



KEVIN MANTHEI COMPOSER



BIOGRAPHY

Kevin Manthei has been working in the film, television and game arena for over 12 years. He has worked as the series composer on four animated TV shows - representing over 130 half hour episodes, composed over 50 game soundtracks, has made a mark composing music for independent films, as well as contributing additional music on many well-known feature films. Kevin's contribution to the industry can be found at the heart of his philosophy: No matter the genre of music, Kevin strives to find a unique and creative way to approach the score. Combining genres, styles, sound palates as well as his ability to combine electronics with the orchestra make him versatile and in demand. It is this philosophy and desire that allow Kevin to make inroads towards creating a new sound, and a new way of approaching the scoring of music. To understand where Kevin is aiming requires a simple flashback.... Kevin grew up in Minnesota amid the cold winters and sneezy summers. From his early hibernating years on the piano and his trumpet blowing in high school, he quickly realized music was more than a hobby. Kevin began writing music almost as quickly as he learned his first notes and chords. This led him to auditioning to the University of Minnesota where he was accepted and then graduated four years later with a Bachelor of Music degree in Theory and Composition.

Knowing full well that a college degree in music guarantees nothing in life, Kevin headed out to sunny California with his new wife Lori to realize his dream for music. It was there that he completed his last year of school at the University of Southern California - and where the real learning began. After studying with the likes of Jerry Goldsmith, Kevin left the Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television program with his certificate in hand. Other graduates of the program that year, Christophe Beck, Marco Beltrami, and Jon Ehrlich, proved to be more than just friends. Kevin worked with these composers in his early years doing everything music related. This eventually led to Kevin writing additional music for Chris on the TV series Buffy the Vampire Slayer and other shows, and composing additional music for Marco Beltrami on many films including Scream 2 & 3, The Faculty, Scary Movie 2, and Resident Evil.

At the same time as his collaborative relationships with other composers, Kevin began his game writing career working on some of the biggest titles of the time: Panzer General 2, Vampire the Masquerade: Redemption, Sacrifice, Wizardry 8, Twisted Metal:Black and other classic games. In fact, it was his work in video games that brought him to television. Jhonen Vasquez, the creator of Nickelodeon's cult hit Invader Zim, was a huge fan of games and game music. It was this connection that brought the two together. Kevin was hired and began scoring what was to become 26 episodes of Invader Zim. Kevin's work on Invader Zim garnered him his first Annie Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Music for an animated series. Invader Zim also led to Xiaolin Showdown for Warner Brothers Animation as well as Brandy and Mr. Whiskers for Disney. Kevin continues to score both shows. Recently Kevin continues his television scoring with Warner Brothers' Johnny Test which Kevin wrote the emo punk inspired main title and score to the first season.

While not content to just be pigeon-holed in television, Kevin continues his work on games and film working on such game titles as Ultimate Spiderman, City of Villains, The Sims 2, Starcraft:Ghost, Shrek 2, and Shark Tale. Kevin has also been active working on scores for Independent filmmakers. The most recent score was for the film The 24th Day starring James Marsden and Scott Speedman.

Kevin's goal is to take on projects which challenge and push the boundaries of genre and style. Growth is inevitable and Kevin Manthei Music welcomes the challenge.