

= Creid =

Creid (Irish pronunciation : [kʲeːdʲ] , meaning " Believe ") is the arranged soundtrack to Square 's role @-@ playing video game Xenogears . It was written by the game 's composer Yasunori Mitsuda and performed by a musical ensemble dubbed Millennial Fair . It was released on April 22 , 1998 in Japan by DigiCube , and re @-@ released by Square Enix on June 29 , 2005 . Comprising ten tracks arranged from the Xenogears Original Soundtrack , the album is mostly done in Irish or Celtic music style , with minor influences of Japanese rock according to Mitsuda . Artists from Japan and Ireland were recruited for the project . Four of the five vocal tracks on the album were written by Junko Kudo and sung by Tetsuko Honma , while the title track " Creid " was written by Mitsuda and performed by Eimear Quinn .

The album was well received by critics , who praised both the originality of the concept as well as the execution and track selection . The work on the album inspired Mitsuda to bring Tomohiko Kira , the albums 's guitarist , back to have him perform in Chrono Cross ; this would eventually result in the latter game 's ending song " Radical Dreamers ~ Jewel which Cannot be Stolen ~ " .

= = Creation = =

Xenogears was Yasunori Mitsuda 's first major solo work , as his previous soundtracks were collaborations with other composers with the exception of the score to Radical Dreamers : Nusumenai H?seki , which never saw an album release . According to Mitsuda , the music of Xenogears belongs to the traditional music genre . Though he first described it as stemming from " a world of [his] own imagining " rather than any specific country , he has also claimed a strong Irish or Celtic music influence . His musical approach for the original soundtrack was to insert Celtic influences into " easy @-@ to @-@ listen @-@ to " pop tracks rather than making either " dense " Celtic music or simple background music . For Creid , he expanded on this theme to create an album of arranged Xenogears music with a more prominent Celtic style . The album contains a mixture of vocal and instrumental tracks , and combines Japanese and Celtic music together in its pieces . The album 's title refers to two ideas , with one being " a message to those who feel they have lost sight of their ambitions for the flood of information this era surrounds us with " and the other an affirmation to himself that Mitsuda had " rediscovered [his] own path " . Mitsuda felt that with this album , he had " discovered the precise mode of musical expression [he] was seeking within " himself and " given form to the belief within [his] heart " .

In addition to Japanese musicians , several Irish artists contributed to Creid , including uilleann piper Davy Spillane ? formerly of Moving Hearts and Riverdance ? and Máire Breatnach , who had previously played fiddle on another Square album , Final Fantasy IV Celtic Moon . Mitsuda also asked guitarist Tomohiko Kira and singer Yoko Ueno to appear to the album after an acquaintance introduced him to them . Hidenobu " KALTA " Ootsuki worked on the album as an arranger and felt his work was made easier by his familiarity with Mitsuda 's music ? Creid was his second arrangement project with Mitsuda , after Chrono Trigger Arranged Version : The Brink of Time , which he had worked on three years before . According to Ootsuki , Mitsuda and he were complementary in style , which resulted in an album leaving a lot of space and freedom for the listeners ' imagination . He felt that , since Chrono Trigger , Mitsuda 's musical style had changed to use less " strong " notes and include more sophistication ; upon hearing the Xenogears tracks he " literally " " couldn 't wait " to arrange them . Mitsuda has described their collaborative style as that he would first create the " basic backbone " of the song and form the idea of how he wanted the song " to turn out " , then take the result to Ootsuki for them to arrange together . The end result would then be changed in the process of recording , as " what sounds good on a synth module doesn 't always sound good on live instruments " , and occasionally the recording artists would " ad @-@ lib " parts that would make it into the final product . Mitsuda generally also chose the specific percussion instruments to be used while recording , rather than beforehand ; he feels that " as long as the final product turns out to be like what I want it to be , the process doesn 't really matter too much " . As working with the other artists gave him a sense of celebration , Mitsuda named the " imaginary band

" of performers Millennial Fair and credited them as such in the album .

Creid was released by DigiCube on April 22 , 1998 and re @-@ released by Square Enix on June 29 , 2005 . The release date was only seven weeks after that of the original soundtrack album and ten after the publication of the game itself . Its ten tracks cover a duration of 49 : 01 . " Stars of Tears " and " Small Two of Pieces ~ Screeching Shards ~ " from the original soundtrack appear on the album as " Two Wings " and " Möbius " , respectively , while the other eight tracks keep the same titles . " Stars of Tears " , although included on the original album , did not appear in the game , as the scene it was to be played in , an opening cutscene to the game , was eliminated during development . The album features five vocal tracks and five instrumental tracks . Creid was the last album that Mitsuda worked on as an employee of Square ; three months after its release , in July 1998 , he resigned to work as a freelance artist and formed Procyon Studio to produce his work , though he continued to do work for Square such as the soundtrack to Chrono Cross the following year .

