

= Music of Final Fantasy XII =

The music of the video game Final Fantasy XII was composed primarily by Hitoshi Sakimoto . Additional music was provided by Masaharu Iwata and Hayato Matsuo , who also orchestrated the opening and ending themes . Former regular series composer Nobuo Uematsu 's only work for this game was " Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye " , the theme song sung by Angela Aki . The Final Fantasy XII Original Soundtrack was released on four Compact Discs in 2006 by Aniplex . A sampling of tracks from the soundtrack was released as an album entitled Selections from Final Fantasy XII Original Soundtrack , and was released in 2006 by Tofu Records . Additionally , a promotional digital album titled The Best of Final Fantasy XII was released on the Japanese localization of iTunes for download only in 2006 . " Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye " was released by Epic Records as a single in 2006 , and Symphonic Poem " Hope " , the complete music from the game 's end credits , was released by Hats Unlimited in 2006 . An abridged version of the latter piece , which originally accompanied a promotional video for the game , was included in the official soundtrack album . An album of piano arrangements , titled Piano Collections Final Fantasy XII , was released by Square Enix in 2012 .

The soundtrack received mixed reviews from critics ; while several felt that it was an excellent album , others disagreed , finding it to be a good soundtrack but lacking in substance . Common complaints about the album were the large number of filler tracks , which seemed to be uninspired and hurt the soundtrack as a whole . However , several reviewers commented on " Kiss Me Good @-@ bye " , finding it to be one of the soundtrack 's strongest areas . The singles for the soundtrack were very well received by critics , who found them to be very enjoyable but short in duration , and the piano album was considered by reviewers to be one of the best in the series . The game 's soundtrack was nominated for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for Best Original Score .

= = Creation and influence = =

Hitoshi Sakimoto composed most of the game 's soundtrack ; Nobuo Uematsu , following his departure from Square Enix in 2004 , only contributed the theme song , " Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye " , sung by Angela Aki . Uematsu noted that Aki 's style of playing the keyboard while singing reminded him of his childhood idol , Elton John , which was one of the reasons he chose her . Aki was approached for the role three years before the release of the game . She based her words for the song on " a scene of a new journey after good @-@ bye " , which was the sense she had gotten from Uematsu 's melody , and was encouraged by Uematsu not to limit herself in her lyrics to what she thought the producers wanted . Sakimoto was brought in to compose the soundtrack to the game by Yasumi Matsuno , the producer of the game , five months before the game was officially announced . Sakimoto experienced difficulty following in Uematsu 's footsteps , but he decided to create a unique soundtrack in his own way , although he cites Uematsu as his biggest musical influence .

Sakimoto did not meet with Uematsu for direction on creating the soundtrack and tried to avoid copying Uematsu 's style from previous Final Fantasy soundtracks . However , he did attempt to ensure that his style would mesh with Uematsu 's " Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye " and the overall vision of the series . The soundtrack also includes songs composed by Uematsu for previous Final Fantasy games , with new arrangements by Sakimoto . These tracks include " Final Fantasy ~ FFXII Version ~ " , " Victory Fanfare ~ FFXII Version ~ " , " Chocobo FFXII Arrange Ver . 1 " , " Chocobo ~ FFXII Version ~ " , and " Clash on the Big Bridge ~ FFXII Version ~ " . Of these , all but " Clash on the Big Bridge " are recurring pieces used in almost every Final Fantasy game . " Clash on the Big Bridge " plays during the battle with Gilgamesh , as it did in Final Fantasy V. Sakimoto created the music for the game based on the atmosphere of the game and the emotional changes of the characters , rather than the story , so that the music would not be affected by changes in the development of the game . Sakimoto stated in an interview included in a bonus disc of the collector 's edition of the game that his favorite pieces from the soundtrack are the " world " themes in the

outdoor areas , and that his overall favorite is " The Cerobi Steppe " .

= = Soundtrack = =

Final Fantasy XII Original Soundtrack is the soundtrack album of Final Fantasy XII , containing musical tracks from the game , and was composed and produced by Hitoshi Sakimoto . Additional music was provided by Masaharu Iwata and Hayato Matsuo , who also orchestrated the opening and ending themes . The soundtrack spans four discs and 100 tracks , covering a duration of 4 : 54 : 34 . It was released on May 31 , 2006 in Japan by Aniplex , bearing the catalog numbers SVWC @-@ 7351 ~ 4 . The limited edition of the soundtrack included a 28 @-@ page booklet featuring artwork for the game and providing information about the soundtrack .

An album entitled Selections from Final Fantasy XII Original Soundtrack was released on October 31 , 2006 by Tofu Records containing 31 tracks from the full Final Fantasy XII soundtrack . The tracks were the same versions as on the full soundtrack , although some tracks that repeated were cut shorter . The album covers a duration of 73 : 23 and has a catalog number of TOF @-@ 033 . Additionally , a promotional digital album titled The Best of Final Fantasy XII was released on the Japanese localization of iTunes for download only on March 15 , 2006 . The album contains 11 tracks handpicked by Hitoshi Sakimoto , including versions of " Theme of Final Fantasy XII " and " Chocobo FFXII Arrange Ver . 1 " that were ultimately not used in the game .

