

IN-C001



WORLD OF SEIJI YOKOYAMA
SERENADE

INORY
MUSIC



Illustration by Keiichi Ichikawa

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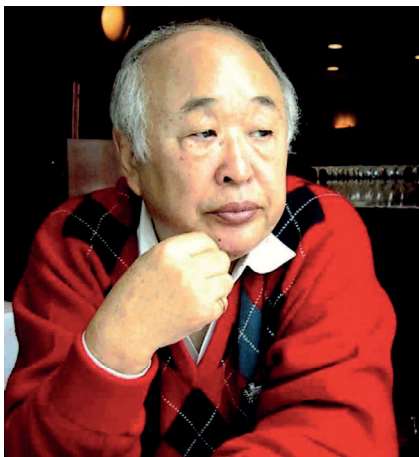
- 16. PROLOGUE XII - SHIN REIMEI (03:23)**
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(LIVE VERSION WITHOUT CHORUS)
(SAINT SEIYA - KAMIGAMI NO ATSUKI TATAKAI)

Music: Seiji Yokoyama
Performance: Budapest Symphony Orchestra
Budapest Scoring Orchestra



WORLD OF SEIJI YOKOYAMA
SERENADE





SEIJI YOKOYAMA COMPOSER

Jasrac in 1992 including the international award for granting copyright. He continued his career with TV movies, series, and animated films including the Sangokushi trilogy (The Romance of the Three Kingdoms). At the beginning of 1995, he recorded the Symphonic Suite of Power Rangers in Paris at the studios of Guillaume Tell. An unforgettable memory for him with a very high quality sound thanks to the orchestra and the direction of Roger Berthier.

Seiji Yokoyama was born in Hiroshima on March 17, 1935 and graduated in 1957 from Kunitachi University, the same university as Joe Hisaishi and Michiru Oshima. He immediately began his career with radio soap operas for ABC and NHK. His compositions were highly used in television for TV movies and live series as well as animated series. In 1978, his first great success came with Captain Harlock and the award of a gold record for the album Symphonic Suite. Another great masterpiece was the famous series and films of Saint Seiya (Knights of the Zodiac) from 1986 to 1989. The series was followed by the composer receiving two awards from the

In 2008, he returned to France with the drama album Ragen Blue, an original creation for which he signed the symphonic composition. He continued to work on original soundtracks and participated in the musical selection of the official concerts of Saint Seiya: Pegasus Symphony from 2014 to 2016 in Paris. To date, these concerts have been the last to faithfully reproduce the composer's scores. He continued his activity with the writing of several suites for a series of recitals in Hiroshima: The Flow (2014), The Scramble (2015), and Soshite Inori (2015), his last major musical work for violin and piano. Seiji Yokoyama died on July 8, 2017 in his hometown of Konu (Hiroshima) and left behind a great void in the musical world.



COMMENTS BY THE PRODUCER GÉRALD ORY

Ever since Saint Seiya aired on French television in 1988, I have been a huge fan of the composer. I had the privilege of meeting the composer for the first time in 2003. Since then, we became friends and kept in touch regularly. In 2008, I launched the Ragen Blue audio drama album project and I ordered the music as well as the credits from the composer. The two songs Divine Love will be beautifully performed by Yumi Matsuzawa, the gentle voice of the themes sung in the Saint Seiya Hades OAV series.

When Seiji Yokoyama left us on July 8 2017, he left a great void but he also left behind many wonderful pieces of music widely listened to around the world. I wanted to pay him an initial tribute by producing an album which takes up some of this beautiful music on Saint Seiya but also takes on some new themes,

some very beautiful pieces that deserve to appear on an album. The title “Serenade” was chosen for this album because I wanted to make it a soft, soothing and romantic album that can be listened to in total serenity. When I selected the tracks for the very start of the tribute album, the titles of Yamamura Misa Suspense, Komoiruta or Hiroshima Kuroi no Juujika were not planned. It was somewhat later in the production and during the health crisis that the change was made. It’s as if I heard at that moment Seiji’s voice whisper in my ear:

“No, take these pieces of music instead, it’s better, they’re prettier and fit better.” So I listened to this inner voice and today I present to you this album, World of Seiji Yokoyama: Serenade.



1. ORPHEE NO THEME (SAINT SEIYA - MEIO HADES) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

This melancholy theme on the solo harp is dedicated to the character of Orpheus, from the OAV of Saint Seiya Hades. A melody written in three counts and originally played by Megumi Katsumata (the daughter of the director of Saint Seiya Hades). For the first time, this music is performed in its entirety by the Budapest Orchestra and includes the passages that weren't used in the anime. Fans are familiar with this music under the title Death Trip Serenade, a title they attributed to this melody because it was used in the anime



and manga. Until now, however, they didn't know the actual, official title, which is simply Orphee no Theme (Orphee's Theme).

