

= Music of the Chocobo series =

The Chocobo video game series is a spin @-@ off series composed of over a dozen games developed by Square Co. and later by Square Enix featuring a super deformed version of the Chocobo , a Final Fantasy series mascot and fictional bird , as the protagonist . Several of the titles have received separate album releases of music from the game . The music of the Chocobo series includes soundtrack albums for the Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon sub @-@ series ? comprising Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon , Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 , and Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon ? and soundtrack albums of music from Chocobo Racing , Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo Tales , and Chocobo and the Magic Picture Book : The Witch , The Maiden , and the Five Heroes , as well as an album of arranged music from Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon and a single entitled Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Toki Wasure No Meikyuu : Door Crawl for the theme song of Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon .

The first album of the discography released was the soundtrack to Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon , Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Original Soundtrack . It was released by DigiCube in 1997 and was reprinted by Square Enix in 2006 . An arranged album of music from that game was released in under the title Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Coi Vanni Gialli by DigiCube in 1998 , and soundtrack albums to Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 and Chocobo Racing were released the following year , also by DigiCube . There were no further album releases in the series until 2006 , when Square Enix produced a download @-@ only soundtrack to Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo Tales . The latest releases in the series are the soundtrack to Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon and a combined soundtrack for Chocobo Tales and The Witch , The Maiden , and the Five Heroes , both of which were released by Square Enix in 2008 .

= = Concept and creation = =

Masashi Hamauzu , the composer for Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon , was not expecting to be assigned the soundtrack to the game . In the liner notes for the original soundtrack album , he states that he was " still in high school when that lovable character first made his debut in Final Fantasy " , but that the " Chocobo Theme " made a big impression on him , leading him to often think to himself that he would " love to try doing this kind of work " . The soundtrack was the first solo album that Hamauzu had produced . When he wrote his own Chocobo themes for the Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Original Soundtrack , he decided to arrange the opening and ending of the album for a fifty @-@ piece orchestra , which lead to the creation of the orchestrated Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Coi Vanni Gialli album . In the liner notes for that album , he explains that his motivation for creating the orchestral works was because " Demand for classical music in Japan is still low compared with other countries " and he wanted " to spread the word on this style of music by any means necessary " . He ends the note by exhorting his listeners to " take your time " with classical music such as the album , so that one day they will appreciate it .

Hamauzu has not been involved in the production of any other Chocobo soundtracks . Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 's soundtrack was composed by a group of five composers , and was the last Chocobo game soundtrack to not be mainly composed of remixes of previous Final Fantasy and Chocobo music . Hamauzu was not involved in the creation of either the remixes or original tracks for these albums . His role was filled by Kumi Tanioka for Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon , Kenji Ito for Chocobo Racing , and Yuzo Takahashi for Chocobo and the Magic Picture Book : The Witch , The Maiden , and the Five Heroes .

Unlike the soundtracks to the numbered Final Fantasy games , no tracks from the Chocobo soundtracks have appeared in any compilation albums produced by Square Enix . Pieces from the series have also not appeared in any of the official Final Fantasy music concerts , although a piece based on the " Chocobo theme " , " Swing de Chocobo " , has been played at the 2005 More Friends concert in Los Angeles , the 2006 Voices concert in Japan , and in the worldwide Distant Worlds concert tour from 2007 to date . On February 6 , 2011 the Australian Eminence Symphony Orchestra played a concert in Tokyo as part of the Game Music Laboratory concert series as a

tribute to the music of Kenji Ito and Hiroki Kikuta . The concert included " Treasure Chest of the Heart " from Chocobo Racing , sung by Jillian Aversa .

= = Albums = =

= = = Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon = = =

The Chocobos 's Mysterious Dungeon games are a series of roguelike dungeon crawls and are part of the Fushigi no Dungeon , or Mystery Dungeon series . The three games in the Chocobos 's Mysterious Dungeon series are Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon (?????????????? , Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon) which was only released in Japan , Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon 2 (??????????????2 , Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon 2) , titled Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 in North America , and Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon : the Labyrinth of Forgotten Time (?????????????? ?????? , Chokobo no Fushigi na Danjon Toki Wasure no Meiky?) , released as Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon in North America . Each of the three games had a soundtrack album release , while Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon additionally sparked an orchestral arrangement album subtitled Coi Vanni Gialli and Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon additionally had a single release of its theme song titled Door Crawl .

= = = Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Original Soundtrack = = =

Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Original Soundtrack is the soundtrack for Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon , or Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon . It contains all of the tracks from the game , and was composed by Masashi Hamauzu and released by DigiCube on December 21 , 1997 , with a re @-@ release by Square Enix on February 1 , 2006 . The album included a bonus mini @-@ CD containing two orchestral arrangements of the main theme . Both the opening and ending themes of the soundtrack are orchestrated , while the rest of the tracks use a synthesizer ; the tracks have been described as " very upbeat " and " fun @-@ lovin ' light @-@ hearted " . Five of the tracks incorporate the " Chocobo Theme " from the Final Fantasy series as part of the theme , namely " Chocobo 's House " , " Chocobo Village " , " After the Battle " , " Let 's Have a Dream " , and " Courage " . The release spans two discs , including the bonus mini @-@ CD , and has a duration of 1 : 11 : 37 .

Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Original Soundtrack was well received by critics ; Patrick Gann of RPGFan praised it , saying that it could be " some of the most creative musical work to come from Squaresoft " and that the album was full of " very upbeat and fun @-@ lovin ' light @-@ hearted goodness from Hamauzu . " He especially liked the included mini @-@ CD , claiming that it made the album " a worthwhile purchase on its own " . Kero Hazel of Square Enix Music Online agreed , terming the album a " solid winner " and praising its ability to be enjoyed both as background music and with active listening . Hazel also praised Hamauzu 's " flexible " use of the " Chocobo " theme . Dave of Square Enix Music Online , however , while still recommending the album as a " good score " , felt that the lighter themes of the soundtrack were lacking in depth , leaving the darker themes to " provide the listener with any substance " .

Track list

= = = Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Coi Vanni Gialli = = =

Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Coi Vanni Gialli is an arranged album of music from Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon . The subtitle " Coi Vanni Gialli " is archaic Italian and means " With the Yellow Wings " . The album , composed by Masashi Hamauzu , is composed of 11 orchestral arrangements of pieces from the Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon soundtrack . The pieces have been described as ranging from " fast paced and exciting " to " cute little music box @-@ esque adaptation [s] " . The album was released by DigiCube on February 5 , 1998 , and spans 40 : 52 with its 11 tracks .

Like the original soundtrack , Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Coi Vanni Gialli was well received by critics . Damian Thomas of RPGFan called it " a wonderful soundtrack , blending both cuteness and energy " and claimed that " none of the tracks on this CD fall short of excellence " . Chris of Square Enix Music Online said that there was " very little to criticize about the album " and quoted the liner notes of the album in saying that the album was " the debut of a composer of genius " . He recommended the album as a good introduction to new listener 's of Hamauzu 's music , while also stating that " one cannot possibly be a comprehensive Hamauzu fan without listening to it " . The album was also recommended by Dave of Square Enix Music Online as superior to the original soundtrack .

= = = = Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 = = = =

Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon 2 Original Soundtrack is the soundtrack for Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 . It was composed by Kumi Tanioka , Yasuhiro Kawakami , Tsuyoshi Sekito , and Kenji Ito , with reprises from Nobuo Uematsu . It was released by DigiCube on January 21 , 1999 . The album contains all of the tracks from the game , as well as two tracks used in television commercials for Chocobo 's Dungeon 2 . The album has been described as " light @-@ hearted " , with " no real driving songs " . The album is 45 tracks on only one disc , and has a duration of 1 : 05 : 40 .

Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon 2 Original Soundtrack was moderately well received by reviewers . Patrick Gann said that despite the flaws of the game , the soundtrack " held strong " and claimed that anyone could enjoy the album , " given the right atmosphere " . Chris of Square Enix Music Online termed it " a decent effort " and a " coherent and thorough work " . He especially praised the contributions of Sekito and Ito , though he was termed the tracks from Kawakami and Tanioka " unmemorable " . He concluded that while there were no poor tracks on the album , several of the themes were " limited thematically and emotionally " and he could not recommend the soundtrack to a wide audience .

= = = = Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon = = = =

Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Toki Wasure No Meiky? Original Soundtrack is the soundtrack for Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo 's Dungeon (?????????????? ?????? , Chokobo no Fushigi na Danjon Toki Wasure no Meiky? , lit . Chocobo 's Mysterious Dungeon : The Labyrinth of Forgotten Time) , which features remixes of various Final Fantasy music . It was arranged by Yuzo Takahashi of Joe Down Studio , a Hokkaido @-@ based music development studio . The title track and opening theme ? both original to the soundtrack ? were composed by Kumi Tanioka , while the final track " Door Crawl " was written and sung by Ai Kawashima . Other composers whose works were used are Nobuo Uematsu , Naoshi Mizuta , Masashi Hamauzu , Junya Nakano , and Kenji Ito . The album was released by Square Enix on January 23 , 2008 with the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10104 .