The main lyricist , Junko Kudo , wrote the lyrics to four of the five vocal tracks and had no previous experience with video game @-@ related projects ; she was surprised by the length of the game 's script when she asked to look at it . She had never met Mitsuda before she was asked to write the lyrics . Mitsuda first heard her work in a song by Mimori Yusa on Yusa 's 1988 album Hitomi Suish? , and describes himself as being very moved by the lyrics and becaomming a big fan of Kudo 's work . Although Mitsuda has said that he is generally not confident in his personal skills at writing lyrics , he wrote those of the title track , which were then translated from Japanese to Gaelic for the recording . Celtic singer Joanne Hogg of the band Iona , who was the singer from the original soundtrack , did not reprise her role in Creid . Instead , Tetsuko Honma sang the four tracks written by Kudo , while Eimear Quinn sang " Creid " .

= = Reception and legacy = =

Creid was well received by reviewers such as Patrick Gann of RPGFan , who claimed that every track on the album was " amazing " and held the work to be Yasunori Mitsuda 's best . He especially applauded the " diverse multitude of instruments " and the fiddle playing of Máire Breatnach . Critics from Square Enix Music Online were also approving of the album , citing the album 's " real emotion " and " extremely enchanting themes " , with one reviewer naming it " one of the best arranged albums ever " . Another reviewer felt that , though it was in his opinion one of Mitsuda 's best works , some of the vocal performances such as " Two Wings " and " Spring Lullaby " held the album back .

RPGamer praised the album for its uniqueness and for " break [ing] away from the traditional ' arranged versions ' of RPG soundtracks " . They termed the songs " beautiful and moving " and especially praised the vocals as being an excellent mix of Japanese and Celtic influences . Elliot Guisinger of the site , however , in his review of the album cited the vocals as a weaker spot in what he called " the blueprint after which all future arrange albums should be modeled " . Calling the album " a dream come true " , he noted his disappointment that singer Joanne Hogg did not return from the original soundtrack . Eric Bowling of Soundtrack Central was also enthusiastic about the album , calling it " a turning point in arranged soundtracks " and " simply beyond words to describe " . He noted " Lahan " as symbolizing the album as a whole , calling it a " coming together " of " diverse instruments and people " to create an energetic work of art .

Impressed with Tomohiko Kira 's guitar playing , Mitsuda laid out plans after Creid to have him perform in Chrono Cross , resulting in the latter game 's ending song " Radical Dreamers ~ Jewel which Cannot be Stolen ~ " . During their stay in Ireland , Mitsuda and the Creid album coordinator attended a live set of the folk band Lúnasa in a pub . As Mitsuda liked the concert , the coordinator encouraged the Irish band to do a Japanese live tour . No other Xenogears album has been produced by Square Enix after Creid , but an officially licensed tribute album titled Xenogears Light : An Arranged Album was published in limited quantities by the fan group OneUp Studios in 2005 . The album features 20 tracks arranged from the Xenogears score and performed with acoustic instruments , such as piano , flute , guitar , and violin . An unofficial album of remixes titled Humans + Gears was produced as a digital album by OverClocked Remix on October 19 , 2009 consisting of

33 tracks on two " discs " . While Creid is the only album released by the ensemble dubbed " Millennial Fair " , Mitsuda said in 2002 that he would like to try bringing back the formation , in some way , for another project . In February 2011 , Square Enix released Myth : The Xenogears Orchestral Album , a second arranged album of music from the game , in an orchestral style .

= = Track listing = =

All music composed by Yasunori Mitsuda .

= = Personnel = =

All information is taken from the soundtrack 's liner notes .

Yasunori Mitsuda ? composer , producer , arranger , keyboards , programming

Millennial Fair

Tetsuko " Techie " Honma ? vocal on " Two Wings " , " Stairs of Light " , " Spring Lullaby " , and " Möbius "

Eimear Quinn ? vocal on " Creid "

Yoko Ueno ? chorus

Kimiko Komatsu ? chorus

Hitoshi Watanabe ? bass

HATA (Hiroshi Hata) ? electric guitar , acoustic guitar , electric sitar

Tomohiko Kira ? bouzouki , electric guitar

Davy Spillane ? uilleann pipes , low whistle

Laurie Kaszas ? tin whistle

Kinya Sogawa ? shakuhachi , shinobue

Haruo Kondo ? bag pipes

Maria Kalaniemi ? accordion

Anne @-@ Marie O 'Farrell ? Celtic harp

Laoise Kelly ? Celtic harp

Máire Breatnach ? fiddle

Tamao Fujii ? percussion

KALTA (Hidenobu Ootsuki) ? co @-@ arranger , drums , programming