

Aveyond Official Soundtrack: “From Another Shore (Aveyond & Beyond)” The Inside Scoop

Amaranth Games first contacted Aaron Walz in 2004 to use some of his music for Ahriman’s Prophecy. Since then, both parties have enjoyed a budding professional relationship, which has given birth to 3 soundtracks to date: Aveyond, Aveyond 2 & Yummy Drink Factory.

Aaron wrote and recorded the scores to Aveyond over a period of several months while also giving his attention to a full time Human Resources Career at a retirement home. This was a job he fell into after receiving his music degree from Sonoma State University, but he enjoyed the social aspects of the profession and of course, working with the sweet senior citizens, who he still misses.

However, music is Aaron’s true passion and has been since he started composing as a small child. He had been freelancing with his musical talents for several years and amassing a regular list of clients. When Amaranth approached Aaron about Aveyond 2, he knew he longer had the time to meet the deadline of such a massive project while still immersed his other career, singing in multiple choirs, meeting the needs of his other clients and finding time to breathe as well. This is when Walz Music was born. Aaron began saving up funds, then gave notice at his job in August and Walz Music opened its doors in September, 2007 as his new full time career.

Aaron knew he wanted to produce a CD to celebrate the orchestral music of Aveyond; thus the project “From Another Shore” was born. Aaron selected several of the most classical and relaxing tracks from Aveyond and other projects to create a final product that would not only highlight the sounds of Aveyond, but also be a very listenable CD to anyone not familiar with that “video game soundtrack” sound and also introduce others to Aaron’s work outside of Aveyond. The CD title is a metaphor for being an artist... sometimes you feel as though you are foreign and misunderstood and perhaps a bit lost... thus, From Another Shore.

Now a little bit about the tracks. The title track was written based on a daydream Aaron had about living in a beach house with bay windows facing the sea. He could see and hear the waves and there was a piano facing this scene. The track was licensed for Silver Creek Entertainment’s “Hardwood Hearts” as solely a MIDI arrangement. This is the first time the track is being released as an orchestral recording.

Aveyond fans will notice that the track titles do not match the places in the game where they are used. This is because Aaron gives every piece a track title regardless of how it is being used, although the title often is closely related to where it is being used. Aaron strongly believes that all game music should stand up alone without the context of the game – in other words, be a piece of art all by itself. Only then can the music truly compliment the story and art of a game.

When composing, Aaron often looks at the art from Amaranth and also reads about the characters and events from an area he is working on. He tries to put himself there. Instrumentation and timbre becomes very important, as well as the key, thickness, form and length of the piece. These are all decided before he begins composing. It is important in the creative process to limit as many options as possible, or else there are endless possibilities while you stare at a blank page. At this point he sometimes sings melodies, plays the keyboard, or just plugs in notes manually into the staff until he has some themes to work with. At this point, all his music becomes a “theme and variation” type form. His music is very programmatic, to use a concept from the Romantic period. But he has an obvious love for Medieval and Renaissance music, which often creeps into his work.

Aaron is very proud of From Another Shore, Aveyond & Beyond. This is the fourth album produced by Walz Music. “Recessive Inspiration,” released in 2001, contains Aaron’s synthesized MIDI tracks. Released second was his eurodance pop album, Miscommunication, in 2004. His third is a Holiday Album called Holiday Cheer, released in 2006. For more information and for ordering, please visit www.walzmusic.com and feel free to say hello in his official forums at www.walzmusic.com/forum . Aaron’s music is also available for purchase on iTunes.