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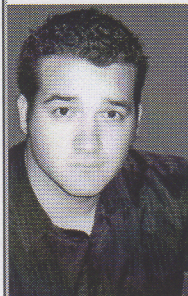
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Poetry

Sean's Sound

By Bethel Swift

Chicago Editor



CHICAGO – “I’ve written 38 hours in two days,” says Sean Beeson. “In retrospect, that probably isn’t healthy.” The 21-year-old classically trained pianist, vocalist and composer of music for video games and films,

acknowledges that he is very driven.

“I enjoy it,” says Beeson. “I really like what I do. I can work whenever I am in the mood to do so.” And he is very often in the mood. Even during the school semester, Beeson spends his afternoons writing and working with music. His roommates call his basement room “the cave” and marvel at how quickly he escapes to it. “They think I’m a little insane,” he says, but explains, “I really feel responsible for my own career success.”

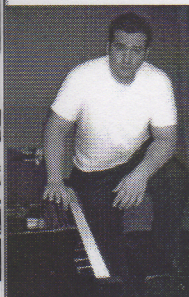
That sense of responsibility has led Beeson on a steady path to success. Beeson attends Capital University on a full ride collegiate fellowship he won through their annual freshmen competition. He resides in Columbus, Ohio, with older brother Ryan, and will complete his BMA from Capital University in music composition in late April. His video game credits include “The Operational Act of World War III” and “The Delicate Pearls of Pandora” among others. He has composed for the animated award winning short “Emelia” and recently interned with East West Studios in Hollywood.

Beeson’s musical journey began at the age of 10, when he surprised his parents by playing a church song by ear on his 24-key keyboard. When Beeson was about 12, the family inherited his grandmother’s piano and Beeson began taking piano lessons with a local instructor. “He was always driven,” says Kevin Beeson, Sean’s father. “A lot of kids, you can’t get

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them to practice. With Beeson, you couldn’t get him to stop practicing.” After only nine months, Beeson passed up his teacher and began taking lessons at Richfield Academy in Sussex County, Ohio. “He used to play [electric keyboard] at church,” recalls his brother Ryan. “That was the fastest the music was ever played!”



At the age of 17, Beeson wrote, composed and performed a song titled “Price of Freedom” for the Buckeye Boys State Veterans event held in his hometown. The event took place about eight months after the

September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and attracted a crowd of about 4,000 including hundreds of veterans.

Beeson says he is most proud of that piece because he could see the immediate impact that the music had. “All of them had to come up to me and shake my hand and give me hugs,” he remembers. After playing that night, Beeson realized that music was definitely his future. At 18, he composed the music for “Hypocrisy Blue” - a full length Norwegian film.

Mark Lochstampfor, is Beeson’s faculty advisor as well as one of his composition and technology teachers at Capital. “He is a principally total or semi-total composer,” says Lochstampfor. “Meaning that he likes to make his music very approachable to the general public.” Lochstampfor says Beeson’s passion for orchestral composing, especially with digital sample technology, is what sets him apart from others in his class: “He’s very good at adapting the style and mood for particular times.”

Beeson notes that mood is especially important in his video game work. “With video games, there are hours of music, but its looping so it really has to have a nice rounded form,” he says. “I usually sit down and sketch the whole score out on paper, less the actual notes, but with the themes and form mapped out.”

His favorite composers, among others

are Claude Debussy and strangely enough, Danny Elfman



(who scored many of the Pee Wee Herman films) “I want to try and do something for music,” Beeson says. “I like to merge different kinds of music, and try to create a hybrid sound. I guess I would like to contribute a new sound back to music. I like to cook. I find whatever is in the fridge and go with it. It’s the same with my music: I like the challenge to take bits and pieces and make a whole new piece.”

Beeson’s ambition is to become one of the ‘A’ list composers in the gaming. He gets about 60-80,000 hits on his website each month and visitors download anywhere from 25 to 50 gigabytes of his music every month. His music is featured on Radio

Rivendell and Beeson acknowledges that his score for the game “Legions of Elvendale” was inspired by “Lord of the Rings” composer Howard Shore. “He’s really listening to these people, and being influenced by these scores,” says Lochstampfor. “He’s going to be very successful.”

Beeson’s latest film “Lykedion” with Amir Ajdinovic (the director of “Hypocrisy Blue”) is in postproduction and expected to release in Norwegian theaters in March.

*Sean Beeson is represented by Bob Rice of Four Bars Entertainment. Visit his website www.seanbeeson.com.

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