GDC 19
Game Developers Conference
March 18-22.2019 I #GDC19

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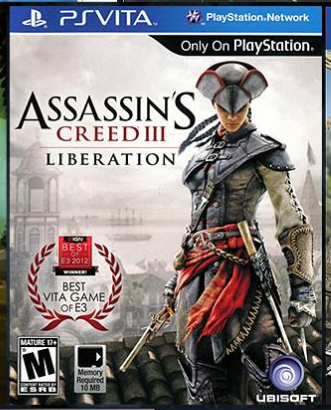
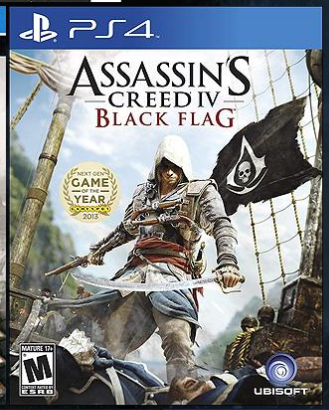
Sound designer and Composer
Ubisoft Sofia

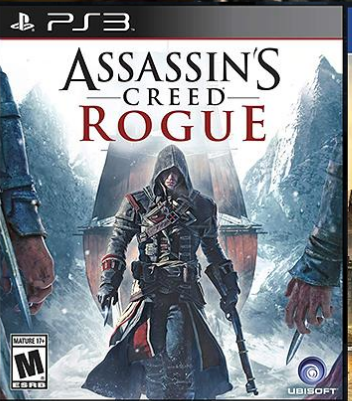
THE POWER OF MUSIC IN THE IMMERSIVE WORLD OF ASSASSIN'S CREED

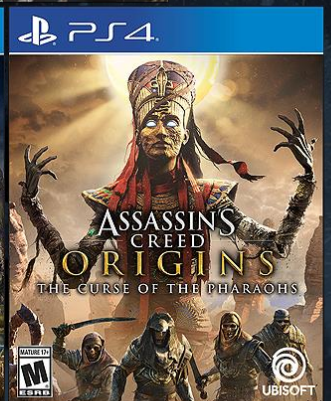
ASSASSIN'S
CREED
ROGUE
ASSASSIN'S
CREED
ORIGINS
THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS

Ukraine
Hungary
Switzerland
Romania
Croatia
Serbia
Black Sea
Bulgaria
Sofia
Italy
Greece
Turkey
Mediterranean Sea
Libya
Egypt





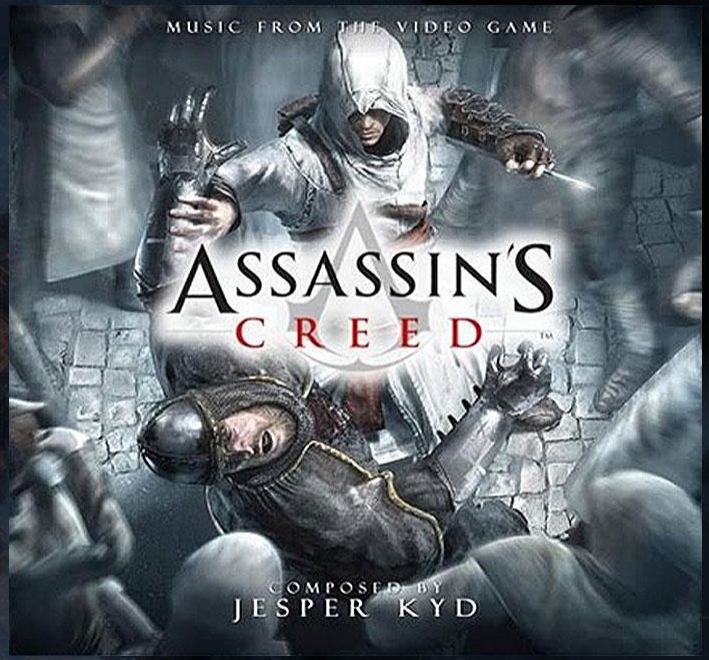




WHO AM I

- Classical musical degree
- 12 years of experience in game development
- 25 years of audio experience

