

= Music of Final Fantasy VIII =

The music of the video game Final Fantasy VIII was composed by regular series composer Nobuo Uematsu . The Final Fantasy VIII Original Soundtrack , a compilation of all music in the game , was released on four Compact Discs by DigiCube in Japan , and by Square EA in North America . A special orchestral arrangement of selected tracks from the game ? arranged by Shir? Hamaguchi ? was released under the title Fithos Lusec Wecos Vinosec Final Fantasy VIII , and a collection of piano arrangements ? performed by Shinko Ogata ? was released under the title Piano Collections Final Fantasy VIII .

The game 's soundtrack is best known for two tracks : " Liberi Fatali " , a Latin choral piece that is played during the introduction to the game , and " Eyes on Me " , a pop song serving as the game 's theme , performed by Chinese singer Faye Wong . Reviewers were generally pleased with the music , although several cited issues while comparing the score to previous games or looking at individual tracks .

= = Creation and influence = =

Nobuo Uematsu 's usual influences include Emerson , Lake & Palmer , Simon and Garfunkel , and Elton John . In regard to Final Fantasy VIII , Uematsu did not prefer to use multiple sources to find MIDI instruments ? " I could be coming up with a great melody in the very moment " ? instead using a Roland SC88 synthesizer for the entire score . Uematsu wrote notes based on character designs and screenplays , creating a general picture of the pieces ' moods . He could not express a character 's emotions solely with plot , instead using images of appearance and attire ? " It 's important to know when their emotions are at their height , but it usually takes until a month before release for them to finish the ending dialog ... ! " In response to a question by IGN music stating that the music of Final Fantasy VIII was very dark and perhaps influenced by the plot of the game , Uematsu stated " the atmosphere of music varies depending on story line , of course , but it 's also my intention to put various types of music into one game " .

Uematsu enjoys writing lyrical pieces , but tries not to be genre @-@ specific . He asserts that expressing the emotions he desires is more important than improving skills : " I think it will be a shame if we won 't be able to cry as we play our own game " . The absence of character themes was due to him finding those of Final Fantasy VI and Final Fantasy VII ineffective . Uematsu considers it reasonable to have character themes if each character has a " highlight " in the game , but he found Final Fantasy VIII only focused on Squall Leonhart and Rinoa Heartilly as a couple , resulting in the " Eyes on Me " theme . The soundtrack features a Latin choral track " Liberi Fatali " , which translates to " Fated Children " ; its melody forms a musical theme heard in several other pieces in the soundtrack , such as " SeeD " and " The Landing " , while the name of " Fithos Lusec Wecos Vinosec " is the recurring lyrics in " Liberi Fatali " .

Near the end of the production of Final Fantasy VII , the developers suggested to use a singer , but abandoned the idea due to a lack of reasoning based on the game 's theme and storyline . However , Nobuo Uematsu thought a ballad would closely relate to the theme and characters of Final Fantasy VIII . This resulted in the game 's developers sharing " countless " artists , eventually deciding on Faye Wong , a Chinese vocalist . Uematsu claims " her voice and mood seem to match my image of the song exactly " , and that her ethnicity " fits the international image of Final Fantasy " . After negotiations were made , " Eyes on Me " was recorded in Hong Kong with an orchestra .

= = Albums = =

= = = Final Fantasy VIII Original Soundtrack = = =

Final Fantasy VIII Original Soundtrack is a soundtrack of the music from Final Fantasy VIII ; composed and produced by Nobuo Uematsu . The soundtrack spans four discs and 74 tracks ,

covering a duration of 4 hours and 9 minutes . It was first published by DigiCube on March 10 , 1999 with the catalog number SSCX @-@ 10028 , and subsequently published by Square Enix on May 10 , 2004 with the catalog numbers SQEX @-@ 10005 ~ 8 . Unlike most other Final Fantasy soundtracks , Final Fantasy VIII Original Soundtrack is composed completely of English track names . The album was also released in North America under the title Final Fantasy VIII Music Collection : Music From The Final Fantasy VIII Video Game . It features changes such as packaging design , translation , and additional images . In addition , a limited edition was produced , which has a beige background instead of a full motion video montage .

