

= Music of Final Fantasy XIII =

The music of the video game Final Fantasy XIII was composed by Masashi Hamauzu . Former regular series composer Nobuo Uematsu did not contribute any pieces to the soundtrack . Music from the game has been released in several albums . The main soundtrack album , Final Fantasy XIII Original Soundtrack , was released on four Compact Discs in 2010 by Square Enix , the developers and producers of the game . Selections from the soundtrack have been released on two gramophone record albums , W / F : Music from Final Fantasy XIII and W / F : Music from Final Fantasy XIII Gentle Reveries , both in 2010 by Square Enix . An album of arranged pieces from the soundtrack , Final Fantasy XIII Original Soundtrack -PLUS- , was also released by Square Enix in 2010 , as was an album of piano arrangements , Piano Collection Final Fantasy XIII . The theme song for the Japanese version of the game , " Kimi ga Iru Kara " (?????? , " Because You 're Here ") , was released as a single by For Life Music in 2009 .

The soundtrack received good reviews from critics , who felt that it was Hamauzu 's best work to date and an excellent mix of material and genres which took the series ' music in a new direction . The " Plus " album received weaker reviews , primarily due to its perceived lack of tracks that were significantly different from those in the original soundtrack album , while " Kimi ga Iru Kara " was considered bland and disappointing . The " Piano " album 's reception was split between critics who felt that the tracks did not deviate enough from the original pieces and those who felt that the straightforward arrangements were sophisticated . Music from the game was played at a live orchestral concert in Stockholm , Sweden , and was added to the permanent rotation of the international Distant Worlds concert series , while tracks from the piano album have been played in concerts in Japan and Paris .

= = Creation and influence = =

Masashi Hamauzu composed the game 's soundtrack . His previous work on the series was as a co -@ -@ composer for Final Fantasy X and as the main composer for Dirge of Cerberus : Final Fantasy VII . The game was the first main @ -@ series Final Fantasy game not to include any compositions by original series composer Nobuo Uematsu ; although he was originally announced to compose the main theme of the game , this role was taken over by Hamauzu after Uematsu signed on to compose the soundtrack to Final Fantasy XIV . Game producer Yoshinori Kitase chose Hamauzu because he felt that Hamauzu would be the best for the job as he was composing an orchestral @ -@ based soundtrack then for Dirge of Cerberus and the Final Fantasy XIII team wanted that style for the game . Hamauzu described the soundtrack in the liner notes for the soundtrack album as comprising multiple genres of music so that the player would not get tired of it , while also using several motifs so as to tie the varying pieces together ; particularly in grouping the themes from the Cocoon and Pulse areas in the game . He tried to match each piece and theme to his sense of the narrative and characters involved in the scenes that they would be played in , and feels that being the sole composer for the project allowed him to ensure that the overall direction of the soundtrack was consistent .

Besides some pieces he did for promotional events in 2006 and 2007 , Hamauzu began composing the soundtrack in Autumn 2008 and finished it around one year later . When he began the bulk of the composition , he started by composing the motifs he wanted to use , rather than any particular piece . The first track that he composed was " Blinded by Light " , as one of the promotional pieces ; it was based on the director Motomu Toriyama 's vision of the game as a mixture of fantasy and near @ -@ future , as the storyline for the game had not yet been finalized . As the game was intended to be a conscious departure from the staples of previous Final Fantasy games , Hamauzu was not constrained in keeping the music in line with previous soundtracks from the series . Despite this , he did not compose the music specifically to " break from the series ' past " , but rather focused it on the game as it was presented .

The score features some recordings by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra , arranged by Yoshihisa Hirano , Toshiyuki Oomori and Kunihiro Shiina . Hamauzu had previously worked with the

orchestra on his album *Vielen Dank* , released in 2007 . Four songs in the soundtrack include vocals by Mina Sakai , an artist whom Hamauzu works as a producer for . Two of the songs are in English rather than Japanese , and " *The Gapra Whitewood* " was intended to be as well , but during practice Sakai and Hamauzu changed it to use a fictitious language as they felt her focus on pronouncing the English words was detracting from the melody . The two English tracks were re-recorded for the English version of the game , as the localization team felt that they did not sound natural to native speakers . On three of the pieces from the soundtrack : " *Sazh 's Theme* " , " *Daddy 's Got the Blues* " , and " *Can 't Catch a Break* " , described as jazzy pieces related to the character Sazh , Hamauzu 's compositions were arranged by Toru Tabei , a friend of his , who Hamauzu describes as being more familiar with that style of music .

The theme song for the international version of the game is " *My Hands* " , from British singer Leona Lewis ' second album *Echo* ; it was chosen to replace *Final Fantasy XIII* 's original theme song from the Japanese version , " *Kimi ga Iru Kara* " by Sayuri Sugawara . Square Enix President Yoichi Wada has stated that it would have been better if the American branch of the company had produced a theme song from scratch , but the lack of staff led to the decision of licensing an existing song instead . Hamauzu , who composed the music for " *Kimi ga Iru Kara* " , only met Sugawara once , and was not involved in producing the vocal song . He was not involved in the decision to use " *My Hands* " for the international version .

