

# Dream Chaser Music References

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## *Preface and Micro-Style Guide*

In the 171 game-in-development *Dream Chaser*, there are two main settings: the waking world and the dream world. In the waking world, your character works as a barista, making drinks, talking with customer(s), and getting them to open up. In the dream world, your character delves into the dreams of the person/people you met before, racing through their mind and fighting manifestations of negative thoughts, feelings, and the like.

This loop is a fundamental part of the game, and so emphasizing and elevating the relationship between both sections is a key musical priority.

- **Both** should have:
  - Shared melodic and harmonic language
  - Generally electronic instrumental palette
- The **waking world** should have:
  - Lighter, “softer” synths
    - Generally light on bass
    - More natural timbres
  - Calm, mellow mood
  - Cozy, small atmosphere
  - Compositional inspiration from lo-fi / easy-listening hip hop
- The **dream world** should have:
  - Brighter, texturally dynamic (even “unstable”) synths
    - This should be emphasized in the boss fight music
    - More unnatural timbres
  - Intense mood
  - Larger, grander atmosphere
  - Compositional inspiration from video game “forest” themes

These commonalities and differences can be thought of as metaphorical to the same people and ideas being situated in both a mundane and fantastical context.

As a final note: all of these songs are references, and none will sound exactly like what goes in the game. There are generally specific parts of each track I think are relevant, and they will be listed as “*Things to listen to*.”.

## *Waking World*

▶ Fez - Original Game Soundtrack - Adventure [HD]

*Things to listen to:* General bass-lightness, synth and drum timbres, use of delay

▶ Patricia Taxxon - Better Place

*Things to listen to:* Ambience, minimalist hip hop beat, main synth arpeggio

▶ Steven Universe S1 Official Soundtrack | Dad Museum

*Things to listen to:* Light drums but solid rhythm; small bell-like synth, lo-fi easy listening mood

### [HeckMyManDan - Familiar](#)

*Things to listen to:* Harmony and arpeggio style, C80 drumkit

▶ Patricia Taxxon - Her Kitchen

*Things to listen to:* Guitar-like, half-acoustic-half-electronic arpeggio in the intro

▶ Steven Universe S1 Official Soundtrack | Iuv u (Greg's Theme)

*Things to listen to:* Cute chiptune instrumentation, small drums contrasted with sustained string

▶ A Mellow Mood for Maidenhair

*Things to listen to:* Generally melancholy mood, simple synths, small but still present ambience

▶ Patricia Taxxon - Minute

*Things to listen to:* Simple, small synths, light main melody (groove too driving and bass-heavy)

▶ Mother's Lullaby

*Things to listen to:* Simple melody and sophisticated harmony, calm mood

## Dream World

- [▶ A Hat in Time OST - Battle of the Birds Time Rift](#)

*Things to listen to:* Atmosphere and sense of space (especially arpeggios!), driving energy

- [▶ DANGANRONPA OST: -2-12- Discussion -HOPE VS DESPAIR-](#)

*Things to listen to:* Driving atmosphere, colorful-but-gritty textures, background voices

- [▶ Forest Ghost](#)

*Things to listen to:* Atmosphere, woodwind/clarinet-like bass timbre

- [▶ Gaia's Garden ~ CrossCode \(Original Game Soundtrack\)](#)

*Things to listen to:* Mallets (very forest-y), auxiliary percussion (hand drums, small cymbals, etc)

- [▶ Fez - Original Game Soundtrack - Glitch \[HD\]](#)

*Things to listen to:* Frantic percussion, bitcrushed synth timbres— things generally ‘straining’

- [▶ Laser Love](#)

*Things to listen to:* Glittery/evolving synth timbres, driving groove, fun auxiliary percussion

- [▶ Patricia Taxxon - Skyhorn](#)

*Things to listen to:* Deep, growling bass (for boss), incorporation of that with atmospheric synths

- [▶ Something Comforting](#)

*Things to listen to:* Mix of soundfonts and synths; atmosphere; leaping, confident drums

- [▶ Patricia Taxxon - Swish](#)

*Things to listen to:* Synthwave-y timbres, glittery atmosphere, constant forward momentum

- [▶ Tony Anderson - Younger](#)

*Things to listen to:* Atmosphere, harmony and chords (texture maybe a bit too “acoustic”)