LongDay
Boarding
UBISOFT SOFIA AUDIO TEAM


MUSIC FROM THE VIDEO GAME
ASSASSIN'S
CREED
COMPOSED BY
JESPER KYD

ASSASSIN'S
CREED
ROGUE

THE WORLD
DETERMINES THE MUSIC

WHAT DOES “THE WORLD OF THE GAME” MEAN

THE WORLD AND THE KEYS

- **Historical authenticity**
  18 century, baroque

- **Geography**
  North Atlantic, Lisbon, New York City, Versailles

- **Environment mood**
  From cold to warm

- **Shay Patrick Cormac**
  A Templar

THE PRINCIPLES OF MINIMALISM

PERFECT IMPERFECTION

THE INSTRUMENTALISTS

SMART INTERACTIVE
MUSICAL SYSTEM

ASSASSIN'S
CREED
ORIGINS
THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS

THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS

- To continue the music style of the main game
- The mythical world of the Egyptian afterlife
- To re-create the music of Ancient Egypt

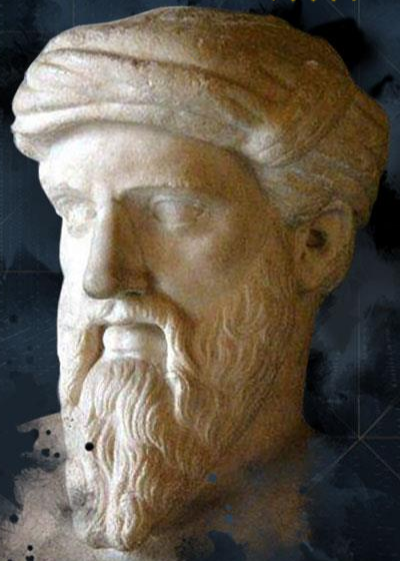
BULGARIAN FOLKLORE MUSIC

- Bulgarian kaval
- Dorian mode
- Immeasurable rhythm

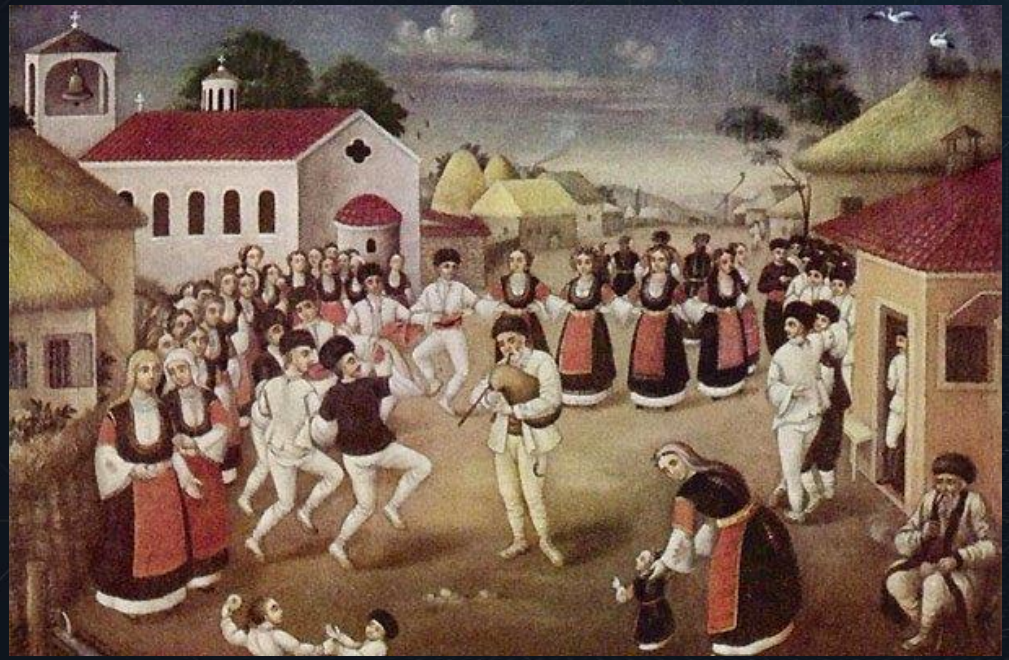
CONNECTION BETWEEN ANCIENT EGYPT AND ANCIENT THRACE

ANCIENT THRACE

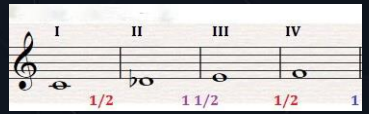
ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND PYTHAGORAS