The album was well received by critics such as Jeriaska of RPGFan , who enjoyed the arrangements , particularly those of pieces from games early in the Final Fantasy series . He praised Joe Down Studios for not falling into the trap of " introducing a veneer of self @-@ importance " that he felt was common in remakes of early Final Fantasy pieces . Chris of Square Enix Music Online also liked the album , saying that the arrangements " make many tracks sound better than they 've ever sounded before " . His largest complaint about the album was that it does not include every track from the game , some of which he was interested in hearing . He ascribed the exclusions to the publisher 's desire to release the soundtrack as a single disc , and concluded that the album was still a " very enjoyable overall experience " .

" Door Crawl " , the theme song of Chocobo 's Dungeon , was released as a single entitled Chocobo no Fushigina Dungeon Toki Wasure No Meikyuu : Door Crawl . The album was released by Toshiba EMI on December 12 , 2007 . It has a length of 14 : 18 , and contains three tracks . The title track , " Door Crawl " (???????) , is joined by " Colorless Thing " (??????? , " Iro no Nai Mono ") and " Light " (? , " Tomoshibi ") , both unrelated to Chocobo 's Dungeon . The disc was Kawashima

's 15th single ; it reached # 20 on the Oricon Weekly Charts and sold 6 @,@ 520 copies in its first week . Lex of Square Enix Music Online had mixed feelings about the single , saying that " Door Crawl " was " a pleasant and laid back listen " , but that " Colorless Thing " was " nothing special " and that " Light " was " ruined " by the synth instruments .

= = = Chocobo Racing = = =

Chocobo Racing Original Soundtrack is the soundtrack for Chocobo Racing (????????? ? ???????? ? , Chokobo R?shingu ~ Genkai e no R?do ~ , lit . " Chocobo Racing : Road to the Spirit World ") composed by Kenji Ito . First released by DigiCube on March 25 , 1999 , it was later re @-@ released by Square Enix on October 1 , 2008 . The album is 30 tracks and 57 : 00 long . The only original theme in the soundtrack is " Treasure Chest of the Heart " , a Japanese song orchestrated by Shir? Hamaguchi and performed by Hiromi Ohta . In the English version of the game , it is performed by Vicki Bell . The remaining tracks are arrangements of Final Fantasy tracks . The predominant theme to the tracks selected is the Chocobo theme from the Final Fantasy series , with eight of the tracks based on it . The album was appreciated by Kie of Square Enix Music Online , who felt that Ito 's " arrangements of classic themes are done with great skill " . He especially liked " Mithril Mines " and " Treasure Chest of the Heart " , but felt that many of the tracks did not match up to the quality of the best few .

= = = Chocobo and the Magic Books = = =

The Chocobo and the Magic Books mini @-@ series comprises Chocobo to Mahou no Ehon , released in North America as Final Fantasy Fables : Chocobo Tales and literally translating to Chocobo and the Magic Picture Book , as well as its to @-@ date Japan @-@ only sequel , Chocobo to Mah? no Ehon : Maj? to Sh?jo to Gonin no Y?sha , translated as Chocobo and the Magic Picture Book : The Witch , The Maiden , and the Five Heroes . Neither game has received a separate full soundtrack release ; Chocobo Tales produced a download @-@ only album on iTunes titled The Best of Chocobo and the Magic Book Original Soundtrack , while together their soundtracks were released in full as the two @-@ disc Chocobo and the Magic Books Original Soundtrack . The majority of the tracks are either unchanged versions or arrangements of Final Fantasy and Chocobo compositions ; Chocobo Tales contains only two original tracks ? one of which is only eight seconds long ? while its sequel has 12 original tracks out of 33 . The soundtracks for both games were composed by Yuzo Takahashi . Magic Books contains 61 tracks across two discs , with a total length of 1 : 51 : 57 ; Best of 's 10 tracks span 26 : 16 . The tracks in Best of correspond to tracks 8 , 1 , 3 , 9 , 19 , 25 , 12 , 18 , 27 , and 28 of the first disc of Magic Books , in that order .

While neither album has seen much attention from critics , The Best of Chocobo and the Magic Book Original Soundtrack was dismissed by Chris of Square Enix Music Online as " not a worthwhile sampler " of the soundtrack . Terming it a " truncated compilation " , he criticized the track selection as including what were in his opinion some of the weakest arrangements while excluding the strongest , and concluded that the album serves no purpose given the subsequent release of the full soundtrack as part of The Best of Chocobo and the Magic Book Original Soundtrack . He was much more complimentary of the Magic Books album , saying that it " confirmed that Yuzo Takahashi is a bright young composer " and calling the arrangements and original compositions " both melodically engaging and stylistically versatile " .

Tracklist