

# GAME CONNOISSEUR

## THE MUSIC OF SKYRIM

---CONNOR G PELKEY

Hey, I'm back again! Taking the reigns from Tony to give another article about games and music! This time I'm thinking of a certain game that will take any Western RPG fan on a great trip. In fact, if you even see the outside in the couple of days after purchasing this game, you've got far more self-control than I. The holiday season is always when the most anticipated AAA game releases come out. One of these was the fifth game in the Elder Scroll's series titled Skyrim. I have thoroughly enjoyed this game, and tearing myself

away to write this article was difficult. I want to forewarn anyone who plays this game: it is vast. If you are easily distracted from the "main" mission in a game, you will get distracted in this game. I will let you know that I completely ignored the first mission of the game to go across the map instead. Of course, I could go on and on about how good the game's graphics, sense of scale, leveling system and gameplay are, but what I really want to examine is the music.

The music of Skyrim can't be as easily encapsulated in the word "epic" as one may think. Of course there are epic moments to be had. The

theme "Sons of Skyrim" is a fully orchestrated masterpiece with a 30-man choir singing in the native language of the setting. The soundtrack varies greatly depending on the players locale in surprising ways, including compositions that forego traditional instrumentation while within caves or dungeons in favor of subtle padding and occasional instrumental flourishes. The tense atmosphere can suddenly break with cymbal crashes and pounding timpani as an enemy, possibly a bandit or giant snake, bears down on you with the intent to take your life.

Skyrim is one of those games that can eat your free time in leaps and bounds because of how re-

alistic it is. It can take several real minutes to travel from town to town. While this sometimes works to a games detriment it helps remind the player how small they are in a world with a rich and complex setting. The sweeping orchestra also drives the "small player in a big world" feeling for an experience that is simultaneously satisfying while making the player want to continue playing. I highly recommend it, however the Xbox 360 pressing appears to have some lag issues during scripted sequences: so be wary of that.

Thanks for reading, I hope to write some more insightful and musical articles for your "edutainment" in the future!

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| #1- rihanna-"red lipstick  | #5mary j. blige/beyounce-love a woman, |
| #2-yung joc "so good   | #6 b.o.b."5 on the kush"               |
| #3- future "keep on the track"   | #7k'la-"i ain't strugglin"             |
| #4trick daddy,jay-z,k.west-ni**** as in  | #8 ludacris-babba boom                 |
| dade/paris   | #9qwade-"likethe wind"                 |
| E-Mail DJ, Mike Calvin at: <a href="mailto:appletownsports@gmail.com">appletownsports@gmail.com</a> or visit: <a href="http://myspace.com/appletownsports">myspace.com/appletownsports</a> | #f.u.p./coo coo cal- "set it off"      |

### December Friday Night Jam At TAUNY

Don't forget TAUNY's Friday night music jam on December 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted by fiddler Gretchen Koehler and singer/guitarist Barb Heller, host of NCPR's String Fever, the jam is open to musicians of all skill levels interested in gathering with North Country neighbors to play old-time fiddle tunes. More information, including a playlist, is available at [www.TAUNY.org](http://www.TAUNY.org).

TAUNY, a non-profit organization dedicated to showcasing the folk culture and living traditions of the North Country, is located at 53 Main Street in Canton. For more information visit [www.TAUNY.org](http://www.TAUNY.org).

**TOP DVD RENTALS AND SALES**

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### Top 10 DVD Sales

1. Cars 2 (G) (Buena Vista)
2. Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) (Warner)
3. Water for Elephants (PG-13) (Fox)
4. Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) (Paramount)
5. Winnie the Pooh (G) (Buena Vista)
6. Green Lantern (PG-13) (Warner)
7. Horrible Bosses (R) (Warner)
8. Fast Five (PG-13) (Universal)
9. Bridesmaids (R) (Universal)
10. Bad Teacher (R) (Sony)

### Top 10 VIDEO Rentals

1. Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) Chris Evans
2. Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) Steve Carrell
3. Water for Elephants (PG-13) Reese Witherspoon
4. Cars 2 (G) animated
5. Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13) Johnny Depp
6. Bad Teacher (R) Cameron Diaz
7. Horrible Bosses (R) Jennifer Aniston
8. Green Lantern (PG-13) Ryan Reynolds
9. Trespass (R) Nicolas Cage
10. Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13) Shia LaBeouf

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