

= Music of Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 =

Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 is a role @-@ playing video game developed and published by Square Enix in 2011 as the sequel to Final Fantasy XIII . The music of the game was composed by Masashi Hamauzu , Naoshi Mizuta , and Mitsuto Suzuki . It was intended to sound different from the music of previous Final Fantasy titles , featuring more musical styles and vocal pieces . Since the release of the game , Square Enix has published the 2011 four @-@ disc soundtrack album , Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 Original Soundtrack , as well as an album of arrangements and alternate versions of tracks from the game , Final Fantasy XIII Original Soundtrack PLUS , in 2012 . The theme song for the game , " Yakusoku no Basho " (????? , The Promised Place) , was released by singer Mai Fukui as a single in 2011 , and the English version of the song , sung by Charice Pempengco and included in the non @-@ Japanese versions of the game , was included on her 2012 album Infinity .

Reviews of the soundtrack album were positive , with critics praising both the variety of styles and quality of the pieces . Several critics noted Mizuta 's work as possibly his finest to date . Reviewers of the game were more mixed , with some feeling that some of the styles of music did not match where they were played in the game . Critics were also mixed in their opinions of the arranged album , feeling that several of the pieces were simply inferior versions of the original tracks . Both of the albums and the single sold well enough to place on the Japanese Oricon charts , with the original soundtrack album reaching a peak of # 13 and remaining on the charts for eight weeks .

= = Creation and influence = =

The music of Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 was composed by Masashi Hamauzu , Naoshi Mizuta , and Mitsuto Suzuki . The three composers were coordinated by Keiji Kawamori to ensure the composers ' three styles meshed well together . Hamauzu , who was the sole composer for the music of Final Fantasy XIII , composed roughly a quarter of the game 's tracks , as did Suzuki , while Mizuta wrote nearly half . Prior to this game , Mizuta has worked on the music of Final Fantasy XI , while Suzuki had been a sound director for several Square Enix games and served as an arranger for XIII . The game 's director , Motomu Toriyama , wanted the game 's soundtrack to have more variety than that of the music in Final Fantasy XIII , as well as feature more styles . As a result , the game had three composers rather than just Hamauzu . Toriyama also wished for the music to have " a more edgy sound " and more vocal pieces , so that it would sound " unlike the typical Final Fantasy title " . The music incorporates a wide variety of styles , from orchestral and electronic to rap , hip @-@ hop , jazz funk , and metal .

Prior to the game Hamauzu was known for working on orchestral pieces , Mizuta for instrumental pieces , and Suzuki for electronic pieces , and as a result all three composers attempted to write music that did not fit their general style to avoid only writing music similar to what they had produced before . They also worked with each other to blend their styles together , so that shifts between composers in the soundtrack would not be jarring . While the music is not intended to be reminiscent of Final Fantasy XIII 's music , pieces set in scenes involving places or characters from the prequel use motifs and pieces of music used in that game for those places or characters . Mizuta 's favorite song from the soundtrack that he wrote is " Caius 's Theme " , which he rewrote four times over the course of a month . Suzuki 's favorite is " Historia Crux " , which he wrote as several tunes mixing into one as a metaphor for time travel in the game , and Hamauzu 's is " Knight of the Goddess " , the battle theme for the game , which he attempted to make the equal of " Blinded by Light " , the battle theme of the prequel , which he felt was very well received .

= = Soundtrack = =

The first album of music from the game which Square Enix released is Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 Original Soundtrack . The album contains all of the musical tracks from the game , and was composed and produced by Masashi Hamauzu , Naoshi Mizuta , and Mitsuto Suzuki . Some of the

tracks were arranged by Ryo Yamazaki , Yoshitaka Suzuki , Kengo Tokusashi , Shootie HG , and Sachiko Miyano , and a few songs were arrangements of previous Final Fantasy composer Nobuo Uematsu 's chocobo theme . The soundtrack spans four discs and 79 tracks , covering a duration of 5 : 01 : 22 . It was released by Square Enix on December 14 , 2011 in Japan and on February 2 , 2012 in North America as a part of the limited edition of the game , bearing the catalog numbers SQEX @-@ 10296 ~ 9 . The Japanese limited edition of the soundtrack included a bonus disc containing two versions of the 2011 Electronic Entertainment Expo trailer for the game . The album reached # 13 on the Japanese Oricon charts , and remained on the charts for eight weeks .