The soundtrack reached # 4 on the Japan Oricon charts . It received generally positive reviews from critics ; New Zealand PlayStation magazine claimed Final Fantasy VIII has " one of the most memorable scores you will ever hear " . Reviewers from multimedia news website IGN stated that much of the game 's impact is owed to its " terrific " musical score , but were disappointed by " yet another " variation of the traditional battle theme . IGN later named the Final Fantasy VIII soundtrack as fourth best in its Final Fantasy Soundtrack Countdown feature . GameSpot considered the game 's sound its weakest point , but still commended it , claiming it has " more ' quality ' songs than Final Fantasy VII " . Lastly , Game Revolution stated that " there are only a few tracks that really stand out " , including " Eyes on Me " , which it deemed a " cliched , but beautiful love song " .

Final Fantasy VIII Original Soundtrack has sold " more than 300 @,@ 000 copies " in Japan according to Square , or 259 @,@ 000 physical copies according to the independent chart company Oricon . Adam Corn of SoundtrackCentral.com claimed the album shows similarities to previous Final Fantasy games , but asserted he was " not overly impressed with this one " . A reviewer from Square Enix Music Online claimed the soundtrack is " unique and very special " due to its contrasts ? " When signs of age of the Final Fantasy franchise are shown " , Uematsu counterbalances this by creating something " weird and wonderful [...] when the soundtrack becomes too serious , a light @-@ hearted number is inserted to liven up the mood " . Ben Schweitzer of RPGFan said in his review of the album that " the main flavor of Uematsu 's compositions , his melodic style , remains consistent , and more importantly , consistently good " . He criticized , however , the more minimalist pieces , which in his opinion were bland .

Track listing

= = = Fithos Lusec Wecos Vinosec Final Fantasy VIII = = =

Fithos Lusec Wecos Vinosec Final Fantasy VIII is a collection of orchestrated pieces originally from Final Fantasy VIII , arranged and conducted by Shir? Hamaguchi . It also includes three unchanged tracks from Final Fantasy VIII Original Soundtrack ; " Liberi Fatali " , " Eyes on Me " , and " Ending Theme " . The album spans 13 tracks , totaling 1 : 04 : 12 . It was first published on November 19 , 1999 by DigiCube with the catalog number SSCX @-@ 10037 , and subsequently published on July 22 , 2004 by Square Enix with the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10025 .

The album reached # 59 on the Japan Oricon charts . Adam Corn of SoundtrackCentral.com claimed " the superior instrumental quality , well @-@ done arrangements , and tasteful selection of themes boost the [Original Soundtrack 's] qualities while hiding its flaws " , elaborating that " even people such as myself who are not fans of the original will be impressed by its prowess , and fans will simply be enamored " . Neal Chandran of RPGFan was similarly impressed , saying that it was " a very good soundtrack " and that its tracks sounded " more beautiful than the original version " . His primary complaint was that he would have liked for the album to include more pieces .

= = = Piano Collections Final Fantasy VIII = = =

Piano Collections Final Fantasy VIII is an album of piano arrangements from Final Fantasy VIII , arranged by Shir? Hamaguchi and performed by Shinko Ogata . Its 13 tracks span a duration of 48 : 03 . It was published by DigiCube on January 21 , 2000 with the catalog number SSCX @-@ 10041 and subsequently re @-@ published by Square Enix on July 22 , 2004 with the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10026 .

Robert Steen of SoundtrackCentral.com commended the performance , claiming " Shinko Ogata seems to be a very capable player " and noted that although the arrangements are similar to the original pieces , they " breathe new life into the songs " . Ryan Bradley of RPGFan also appreciated the album , saying that " the piano really brings out the emotion in some of the songs " and that the pieces transitioned smoothly to piano . Patrick Gann agreed , saying that it was one of his favorite albums and that Hamaguchi 's arrangements were " wonderful " .