The game 's soundtrack was nominated for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for Best Original Score . Final Fantasy XII Original Soundtrack has sold 31 @, @ 000 copies as of January 2010 . It reached # 7 on the Japanese Oricon charts , and stayed on the charts for six weeks . The album received mixed reviews from critics . Jared 's review from Square Enix Music Online cited that the soundtrack " utilizes ambiance , power , intensity and beauty " and termed the album to be " amazing " , though he felt that the lack of melody " hurts this soundtrack " and that some of the tracks were " bare of inspiration " . Meghan Sullivan of IGN thought that the composer was " trying too hard to evoke emotion " and that many of the songs were " over @-@ the @-@ top and bombastic " , though she did feel that there were certain tracks that " manage [d] to be stirring " . She also stated that Uematsu 's only work for the soundtrack , " Kiss Me Good @-@ bye " , is a " strong end to a surprisingly trite collection " . Greg Kasavin of GameSpot , on the other hand , felt that it was a " beautifully composed soundtrack " that sounded " fantastic " . Patrick Gann of RPGFan found it to be " a great work " , but " somewhat lacking in substance " , concluding that he had " a lot of mixed feelings about it " , while Ben Schweitzer of RPGFan disagreed , enjoying the soundtrack and finding it to be an " excellent " album , and " better than [he] could have expected " .

Track list

= = = Piano album = = =

Piano Collections Final Fantasy XII is an album of piano arrangements of music from the game . The thirteen tracks on the album , totaling 1 : 01 : 48 in length , were composed by Sakimoto and arranged and performed by Casey Ormond . The album was released by Square Enix on November 7 , 2012 with the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10347 , and was also published that same day as part of Final Fantasy XII OST & Piano Collections , a pack containing the album and the original soundtrack album with the catalog numbers SQEX @-@ 10348 ~ 52 . A book of sheet music for the album has also been released .

Sakimoto originally heard of Ormond due to an arrangement he had made of " The Skycity of Bhujerba " in 2009 , which , after discussion between the two about several other arrangements Ormond made of Sakimoto 's work , lead to the two officially working together on Valkyria Chronicles Piano Pieces , an album of piano arrangements for Valkyria Chronicles . The style of arrangements on the Final Fantasy XII album range from classical to a " moody piece with plenty of sultry jazz tones " , one of the two pieces located at the end of the album which Ormond had arranged prior to officially beginning the project . Many of the pieces contain an " improvisational " sense , even when

not technically jazz @-@ based , and several depart notably from the style of the original works . Ormond based many of the changes in theme or mood of his arrangements off of where the pieces were used in the original game , attempting to highlight the perspectives of different characters or ideas from the scenes they were played in .

The album was well received by reviewers , with Don Kotowski of Square Enix Music Online calling it one of the best Final Fantasy piano arrangement albums , a claim echoed by Derek Heemsbergen of RPGFan . Heemsbergen added that " Ormond shows reverence for Sakimoto 's original material while exploring musical ideas in a style all his own " and praised the variety of the music . Kotowski praised both the " variety of moods " covered by the pieces as well as the overall cohesiveness of the album .

= = Singles = =

= = = Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye = = =

Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye is the theme song of Final Fantasy XII , and is the third Japanese single by Angela Aki . The only vocal piece in the game , it was set to tunes composed by Nobuo Uematsu , arranged by Kenichiro Fukui and produced by Motoki Matsuoka . The single was released by Epic Records in Japan on March 15 , 2006 , covering a duration of 19 : 59 and bearing the catalog number ESCL @-@ 2810 . A limited edition was also released bearing the catalog number ESCL @-@ 2808 featuring a DVD containing the Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye video clip which included both shots of Aki performing the single and clips from the video game . Unlike previous Final Fantasy games , the theme song is sung in English in both the Japanese and North American versions of the game . The version featured on the CD single has a slightly different arrangement and Japanese lyrics ; however , the English version that was featured in the game is included as a bonus track . An English version of the single was released as a digital single on May 16 , 2006 under the title Kiss Me Good @-@ Bye [EP] in North America through Tofu Records .

" Kiss Me Good @-@ bye " reached # 6 on the Oricon charts and remained on the charts for 18 weeks . The release was seen by critics as an excellent single , with Gann feeling that both the Final Fantasy XII and non @-@ game tracks held their weight equally .

= = = Symphonic Poem " Hope " = = =

Symphonic Poem " Hope " (??? ? ?? ? , K?ky?shi " Kib? ") is a single released by violinist Taro Hakase and is the full version of the game 's ending credits music . The piece has been described as a " mini @-@ symphony " for Final Fantasy XII inspired by the main theme for the game . The single contains five tracks , arranged by Taro Hakase and Yuji Toriyama and produced by Taro Hakase , and features performance by the London Philharmonic Orchestra . A shorter edit blending the first , second and fifth movements of the symphonic poem was used in a promotional video for the game , and appears as a single track in the official soundtrack release . Symphonic Poem " Hope " was released on March 1 , 2006 by Hats Unlimited bearing the catalog number HUCD @-@ 10015 .

Hope was found by critics to be an enjoyable single , though at only 9 minutes long , Gann felt he could have " gotten by without it " , although he said that for other listeners , their " collection may not be complete without this little gem " . Dave of Square Enix Music Online concurred with that sentiment , saying that " despite the length of the album , it easily grew on " him . " Hope " reached # 15 on the Oricon charts and remained on the charts for 16 weeks .

= = Legacy = =

" Kiss Me Good @-@ bye " was performed by the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra and Angela Aki for Play ! A Video Game Symphony , a worldwide video game music orchestral concert series . The

Eminence Symphony Orchestra performed " Victory Fanfare " , " Clan Headquarters " , and " Penelo 's Theme " at the three " Passion " concerts held in Australia and Singapore in December 2006 . " Penelo 's Theme " was again played at the Fantasy Comes Alive concert in Singapore on April 30 , 2010 . Selections of music from the game also appear on Japanese remix albums , called dojin music , and on English remixing websites .