

## = Music of Final Fantasy IX =

The music of the video game Final Fantasy IX was composed by regular series composer Nobuo Uematsu . It was his last exclusive Final Fantasy score . The Final Fantasy IX Original Soundtrack , a compilation of all music in the game , was originally released on four Compact Discs by DigiCube in 2000 , and was re @-@ released by Square Enix in 2004 . A Best Of and arranged soundtrack album of musical tracks from the game entitled Final Fantasy IX : Uematsu 's Best Selection was released in 2000 by Tokyopop Soundtrax . Final Fantasy IX Original Soundtrack PLUS , an album of music from the game 's full motion videos and extra tracks , was released by DigiCube in 2000 and re @-@ released in 2004 , and a collection of piano arrangements of pieces from the original soundtrack arranged by Shir? Hamaguchi and performed by Louis Leerink was released as Piano Collections Final Fantasy IX in 2001 .

The game 's soundtrack is best known for " Melodies of Life , " the theme song of the game , performed by Emiko Shiratori in Japanese and English . The song was released as a single by King Records in 2000 . The soundtrack was based around a theme of medieval music , and was heavily inspired by previous Final Fantasy games , incorporating themes and motifs from earlier soundtracks . The music was overall well received ; reviewers found the soundtrack to be both well done and enjoyable , though opinions were mixed as to the reliance on music of previous games . Several tracks , especially " Melodies of Life " and " Vamo ' Alla Flamenco " , remain popular today , and have been performed numerous times in orchestral concert series , as well as been published in arranged and compilation albums by Square as well as outside groups .

## = = Creation and influence = =

In discussions with director Hiroyuki Ito , Uematsu was told " It 'd be fine if you compose tracks for the eight characters , an exciting battle track , a gloomy , danger @-@ evoking piece , and around ten tracks or so . " However , Uematsu spent an estimated year composing and producing " around 160 " pieces for Final Fantasy IX , with 140 appearing in the game .

Uematsu composed with a piano , and used two contrasting methods : " I create music that fits the events in the game , but sometimes , the event designer will adjust a game event to fit the music I 've already written . " Uematsu felt previous games Final Fantasy VII and Final Fantasy VIII had a mood of realism , but that Final Fantasy IX was more of a fantasy , so " a serious piece as well as silly , fun pieces could fit in . " He felt the theme was medieval music , and was given a two @-@ week break to travel in Europe for inspiration - " looking at old castles in Germany and so on . " However , the music was not entirely composed in the medieval mode , as Uematsu claims that " it would be unbalanced " and " a little boring " . He aimed for a " simple , warm " style and included uncommon instruments such as a kazoo and dulcimer . Uematsu also included motifs from older Final Fantasy games " because Final Fantasy IX was returning to the roots , so to speak " and incorporated ideas such as " the old intro for battle music " and arranged the Volcano theme from Final Fantasy and the Pandemonium theme from Final Fantasy II , as well as others from the series . Uematsu has claimed several times that Final Fantasy IX is his favorite work , as well as the one he is most proud of . He also stated in the liner notes for the Final Fantasy IX : Original Soundtrack album that he was " glad that [ he ] was able to join this project . "

## = = Albums = =

### = = " FINAL FANTASY IX " Original Soundtrack = = =

" FINAL FANTASY IX " Original Soundtrack is a soundtrack album containing musical tracks from the game , composed , arranged and produced by Nobuo Uematsu . It spans four discs and 110 tracks , covering a duration of 4 : 46 : 31 . It was first released on 30 August 2000 by DigiCube , and subsequently re @-@ released on 10 May 2004 by Square Enix . The lyrics for the theme song to

the game , " Melodies of Life " , were written by Hiroyuki Ito for the Japanese version and Alexander O. Smith for the English version . The song was performed in both languages by Emiko Shiratori .

The album reached # 4 on the Japan Oricon charts , and sold 101 @,@ 000 copies as of January 2010 . The album was well received ; many reviewers found that it was a " good " soundtrack , though not without faults . Josh Bizeau and Roko Zaper of Soundtrack Central especially liked it , finding it to be " a blessing for Final Fantasy music " , and both Patrick Gann of RPGFan and Isaac Engelhorn of Soundtrack Central felt it was Uematsu 's second @-@ best work to date , behind only the soundtrack of Final Fantasy VI . Ben Schweitzer of RPGFan , however , found that the heavy reliance of the soundtrack on music and themes from previous Final Fantasy soundtracks resulted in a sense of " stretched creativity " and " a bit of blandness " , though he still felt it was not " a bad soundtrack ... [ but ] not really a great soundtrack . " Other reviewers , however , such as Engelhorn and Tyler Schulley of Final Fantasy Symphony , enjoyed the fact that it pulled from previous soundtracks , feeling that it gave the album " the classic feel of the older Final Fantasies " while still being " original and beautiful " .