= = Soundtrack = =

Final Fantasy XIII Original Soundtrack is the soundtrack album of *Final Fantasy XIII* , containing all of the musical tracks from the game , and was composed and produced by Masashi Hamauzu . The soundtrack spans four discs and 85 tracks , covering a duration of 4 : 04 : 06 . It was released on January 27 , 2010 in Japan by Square Enix , bearing the catalog numbers SQEX @-@ 10183 ~ 6 . The limited edition of the soundtrack included a bonus disc containing a radio drama written by novelist Jun Eishima . The radio drama does not include any music not already in the album . The album sold 16 @, @ 000 copies the day of its release . It reached # 3 on the Japanese Oricon charts , and remained on the charts for nine weeks . The soundtrack incorporates both orchestral and electronic music , sometimes within the same track . Almost two dozen of the tracks include vocal performances to some degree , the most of any *Final Fantasy* soundtrack to date . It does not include many of the mainstay tracks from previous games in the series such as Uematsu 's " *Prelude* " and " *Main Theme* " , and its variation on his " *Chocobo* " , the only repeat track , is so different as to not credit him as the original composer in the album .

In addition to the full soundtrack CD release , two vinyl record albums have been released by Square Enix , each including a selection of songs from the full soundtrack . The first of these , *W / F : Music from Final Fantasy XIII* , was released on February 26 , 2010 , while the second , *W / F ? Music from Final Fantasy XIII Gentle Reveries* , was released on June 30 , 2010 . *W / F : Music from Final Fantasy XIII* is the first vinyl record that Square Enix has ever released . Each album contains eight tracks , four per side . The first album has a total length of 32 : 06 and a catalog number of SE @-@ M0001 , while the second has the catalog number SE @-@ M0002 .

The album received good reviews from critics . Patrick Gann of *RPGFan* called it an " excellent soundtrack " that exceeded his expectations . He applauded Hamauzu 's use of motifs and repetition of melodies across different tracks for tying together a widely disparate collection of material , and called the mix of orchestral and electronic pieces as " incredible " . He concluded that the work represents Hamauzu 's " masterpiece " , though some of the tracks do not fit well outside of the context of the scene in the game they represent . Don Kotowski of *Square Enix Music Online* similarly approved of the soundtrack , also highlighting the repetition of themes as well done . He particularly called out the variance of musical styles used in different tracks , from the " jazz fusion " of " *Pulse de Chocobo* " to the rock music of " *Snow 's Theme* " . The bonus drama CD was critiqued by Gann as " fun for bonus content " if the listener understood Japanese and as having high production values for a drama CD , but he noted that it did not add any real information to the story of the game .

Track list

Literal translation of the original titles appear in (parenthesis) if different

= = Soundtrack Plus = =

Final Fantasy XIII Original Soundtrack PLUS is a soundtrack album of Final Fantasy XIII , containing a selection of arrangements of musical tracks from the game . It was composed and produced by Masashi Hamauzu , and arranged by Hamauzu , Ryo Yamazaki , Mitsuto Suzuki , Toshiyuki Oomori , and Yoshihisa Hirano . The single @-@ disc soundtrack contains 16 tracks , covering a duration of 50 : 10 . It was released on May 26 , 2010 in Japan by Square Enix , bearing the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10192 . Only tracks 5 , 9 , and 15 are pieces actually used in the game but not included in the original album . The tracks in the album include pieces made for early previews of the game , modified versions of songs used in the international version of the game rather than the Japanese version that the original soundtrack album was based on , and early versions or arrangements of pieces that were not used in the game ? for example , " Hope _ PfNer3 " uses a piano while Hamauzu ended up using a guitar for the final piece .

For the unused versions of songs included in this album , Hamauzu re @-@ recorded and produced them to match the quality of the songs that were eventually used in the original soundtrack . The numbers following the " M " in the title of some pieces refer to the version number of the track , which Hamauzu used to keep track of changes made to pieces during their development , occasionally incrementing them by hundreds for major changes . Hamauzu came up with the idea for the album originally because he wanted to release the English version of " Pulse de Chocobo " as a downloadable song ; when he started adding in promotional tracks and alternative @-@ version tracks he found that he had enough material to release as a full album . Several of the alternate version tracks appeared in the game during specific scenes , or were cut towards the end of development . Hamauzu feels that the album represents how large of an undertaking the Final Fantasy XIII project was , in that even the outtakes were enough to fill an album .

