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REFERENCE
RECORDINGS

the BANNER Saga

AUSTIN WINTORY



THE DALLAS WINDS

Artistic Director: Jerry F. Junkin

Clarinet

Sharon Knox Deuby [concertmaster]

Ricky Reeves

Alex Yeselson

Jeanie Murrow

Bonnie Dieckmann

Rich Colodney

Piccolo

Juli Powers

Flute

Sarah Frisof

Sonia Candeleria

Jennifer McElroy

Sarah Tran

English Horn/Oboe

Aryn Mitchell

Bass Clarinet

Rebecca Wenck

Bassoon

Marty Spake

Jeff Strong

Contra-Bassoon

Leslie Massenburg

Alto Saxophone

Donald Fabian

David Lovrien

Baritone Saxophone

John Sweeden

Roy E. Allen

Horn

David Lesser

Michelle Johnson

Susie Frazier

Tim Stevens

Li Yeoh

Kirsten Schularick

Heather Test

Chris Dulin

Sheryl Hadeka

Trumpet

Tim Andersen

James Sims

Steve Fitts

Luis Martinez

Shaun Abraham

Gary Dobbins

Bass Trombone

Barney McCollum

Alex Castro

Tuba

Alex Cauthen

Jason Wallace

Timpani

Dale Powers

Christopher Deane

Percussion

Roland Muzquiz

Drew Lang

Michael McNicholas

Steve Kimple

Nate Collins

Trombone

Jimmy Clark

Bob Burnham

James McNair

A Note From the Composer

For a score endeavoring to capture the bite of cold winds, I have to say this was one of the warmest experiences I've ever had. To start, the sense of responsibility that came from being "hired," and trusted, by over 20,000 Kickstarter backers was unlike anything I'd experienced before. I hope I have delivered something worthy of that trust.

Working with Stoic Studio was truly a dream. They had the very rare combination of a singular, strong vision for their game, and yet a total openness to my musical ideas. I always felt the complete freedom to explore, and can honestly say that as a result I wrote a score I don't think I could have for any other game.

I could fill dozens of these pages with my thoughts on the phenomenally talented musicians I was lucky enough to work with. From the glorious Dallas Winds, to my lineup of soloists, all I can say is thank you. I firmly believe that no one hears a composer's music; they only hear a musician's interpretation of it. And in this case, those interpretations exceed anything I could have imagined. These musicians are this score and I am deeply indebted to them all. Special mention must be made of Taylor Davis, whose violin solos sit at the emotional heart of The Banner Saga. No one who could have done it better.

Finally, a special word of thanks to the legendary Jerry F. Junkin, and his partner in crime at the Dallas Winds, Kim Campbell. Recording with this ensemble was a career highlight, and it never would have happened were it not for their inventiveness, creativity and all-out enthusiasm.

In short, I'm just a big pile of gratitude. Every project is inevitably the product of a group's shared efforts, but this time seemingly more than ever. As Stoic writes more chapters of its frozen landscapes, I am deeply honored to continue sharing this talented group of musicians with the world.

Austin Wintory

When Austin Wintory and I first discussed the possibility of a collaboration regarding the recording of The Banner Saga soundtrack, the idea was fascinating, but there were a number of logistical issues to be dealt with before it could become a reality. The stars aligned perfectly, and I was pleased to be a part of what is a wonderful score and recording.

Austin's music is spellbinding!

Jerry F. Junkin



The Banner Saga scoring crew (L:R - Donald McKinney, Kevin Globerman, Roland Muzquiz, Jerry F. Junkin, Keith O. Johnson, Austin Wintory, Susie Seiter, Sean Martin, Kim Campbell)

Original score composed and produced by **Austin Wintory**

Music performed by **The Dallas Winds**
Conducted by **Jerry F. Junkin** and **Austin Wintory**

Soundtrack CD produced and published by **Reference Recordings**
CD Art Direction: **Arnie Jorgensen**
Score implementation: **John Watson**

Soloists
Taylor Davis, violin
Peter Hollens, vocals
Malukah, vocals
Johann Sigurdarson, vocals

Orchestrations by **Susie Seiter** and **Austin Wintory**
Score mixed by **Steve Kempster**
Digital Recordist: **Kevin Globerman**
Copyist: **Steve Juliani**

Prepared electric guitar: **Mike Niemietz**
Didgeridoo: **Randin Graves**
Accordion: **Austin Wintory**
Icelandic vocals directed and casted by **Rósa Guðný Þórsdóttir**
Icelandic translations by **Davíð Þór Jónsson**
Icelandic vocals engineered by **Friðrik Sturluson**

Dallas Winds
Executive Director: **Kim Campbell**
Recording engineer: **Keith O. Johnson**
Assistant Engineer: **Sean Martin**
Score Reader: **Donald McKinney**

A Note From Stoic Studio

It was a driving desire to simply make art that moved us to abandon our old lives, pack up our families and set out on the adventure to build *The Banner Saga*. As everyone knows the beginning is a very delicate time and it was in this season that a generous soul offered us the best advice of all. "Out of every composer in the world, who would you most like to work with? Reach out to them." We sent the email of course believing it was a long shot. The next morning we received a phone call from an excited, approachable and always humble Austin Wintory. Over the course of the next two years of production he would evolve in our minds from brilliant composer to part of the team to friend.

Music in games is no easy matter and we're just recently seeing the next evolution of the experience. Dynamically changing cues based on the players rhythm and choice, not predefined. Unlike in film where the score is designed to work with each scene in a preselected pattern a score in a game needs to be modifiable and ever changing to support a player driven experience. When done well the player notices that actions taken evoke a new direction in the music. When done best they notice nothing but a subtle subconscious tug towards an invoked emotion.

The musical score herein reflects not only the underpinning mood of the game but also the soul of the story. Simple farmers driven from their homes as their village burns. Reluctant warriors joining the field of battle to fight a war they wish had never come. Loved ones passing into an afterlife that is full of questions, after all their gods are dead.

If the only purpose of *The Banner Saga* was to bring forth this new, moving piece of music that did not previously exist, then the whole endeavor was well worth the effort. This is art.

John Watson

Alex Thomas

Arnie Jorgensen