INVESTIGATION OF 10 000 BULGARIAN FOLKLORE SONGS

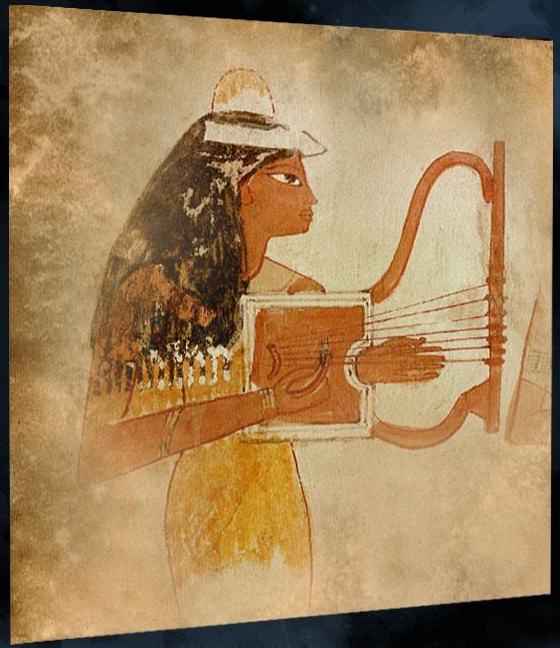


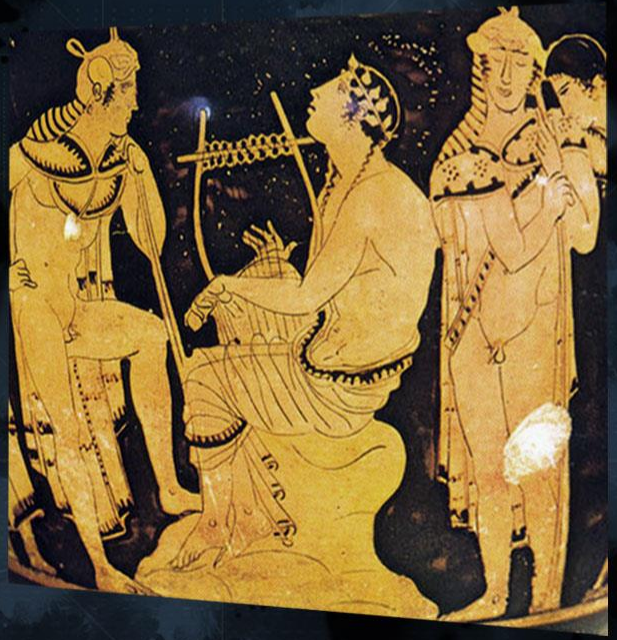
- Non-tempered scale
- Ancient modes and Macam
  (Pythagorean tone system)
- Chromatic tetrachords



- Asymmetric measures
  5/8, 7/8, 8/8, 11/8, 13/8, 17/8, 23/8
- Immeasurable rhythm with irregular times

ANCIENT LYRE





EGYPTIAN NAY

EGYPTIAN
NAY

BULGARIAN
KAVAL

BULGARIAN KAVAL

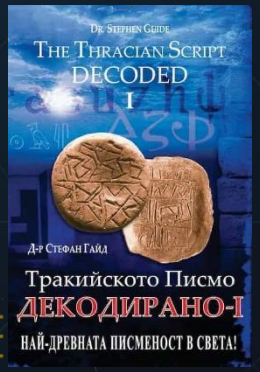
MIX BETWEEN LIVE AND VST INSTRUMENTS

KEY LESSONS

- To be on board from the beginning, working closely with the other teams
- Working as a Sound designer is a plus
- The ability to test your music on your own during the production
- A great composer does not always mean a great Wwise master ☺

WHAT IS THE POWER OF MUSIC IN THE IMMERSIVE WORLD OF ASSASSIN'S CREED?

RESOURCES



The Thracian Script Decoded - Dr. Stephen Guide

The Distance Geometry of Music - Erik D. Demaine
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Importance of Mode Tetrachords in the Tonal and Modal Music Education - Aynur Elhan Nayir

The Songs of the Harpist in the Context of the Egyptian Literature Tradition – Yordan Chobanov

Intonational Modes Features of Bulgarian Folklore Music – Georgi Harizanov

Alexander The Great and Pythagoras – biographical data

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