2. KANSOUKYOKU KOMORIUTA (JOUGE NO MUKASHI BANASHI) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

It is a theme for piano and a string quartet. Very soft and relaxing music. This lullaby is from Jouge no Mukashi Banashi (Jouge's Folktales), a DVD album released in April 2003 and produced by the composer. Among the scores illustrating the stories, Kansoukyoku Komoriuta is one of the three interludes of this album realized by his longtime friend, Tomoharu Katsumata.

3. ATHENA TENSEI (SAINT SEIYA - SHINKU NO SHÖNEN DENSETSU) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

"The Resurrection of Athena" is one of the most beautiful themes of Saint Seiya's third film, released in 1988. With its strings and solo violin, this sumptuous music takes us to the other side. Seiji Yokoyama considered this theme to be one of his most beautiful pieces. The piece is replayed following the original score which mentions slight differences annotated by the composer and corrected -- in particular on the harp -- during the recording of the time.



4. NAGAREBASHI
(YAMAMURA MISA SUSPENSE)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

A great specialist of romantic music, for nearly three decades Seiji Yokoyama composed the soundtracks for a large number of TV crime films. Yamamura Misa Suspense is a very popular saga in Japan and has been successfully broadcast on prime-time television since the late 70s. This theme is taken from the TV special “Kyoto Hyakunin Isshu Satsujin Jiken” broadcast in 1995. The subject is the main theme that appears in several versions, one of which is longer than 6 minutes. We have selected two of the versions to create a magnificent suite with the string quartet.

Seiji Yokoyama proves once again that his music is still as engaging even with a small crew. The music of Yamamura Misa Suspense is unpublished, and it is offered for the first time for the tribute album.

5. ABEL NO THEME
(SAINT SEIYA - SHINKU NO
SHŌNEN DENSETSU)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

The theme of Abel, the most famous among Saint Seiya fans, is played here as a harp solo and it takes up the orchestration from the original version of the 1988 film. For this version, the BPM has been slightly accelerated to give another sound to this sublime melody.

6. 108 NO MASEI
(SAINT SEIYA - MEIO HADES)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

Bewitching music from the 1990 Hades chapter album image.

This is the last part of the «The 108 Evil Stars» suite played for two harps.

This passage is brilliantly taken up by the Budapest Symphony Orchestra and is recorded in 2 counts the melody is used in the OAV 13 of Hades when Pandora observes Shun and then continues her descent to the well which leads her to the underworld. 7



7. OPENING & ENDING (SHIOSAI NO KANATA KARA) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

These two, two-time award-winning scores come from the special radio soap opera broadcast on the RCC channel in Hiroshima in 2001.

The music is played by a few musicians and the very beautiful notes on the piano are sufficient to convey emotion. For this theme, we created this suite to make it a melodic title with the 45-second overture theme and the final theme.

8. OYAYUBI HIME (WOW! MERUHEN OUKOKU) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

In 1993, Rai TV collaborated with Toei Animation for a televised series of the most famous stories. Internationally, the work is entrusted to another composer of the original soundtrack. For its broadcast in Japan in 1995, the production chose Seiji Yokoyama for the composition of the BGMS as well as for the television credits.

The series boasts a very well developed score with an effective style and very beautiful scores. Several tales are given custom-made music, such as Oyayubi Hime (Thumbelina) with a piano soundtrack played by Ogata Shinko for most of the episode.

The selected theme is a little more playful than the others. We realize that even with a limited group and just a few notes, maestro Yokoyama can also write very beautiful melodies that are simple and light. It is worth noting that the additional music of Saint Seiya and Magical Taruruto-kun are included in several episodes of this series. The music of the most famous stories remains to this day entirely unpublished.

9. KYOTO YORU NO GION (YAMAMURA MISA SUSPENSE) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

This theme is undoubtedly the most representative of the Yamamura Misa Suspense saga. Indeed, there are other variations but this one is the most representative because it is used very often during the final scenes.

This music is taken from the «Kyoto Joyuu» television series which debuted in 1999. When the killers are exposed and explain their story, often on a path or a bridge. This music therefore begins with a soft and calm sound before it rises in intensity with a strong piano to illustrate and underscore emotion and tragedy.

10. PANDORA NO HAKO
(SAINT SEIYA - MEIO HADES)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

The theme of Pandora, used at the beginning of the OAV of Saint Seiya Hades when this character plays the harp. Originally this music comes from the 1990 image album and, in keeping with the current of the day, the notes are played for 2 harps albeit separately. For this version we have removed the electric bass that accompanies the harp as well as the echo (delay) in order to give a new and more authentic sound.

11. SHUN SONO TATAKAI
(SAINT SEIYA)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

This theme is originally that of Orpheus from Saint Seiya's first film Jashin Eris that was released in 1987. It is picked up again for the character of Mime from the Asgard Chapter television series. A solo harp for memorable music. Here it is the M-21B version that is reinterpreted.

