinyl LP records , with four color options for the discs . The album , named Mother 2 , uses the same tracks and artwork as the original soundtrack release .

Vincent Chorley , in his review of the album for RPGFan , praised the original game music , applauding it for " conveying emotion and atmosphere , and then playing around with this mental image " . As for the album itself , however , he was disappointed in the way that it merged tracks

together and kept tracks based on a single song short , saying that " many of the tracks are so short that they are impossible to enjoy in their entirety " . The vinyl release was praised by Jeremy Parish of USGamer for its sound quality and the soundtrack 's " towering achievement in game music " , but he felt that the music was not very " listenable " on its own , and that the album did not fit the LP format as well as an album originally produced for the format would have .

= = Mother 1 + 2 = =

The video game Mother 1 + 2 (MOTHER 1 + 2 , Maz? Wan Ts?) is a port release of Mother and EarthBound (Mother 2) by Nintendo for the Game Boy Advance , released in 2003 . Despite its title , the eponymous album is an arranged album . It was released by Toshiba @-@ EMI on August 20 , 2003 . The first ten tracks from the album are from Mother , while the last 16 are from Earthbound . Unlike the original soundtrack albums , the Mother tracks on this album did not include any vocal arrangements and the Earthbound tracks were not composed of tracks merged . Another album for the collection , Mother 1 + 2 midi Piano Version , was released three years later on May 27 , 2006 by Sky Port Publishing . The album contains MIDI piano arrangements by Shunsuke Sakamoto of songs from the two games with its music covering many different moods , from " lively to sedated " . Like the soundtrack album , Mother 1 + 2 midi Piano Version had its first ten tracks taken from Mother and the other 16 from Earthbound , but with several different tracks than the first album .

Kyle Miller of RPGFan , in his review of the Mother 1 + 2 album , called it " a quality collection of uplifting , passionate songs " . He preferred the Mother tracks to the Earthbound ones , as he felt that the second half of the album contained more " gimmick " tracks , but still called both halves " unique , fun , and well done overall " . In his review of the Mother 1 + 2 midi Piano Version album , he concluded that while " fans of midi piano music " would enjoy the album , that the soundtrack album was the superior of the two . His criticism was mainly based on the fact that , while the tracks were " well orchestrated pieces " , " played masterfully " , and retained the " quality of the compositions " of the originals , the " wacky instrumentation " of the original pieces did not translate to piano arrangements , causing the tunes to " lose some of the spirit that they are known for " .

= = Mother 3 = =

Mother 3 is a role @-@ playing video game published by Nintendo for the Game Boy Advance handheld game console in 2006 . The music for the game was composed exclusively by Shogo Sakai , who he had previously composed music for games such as Super Smash Bros. Melee and Kirby Air Ride . Series developer Shigesato Itoi stated that Sakai was given the position because he understood Mother 3 the most , given that he could not use Keiichi Suzuki or Hirokazu Tanaka , the composers for the first two games , as they were both busy with other projects . Itoi also said that given the massive amount of songs in the game , over 250 , he needed someone who had a lot of time to dedicate to the project and who could focus exclusively on it .

" Love Theme " , the main theme of Mother 3 , was composed late in the game 's development ; earlier in development Itoi intended to use the " Pigmask Army " theme as the main theme of the game . During creation of an important scene in the game , however , Sakai was asked to create a song that would have a greater impact than the Pigmask theme ; upon its creation it was chosen to be used as the main theme instead of the " Pigmask Army " song . Itoi claims that , given how quickly Sakai composed the song , that he had been " waiting for the order " to make a song like " Love Theme " . Itoi requested that " Love Theme " be playable on a piano with only one finger , as the " Eight Melodies " theme from Mother had gained popularity and been played in elementary schools due to its simplicity . The " OK desu ka ? " that plays after the player chooses the character 's name was recorded without Itoi 's knowledge by Hirokazu Tanaka more than a decade before the release of Mother 3 .

The MOTHER3 + soundtrack album was first released by Tokyo Itoi Shigesato Office on November 2 , 2006 , and then distributed through the iTunes Store on February 2 , 2007 , featuring an additional bonus track , " MOTHER3 ? theme of LOVE " . Another album of music from the game ,

MOTHER3i , was released on February 6 , 2007 by Tokyo Itoi Shigesato Office in the iTunes Store and other online music services . Like the Earthbound soundtrack album each track of Mother3i is a combination of several tracks from the game itself , though it still does not cover all of the tracks from the game .

Kyle Miller of RPGFan gave a warm reception to Mother3 + in his review , saying that it " retains the same quirky , but thoughtful feel so well captured by the previous entries in the series " and was " a worthy addition to the Mother musical canon " . He enjoyed that it included both songs that were new to Mother 3 and pieces originally from previous entries in the series . He felt that the weakest tracks on the album were those that used real @-@ life instruments , while he named " Snowman " as the strongest . Square Enix Music Online was not as pleased with the album ; although the reviewer agreed with Miller on which tracks were the best and worst , they were very critical of the fact that the album contained " only nine or ten distinct themes from a pool of perhaps one hundred viable choices " . They also disliked the fact that the pieces were " by design short and repetitive " . They instead recommended the Mother3i album , which , though " missing the iconic ' Love ' theme and perennial series favorites like ' Pollyanna ' " , had " more engaging arrangements , less cloying sentimentality , and a wider variety of themes " . They also noted the improved sound quality of the album over the original Game Boy Advance version . Mother3 + reached position # 24 on the Japanese Oricon charts , and stayed on the charts for three weeks .

= = Legacy = =

Music from EarthBound was arranged for the piano and published by DOREMI Music Publishing in 1995 . The book contains 16 scores , with some covering more than one song from the game . " Onett 's Theme " was also included in " Game Music Piano Solo Album " , a book published by DOREMI with sheet music from many different games . Sky Port Publishing published a book of piano arrangements in 1996 for the release of Mother 1 + 2 containing 27 pieces . The " Eight Melodies " song from Mother received some popularity , and was included in some Japanese music textbooks due to its simplicity . A full sheet music book for Mother has never officially been made available , but after it 's release on the Virtual Console as Earthbound Beginnings , the entire soundtrack was transcribed by fans into sheet music . Super Smash Bros. , a series of fighting games published by Nintendo featuring characters and music from established video games , has included several songs from the Mother series . The 2016 Undertale , inspired by Earthbound , includes several homages to the game 's music in its soundtrack .

" Because I Love You " and " Eagle Land " from EarthBound were played by the Tokyo Memorial Orchestra for the second Orchestral Game Concert on September 15 , 1992 as part of a five concert tour , which was later released as a series of albums . " Because I Love You " was again played in their third concert , and was the only song to make an appearance in more than one concert in the tour . A medley of songs from all three games was performed at the " Press Start -Symphony of Games- 2006 " concert in Tokyo . Selections of remixes of music from the series also appear on Japanese remix albums , called D?jin , and on English remixing websites such as OverClocked Remix . A group of remixes of Mother and Earthbound music was released as an unofficial download @-@ only album titled Bound Together by a group of artists from OverClocked Remix and elsewhere on October 29 , 2006 containing 48 remixes and almost three hours of music .