The album reached # 70 on the Oricon charts , and remained on the charts for two weeks . It received a lukewarm review from Patrick Gann of RPGFan , who said that while the music included was " beautiful " and a few specific tracks were " pretty cool " , " anyone hoping for a proper arrangement of this music will be sorely disappointed " . He claimed that there was not much difference between many of the alternate versions of songs and their final versions in the original soundtrack , which meant that in his opinion owners of the original soundtrack would not get much out of the " Plus " album . Jayson Napolitano of Original Sound Version gave a similar review for the album ; he felt that while it included several interesting pieces that could not be found elsewhere , it was in his opinion more of a collector 's item than a stand @-@ alone album and likely not worth the cost for most listeners .

= = Piano Collections = =

Piano Collections Final Fantasy XIII is a soundtrack album of Final Fantasy XIII , containing a selection of piano arrangements of musical tracks from the game . It was composed and arranged by Masashi Hamauzu , and the pieces were performed by Aki Kuroda . Hamauzu and Kuroda had previously worked together when Hamauzu arranged the Final Fantasy X piano soundtrack album , and this previous collaboration made it easy for the two to work together . Hamauzu intended the arrangements to " stay away from recording the same music " on the piano . Though he noted that many of the tracks are similar to the originals , he wanted to " bring out subtle properties of the in @-@ game melodies and making them more distinct , " rather than greatly change the songs . The single @-@ disc soundtrack contains 10 tracks , covering a duration of 45 : 09 . It was released on July 21 , 2010 in Japan by Square Enix , bearing the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10196 .

Chris Greening of Square Enix Music Online reviewed the album as " a sophisticated piano collection " that was enjoyable to listen to , though he noted that the arrangements were " straightforward " rather than ambitious . Jayson Napolitano of Original Sound Version gave a similar

review for the album ; he felt that it was an amazing album that , while not as technically difficult or different enough from the source material for some listeners , was still very beautiful and well @-@ arranged . Gann of RPGFan , however , felt disappointed by the album , calling the arrangements " soul @-@ less " and full of " needless grandiosity " . He concluded that the original pieces were too rich and complex to translate well to solo piano arrangements , which left the works without substance as they did not deviate enough from the source material .

= = " Kimi ga Iru Kara " = =

" Kimi ga Iru Kara " (?????? , Because You 're Here) is the theme song of the Japanese version of Final Fantasy XIII . Sung by Sayuri Sugawara , it was composed by Masashi Hamauzu and had its lyrics written by Sugawara and Nakajima Yukino . The English version of the game used a song by Leona Lewis , " My Hands " , which was not specially written for the game like the Japanese song . " Kimi ga Iru Kara " was released as a single on December 2 , 2009 by For Life Music , and included in addition to the piece five other tracks . These tracks are " Eternal Love " , another song written for Final Fantasy XIII , and " Christmas Again " , a J @-@ Pop song by Sugawara that incorporates some music from 19th @-@ century composer Franz Liszt . The last three tracks are instrumental versions of these three songs . The single has a length of 30 : 04 , and has the catalog number of FLCF @-@ 4311 . A special edition of the single includes a bonus DVD , containing a seven @-@ minute video of a compilation of promotional videos for the game .

" Kimi ga Iru Kara " reached # 11 on the Japanese Oricon charts , and remained on the charts for 11 weeks . The single received generally unfavourable reviews from video game music critics . Gann of RPGFan called it " vanilla " and said that the single , especially the headline track , was over @-@ produced and uninteresting . While he did not mind " Eternal Love " as much , he still felt that the CD was his least favorite Final Fantasy theme single . Square Enix Music Online had similar opinions of the release , calling it " bland " . They felt that while " Kimi ga Iru Kara " was better than " My Hands " , and " Eternal Love " better still , the single was disappointing both in the context of Final Fantasy singles and of Sugawara 's previous discography .

= = Legacy = =

Final Fantasy XIII won the 2010 Soundtrack of the Year Golden Joystick Award . Music from Final Fantasy XIII was performed live in concert at the Distant Worlds II - More Music from Final Fantasy concert in Stockholm , Sweden by the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra on June 12 , 2010 . The concert is part of the Distant Worlds concert series , the latest of several Final Fantasy concert series , and the tracks from Final Fantasy XIII , " The Promise " and " Fang 's Theme " , have been added to the series ' permanent rotation . The official album for the concert does not include those two tracks . The full Piano Collections Final Fantasy XIII album was played at a concert by Aki Kuroda in Osaka on October 29 , 2010 and in Yokohama on September 3 , 2010 , and selections were played in a concert of Hamauzu 's work in Paris on April 22 , 2011 .

A book of piano sheet music arrangements from the original soundtrack has been arranged for the piano and published by DOREMI Music Publishing . All songs in each book have been rewritten by Asako Niwa as beginning to intermediate level piano solos , though they are meant to sound as much like the originals as possible . The actual piano sheet music from the Final Fantasy XIII Piano Collection album has been published as a corresponding music book by Yamaha Music Media . Yamaha has additionally published its own sheet music book for piano arrangements from the original soundtrack , as well as a book of piano and vocal sheet music for the vocal tracks on the original soundtrack .