

The Cambridge Companion to Video Game Music

Video game music has been permeating popular culture for over forty years. Now, reaching billions of listeners, game music encompasses a diverse spectrum of musical materials and practices. This book provides a comprehensive, up-to-date survey of video game music by a diverse group of scholars and industry professionals. The chapters and summaries consolidate existing knowledge and present tools for readers to engage with the music in new ways. Many popular games are analyzed, including *Super Mario Galaxy*, *Bastion*, *The Last of Us*, *Kentucky Route Zero* and the Katamari, Gran Turismo and Tales series. Topics include chiptunes, compositional processes, localization, history and game music concerts. The book also engages with other disciplines such as psychology, music analysis, business strategy and critical theory, and will prove an equally valuable resource for readers active in the industry, composers or designers, and music students and scholars.

MELANIE FRITSCH is Junior Professor in Media and Cultural Studies with a focus on Game Studies and related fields at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. She is the author of *Performing Bytes: Musikperformances der Computerspielkultur* (2018).

TIM SUMMERS is Lecturer in Music at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of *Understanding Video Game Music* (Cambridge, 2016) and *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time – A Game Music Companion* (2021).

Cambridge Companions to Music

Topics

The Cambridge Companion to Ballet

Edited by Marion Kant

The Cambridge Companion to Blues and Gospel Music

Edited by Allan Moore

The Cambridge Companion to Choral Music

Edited by André de Quadros

The Cambridge Companion to the Concerto

Edited by Simon P. Keefe

The Cambridge Companion to Conducting

Edited by José Antonio Bowen

The Cambridge Companion to the Drum Kit

Edited by Matt Brennan, Joseph Michael Pignato and Daniel Akira Stadnicki

The Cambridge Companion to Eighteenth-Century Opera

Edited by Anthony R. DelDonna and Pierpaolo Polzonetti

The Cambridge Companion to Electronic Music

Edited by Nick Collins and Julio D'Escriván

The Cambridge Companion to the 'Eroica' Symphony

Edited by Nancy November

The Cambridge Companion to Film Music

Edited by Mervyn Cooke and Fiona Ford

The Cambridge Companion to French Music

Edited by Simon Trezise

The Cambridge Companion to Grand Opera

Edited by David Charlton

The Cambridge Companion to Hip-Hop

Edited by Justin A. Williams

The Cambridge Companion to Jazz

Edited by Mervyn Cooke and David Horn

The Cambridge Companion to Jewish Music

Edited by Joshua S. Walden

The Cambridge Companion to the Lied

Edited by James Parsons

The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Music

Edited by Mark Everist

The Cambridge Companion to Music in Digital Culture

Edited by Nicholas Cook, Monique Ingalls and David Trippett

The Cambridge Companion to the Musical, third edition

Edited by William Everett and Paul Laird

The Cambridge Companion to Opera Studies

Edited by Nicholas Till

The Cambridge Companion to Operetta

Edited by Anastasia Belina and Derek B. Scott

The Cambridge Companion to the Orchestra

Edited by Colin Lawson

The Cambridge Companion to Percussion

Edited by Russell Hartenberger

The Cambridge Companion to Pop and Rock

Edited by Simon Frith, Will Straw and John Street

The Cambridge Companion to Recorded Music

Edited by Eric Clarke, Nicholas Cook, Daniel Leech-Wilkinson and John Rink

The Cambridge Companion to Rhythm

Edited by Russell Hartenberger and Ryan McClelland

The Cambridge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Opera

Edited by Jacqueline Waeber

The Cambridge Companion to Schubert's 'Winterreise'

Edited by Marjorie W. Hirsch and Lisa Feurzeig

The Cambridge Companion to the Singer-Songwriter

Edited by Katherine Williams and Justin A. Williams

The Cambridge Companion to the String Quartet

Edited by Robin Stowell

The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century Opera

Edited by Mervyn Cooke

The Cambridge Companion to Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen

Edited by Mark Berry and Nicholas Vazsonyi

The Cambridge Companion to Women in Music since 1900

Edited by Laura Hamer

Composers

The Cambridge Companion to Bach

Edited by John Butt

The Cambridge Companion to Bartók

Edited by Amanda Bayley

The Cambridge Companion to the Beatles

Edited by Kenneth Womack

The Cambridge Companion to Beethoven

Edited by Glenn Stanley

The Cambridge Companion to Berg

Edited by Anthony Pople

The Cambridge Companion to Berlioz

Edited by Peter Bloom

The Cambridge Companion to Brahms

Edited by Michael Musgrave

The Cambridge Companion to Benjamin Britten

Edited by Mervyn Cooke

The Cambridge Companion to Bruckner
Edited by John Williamson

The Cambridge Companion to John Cage
Edited by David Nicholls

The Cambridge Companion to Chopin
Edited by Jim Samson

The Cambridge Companion to Debussy
Edited by Simon Trezise

The Cambridge Companion to Elgar
Edited by Daniel M. Grimley and Julian Rushton

The Cambridge Companion to Duke Ellington
Edited by Edward Green

The Cambridge Companion to Gershwin
Edited by Anna Celenza

The Cambridge Companion to Gilbert and Sullivan
Edited by David Eden and Meinhard Saremba

The Cambridge Companion to Handel
Edited by Donald Burrows

The Cambridge Companion to Haydn
Edited by Caryl Clark

The Cambridge Companion to Liszt
Edited by Kenneth Hamilton

The Cambridge Companion to Mahler
Edited by Jeremy Barham

The Cambridge Companion to Mendelssohn
Edited by Peter Mercer-Taylor

The Cambridge Companion to Monteverdi
Edited by John Whenham and Richard Wistreich

The Cambridge Companion to Mozart
Edited by Simon P. Keefe

The Cambridge Companion to Arvo Pärt
Edited by Andrew Shenton

The Cambridge Companion to Ravel
Edited by Deborah Mawer

The Cambridge Companion to the Rolling Stones
Edited by Victor Coelho and John Covach

The Cambridge Companion to Rossini
Edited by Emanuele Senici

The Cambridge Companion to Schoenberg
Edited by Jennifer Shaw and Joseph Auner

The Cambridge Companion to Schubert
Edited by Christopher Gibbs

The Cambridge Companion to Schumann
Edited by Beate Perrey

The Cambridge Companion to Shostakovich
Edited by Pauline Fairclough and David Fanning

The Cambridge Companion to Sibelius

Edited by Daniel M. Grimley

The Cambridge Companion to Richard Strauss

Edited by Charles Youmans

The Cambridge Companion to Michael Tippett

Edited by Kenneth Gloag and Nicholas Jones

The Cambridge Companion to Vaughan Williams

Edited by Alain Frogley and Aiden J. Thomson

The Cambridge Companion to Verdi

Edited by Scott L. Balthazar

Instruments

The Cambridge Companion to Brass Instruments

Edited by Trevor Herbert and John Wallace

The Cambridge Companion to the Cello

Edited by Robin Stowell

The Cambridge Companion to the Clarinet

Edited by Colin Lawson

The Cambridge Companion to the Guitar

Edited by Victor Coelho

The Cambridge Companion to the Harpsichord

Edited by Mark Kroll

The Cambridge Companion to the Organ

Edited by Nicholas Thistlethwaite and Geoffrey Webber

The Cambridge Companion to the Piano

Edited by David Rowland

The Cambridge Companion to the Recorder

Edited by John Mansfield Thomson

The Cambridge Companion to the Saxophone

Edited by Richard Ingham

The Cambridge Companion to Singing

Edited by John Potter

The Cambridge Companion to the Violin

Edited by Robin Stowell

The Cambridge Companion to Video Game Music

Edited by

MELANIE FRITSCH

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

TIM SUMMERS

Royal Holloway, University of London



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108473026

DOI: [10.1017/9781108670289](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108670289)

© Cambridge University Press 2021

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2021

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-47302-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-46089-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.