12. ENDING
(HIROSHIMA NO KUROI
JUUIKA)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

Ending music from the radio drama "Hiroshima's Black Cross." The soundtrack of a special fiction commissioned to the composer by the local radio station RCC to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. A two-time award-winner, this dark story boasts beautiful melodies with a string quartet and piano. The final theme for this story is of a high quality with an elegant solo violin.



13. ORPHEE NO THEME (SAINT SEIYA - MEIO HADES) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

A version for solo violin of the legendary Orphee of Lyre. The orchestration chosen for this theme is to replace a section of the harp with the solo violin. This theme then becomes a little melancholier. All the notes of the original score are maintained, giving us a magnificent duet, a bit like an exchange between Orpheus and Eurydice.

14. SHOUSHUU; SEKAIJUU NO KI NO SHITA DE (SAINT SEIYA - KAMIGAMI NO ATSUKI TATAKAI) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

If there is one Saint Seiya theme that has had an effect on the fans, it is this one. The finale of the second film from 1988 with its male backing vocals and the powerful and delicate voice of Kazuko Kawashima.



For this album, we chose to start from the original score by removing the rhythm section. This gives a new sound to the melody by emphasizing the other classical instruments. Seiji Yokoyama often said that for to his music to remain timeless, he first would write the orchestral melody before adding the rhythm section. This is what we wanted the fans to feel by using the acoustic part of the music. For this new sound, we have also kept the male choruses, which makes this new version a unique piece of music. This theme is one of the composer's favorites and the Ha Kotel suite (2009) was performed at his funeral.

15. ATHENA TENSEI (SAINT SEIYA - SHINKU NO SHÖNEN DENSETSU) Music: Seiji Yokoyama

Solo violin version of the theme of Athena's resurrection. For this tribute, the softness of the violin gives a more soothing, divine tone.





16. PROLOGUE XII - SHIN REIMEI

Music: Seiji Yokoyama

Shin Remei, meaning «New Dawn», was written in 1999. Coming from a series of dramatic albums, this music completes the 12th chapter of the saga with a musical suite, dark and rhythmic, on a very energetic piano. We find ourselves on a more classic register here, but in the usual style of the composer – with a large section of strings.



17. DATENSHI TAI SAINT (SAINT SEIYA - SAISHÛ SEISEN NO SENSHTACHI)

Music: Seiji Yokoyama

The first music on the title Datenshi tai Saint, taken from the soundtrack of the fourth film of Saint Seiya released in 1989. This version contains unpublished passages that the composer cut before recording his score. We recorded this M-510 music including these passages, 4 bars. The Budapest Scoring Orchestra gives us a very good delivery in this performance, slightly different from the 1989 original with a more rock-inspired and sharp rendering.

18. DATENSHI TAI SAINT 2 (SAINT SEIYA - SAISHÛ SEISEN NO SENSHTACHI)

Music: Seiji Yokoyama

M-512 is the second part of the theme with an unprecedented measure. Also from the fourth film of Saint Seiya, it is used in the final battle between Shiryu and the archangel Belzebuth. Very energetic at first, it becomes softer by ending on a solo trumpet.

19. PANDORA NO HAKO
(HARP SOLO VERSION)
(SAINT SEIYA MEIO HADES)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

This version is made for a single harp, while the original version is for 2 harps. To make this possible, we have put the notes in the treble clef in a slightly higher tone. The theme of Pandora then comes through as if she were playing this instrument alone. This theme was declined in several versions for the 1990 album and reused with new modifications for the OAV of the Saint Seiya Hadès part in 2002. The other versions remain unpublished to date.

20. SHOUSHUU; SEKAIJU NO KI
NO SHITA DE (LIVE VERSION
WITHOUT CHORUS)
(SAINT SEIYA - KAMIGAMI NO
ATSUKI TATAKAI)
Music: Seiji Yokoyama

A new interpretation of the ending theme of Saint Seiya's second film released in 1988. This melody was replayed in Budapest studios in 2019 but on several occasions separated sections such as brass and male choirs. For this acoustic version, the recording only includes the strings, the piano, and the accordion (in the background). With regard to live recording without mixing, the sound has been specially reworked to be edited on physical media. It is, therefore, a very enjoyable and unique bonus.



SPECIAL THANKS

FREDÉRIC TOMÉ
ALEXIS LEBON

Yannick MARTIN
Johary RAJAABELISON

Ludovic GOTTIGNY
Damien TREMOLLET

Marc HERTZOG
Shinji YAMAMOTO

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Seiji Yokoyama, Ragen Blue Rec. 2008.05.10 © Gérald Ory (Inory Music)

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Special thanks to Michi Himeno and Araki Production
for their courtesy

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