Track listing

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

= = = Final Fantasy IX : Uematsu 's Best Selection = = =

Final Fantasy IX : Uematsu 's Best Selection is a soundtrack album composed of popular musical tracks from the Final Fantasy IX : Original Soundtrack album . It was arranged by Nobuo Uematsu , Shir? Hamaguchi , Kunihiro Kurosawa , and Haruo Kondo . Vocals were again performed by Emiko Shiratori for " Melodies of Life " . It spans 33 tracks and covers a duration of 74 : 16 . The first 32 tracks correspond to tracks on the Final Fantasy IX : Original Soundtrack album , while the last track , an arranged version of " A Place to Call Home " , can only be found on this album . It was first released on August 21 , 2000 worldwide by Tokyopop Soundtrax , with English track names . The release bears the catalog number TPCD 0201 @-@ 2 .

Reviewers were much less pleased with Final Fantasy IX : Uematsu 's Best Selection than with the original soundtrack , finding it to have a " great track listing " but that it felt as if " [ they ] tried to get as many tracks on the disc as they could " , with the result that many tracks were cut too short .

= = = " FINAL FANTASY IX " Original Soundtrack PLUS = = =

" FINAL FANTASY IX " Original Soundtrack PLUS is a soundtrack album consisting of pieces that did not appear on the original soundtrack . The album was composed by Nobuo Uematsu and orchestrated by Shir? Hamaguchi . Emiko Shiratori supplied the vocals for " The Song of Zidane and Dagger " and " Melodies of Life ( Silent Mix ) " . The album contains music from the majority of the game 's full motion videos and several extra tracks that did not appear in the game , which appear as tracks 34 through 41 on the album . It also contains a bonus track , an English version of " Melodies of Life " entitled " Melodies of Life ( Silent Mix ) " , found at the last track on the album . The album spans 42 tracks and covers a duration of 72 : 05 . It was first published by DigiCube on December 6 , 2000 , and subsequently re @-@ published by Square Enix on October 20 , 2004 . The original release bears the catalog number SSCX @-@ 10047 and the reprint SQEX @-@ 10035 .

Final Fantasy IX Original Soundtrack PLUS was very well received , with reviewers finding the tunes to have " great dynamics " and " incredibly well made " , and that the " orchestrations work wonders with Uematsu 's incidental music . " It reached # 58 on the Oricon charts .

= = = Piano Collections : FINAL FANTASY IX = = =

Piano Collections : FINAL FANTASY IX is a collection of Final Fantasy IX music composed by Nobuo Uematsu , arranged for the piano by Shir? Hamaguchi , and performed by Louis Leerink . It spans 14 tracks and covers a duration of 53 : 44 . It was first released on January 24 , 2001 , in

Japan by DigiCube , and subsequently re @-@ released on July 22 , 2004 , by Square Enix . The original release bears the catalog number SSCX @-@ 10048 and the re @-@ release bears the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10027 . The album well received , with reviewers finding the album " enjoyable " and " a pleasant surprise " , although they did find some of the arrangements to be " a bit on the simple side " .

= = Melodies of Life = =

" Melodies of Life " is the theme song of Final Fantasy IX , and consists primarily of two themes that were frequently used in the game itself , the Overworld theme ( Crossing Those Hills ) , and a lullaby that is sung by Dagger . It was performed by Emiko Shiratori in both the Japanese and English versions , arranged by Shir? Hamaguchi , and composed , like the rest of the game , by Nobuo Uematsu . The lyrics were written by game director Hiroyuki Ito ( credited as Shiomi ) in the Japanese version and Alexander O. Smith in the English version . The song was released as a single by King Records on August 2 , 2000 , and contains both the English and Japanese versions , an instrumental version , and a bonus track named " Galway Sky " . The single covers a duration of 23 : 17 and has a catalog number of KICS @-@ 811 . Melodies of Life reached # 10 on the Oricon charts .

= = Legacy = =

The Black Mages have arranged four pieces from Final Fantasy IX . These are " Hunter 's Chance " and " Vamo ' Alla Flamenco " from the album The Skies Above , published in 2004 , and " Assault of the Silver Dragons " and " Grand Cross " from the album Darkness and Starlight , published in 2008 . Additionally , Uematsu continues to perform certain pieces in his Dear Friends : Music from Final Fantasy concert series . The music of Final Fantasy IX has also appeared in various official concerts and live albums , such as 20020220 music from FINAL FANTASY , a live recording of an orchestra performing music from the series including " Vamo ' Alla Flamenco " . Additionally , " Vamo ' Alla Flamenco " was performed by the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra for the Distant Worlds : Music from Final Fantasy concert tour , while " Not Alone " was performed by the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra in the Tour de Japon : Music from Final Fantasy concert series . " Melodies of Life " was performed at the Press Start -Symphony of Games-2008 concerts in Tokyo and Shanghai . " Vamo ' Alla Flamenco " was played at the Fantasy Comes Alive concert in Singapore on April 30 , 2010 . Independent but officially licensed releases of Final Fantasy IX music have been composed by such groups as Project Majestic Mix , which focuses on arranging video game music . Selections also appear on Japanese remix albums , called dojin music , and on English remixing websites .