= = Eyes on Me = =

" Eyes on Me " is the ballad that serves as the theme of the game Final Fantasy VIII . It was performed by Chinese singer Faye Wong and composed , like the rest of the game music , by Nobuo Uematsu . The song 's lyrics , written in somewhat imperfect English by Kako Someya , unveil the hopes of a night club singer for romance with a member of her audience . It was released as a CD single in Japan , including an instrumental version and Wong 's ballad " Red Bean " . The song sold more than 400 @, @ 000 copies , placing it as the highest @-@ selling video game music disc ever released in that country at the time . " Eyes on Me " was the first song in video game history to win an award at the 14th Annual Japan Gold Disc Awards , where it won " Song of the Year (Western Music) " in 1999 . The single reached # 9 on the Oricon charts , and stayed on the charts for 20 weeks .

Within the game , the song is written by Julia Heartilly , a pianist who is the love interest of Laguna Loire . It is heard repeatedly throughout the game in various incarnations , including as an instrumental piece entitled Julia , as well as in " Waltz for the Moon " and " Love Grows " for the " love " scenes between Squall Leonheart and Rinoa Heartlily .

A dance remix of the song was included on the Japanese release of Wong 's 2000 album Fable . Remixes also appeared in Toshiba EMI 's Dancemania series . In 2004 , a Japanese @-@ language version entitled " Summer Album " (?????? , " Natsu no Arubamu ") with lyrics by Kazushige Nojima was included on Final Fantasy Song Book : Mahoroba . It was covered by Angela Aki for release on her 2006 single " Kokoro no Senshi " .

= = Legacy = =

The music of Final Fantasy VIII has appeared in various official Final Fantasy concerts . These include 2002 's 20020220 Music from FINAL FANTASY , in which the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra played " Liberi Fatali " , " Don 't Be Afraid " , " Love Grows " , and " The Man with the Machine Gun " , the 2004 Tour de Japon series , which featured " The Oath " , the Dear Friends series that began that same year and included " Liberi Fatali " and " Love Grows " , and the 2005 More Friends concert , which included " Maybe I 'm a Lion " . More recent concerts include the Voices - Music from Final Fantasy 2006 concert showcasing " Liberi Fatali " , " Fisherman 's Horizon " , and " Eyes on Me " and the international Distant Worlds concert tour that continues to date , which includes " Liberi Fatali " , " Fisherman 's Horizon " , " Man with the Machine Gun " , and " Love Grows " . Several of these concerts have produced live albums as well . Music from the game has also been played in non Final Fantasy @-@ specific concerts such as the Play ! A Video Game Symphony world tour from 2006 onwards , for which Nobuo Uematsu composed the opening fanfare that accompanies each performance . " Eyes on Me " was played at the Fantasy Comes Alive concert in Singapore on April 30 , 2010 .

Music from the original soundtrack has been arranged for the piano and published by DOREMI Music Publishing . All of the pieces in the 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 . " Best of " collections from the series including Final Fantasy VIII and arrangements for guitar solos and piano duets are also available . Additionally , the actual piano sheet music from the Piano Collections Final Fantasy VIII album has been published as a corresponding music book by Yamaha Music Media . The book contains the original music , exactly as arranged and performed on the albums . Unlike the Original Score arrangements , these pieces are intended only for advanced

players as they are generally more difficult .

The Black Mages , a band that arranges music from Final Fantasy video games into a rock music style , has arranged five pieces from Final Fantasy VIII . These are " Force Your Way " from The Black Mages , published in 2003 , " The Man with the Machine Gun " and " Maybe I 'm a Lion " , from The Black Mages II : The Skies Above , published in 2004 , and " The Extreme " and " Premonition " from The Black Mages III : Darkness and Starlight . The Black Mages performed " Maybe I 'm a Lion " at the Extra : Hyper Game Music Event 2007 concert in Tokyo on July 7 , 2007 . In the 2004 Summer Olympics , the American synchronized swimming duo consisting of Alison Bartosik and Anna Kozlova were awarded the bronze medal for their performance to the pieces " Fithos Lusec Wecos Vinosec " and " Liberi Fatali " .