The album received positive reviews from critics . Patrick Gann of the role @-@ playing video game news website RPGFan called it " a no @-@ questions @-@ asked kind of purchase " , praising in particular the variety of the pieces and the contrasts between the different styles . Jayson Napolitano of the video game music news website Original Sound Version concurred , calling it " a fantastic soundtrack " with eclectic styles , and noting Mizuta 's contributions as his best work to date . Original Sound Version later named the album as the best soundtrack of 2011 . Don Kotowski of Square Enix Music Online , another video game music news website , was not as enthusiastic about the album as other reviewers , as he felt that some of the more experimental tracks missed the mark , but was still positive about the album as a whole . He considered the soundtrack " a fresh sound for the series " , and agreed with Napolitano that Mizuta 's contributions were noteworthy for the composer . Reviewers of the soundtrack in the context of the game were more mixed . Simon Parkin in his review of the game for Eurogamer said that the music " suffers from a lack of coherent direction " and often did not match up with the scenes it was played in . Dale North of Destructoid , however , felt that the soundtrack was " wonderfully varied and lots of fun " , and predicted that " traditionalist " fans of Final Fantasy music would not like it as much .

Tracklist

= = Soundtrack Plus = =

On May 30 , 2012 Square Enix published in Japan a second album of music from the game titled Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 Original Soundtrack PLUS . Similar to the Final Fantasy XIII Original Soundtrack PLUS album released for the previous game , the album contains early versions of songs used in Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 , alternate takes contained in the downloadable content for the game , arrangements made for promotions of the game , and new remixes . The tracks on the album were arranged by Ryo Yamazaki , Kengo Tokusashi , Yoshitaka Suzuki , Goh Hotoda , Shootie HG , and Hiroyuki Togo . The single @-@ disc soundtrack contains 16 tracks , covering a duration of 1 : 07 : 02 , and bears the catalog number SQEX @-@ 10311 . The album 's music covers a variety of styles , often different ones than those of the original pieces , including electronic , instrumental , and piano covers . The album reached # 93 on the Oricon charts , and remained on the charts for one week .

Unlike the original soundtrack , the arranged album received mixed reviews from critics . Patrick Gann of RPGFan felt that the album was a good addition to the musical outputs of the Final Fantasy XIII world , and superior to the PLUS soundtrack for the first game in that it relied less on early , unpolished versions of songs . Don Kotowski of Square Enix Music Online , however , felt that the album contained mainly " inferior " versions of works from the original soundtrack , and was not worth acquiring . Both reviewers , however , praised " Clash on the Big Bridge - Oriental Mix - " , an arrangement of a tune by Nobuo Uematsu from Final Fantasy V included in the game 's downloadable content , as a welcome addition to the soundtrack , with Kotowski calling it " amazing " and the main reason to get the album , and Gann terming it " the most interesting version " of the song released to date .

= = Theme song = =

" Yakusoku no Basho " (?????? , The Promised Place) is the theme song of the Japanese version of Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 . Sung by Mai Fukui , it was composed by Koichi Tabo . Non @-@

Japanese versions of the game instead included an alternate English version of the song , " New World " , from Charice Pempengco 's album Infinity (2012) . " New World " was also composed by Koichi Tabo . " Yakusoku no Basho " was released as a single on November 23 , 2011 by J @-@ more , and included three other tracks in addition to the piece . These tracks are " Tatta Hitori no Mikata " (?????????? , Only One Side) and instrumental version of both songs . Simon Isogai composed and wrote the lyrics for " Tatta Hitori no Mikata " . The limited edition of the single included a DVD with a music video for the song . The song was also released on Fukui 's six @-@ track mini @-@ album Beautiful Days on December 14 , 2011 , along with a Final Fantasy XIII @-@ 2 trailer and a code for downloadable content for the game . The single has a length of 21 : 22 , and has the catalog number of YICD @-@ 70093 . The single reached # 24 on the Oricon charts , and stayed on the charts for 8 weeks .