



Concert Review: 'Video Games Live: Bonus Round!' at Wolf Trap

July 21, 2013 by [Helen Gushue](#)

Like 71 people like this. Be the first of your friends.



'Video Games Live' at Wolf Trap. Photo courtesy of Wolf Trap.

For those who call video games anti-social or who think that only a minority of people, “nerds” play them they are in for a shock when going to a performance of *Video Games Live: Bonus Round!* The evening opened with *Video Games Live* creator and Video Game composer Tommy Tallarico saying, “Some people think video games are just for little kids, video game music is just a bunch of annoying bips and bloops, video games are the cause of violence.” Well if there was ever a crowd to staunchly disagree it was at Wolf Trap Saturday night. People of all ages were out to see the National Symphony Orchestra and a chorus prepared by Danny Ozment perform music from Pacman to Skyrim.

Video Games Live! was created by Mr. Tallarico in 2002 as an immersive audio and video experience to celebrate and support the art of video game music. It is now in its 10th anniversary of touring with two albums and numerous awards.

Emil de Cou the NSO at Wolf Trap festival conductor wrote in the introduction “all the worlds of music are welcome on our stage” and never was it more true than for the *Video Games Live: Bonus Round* performance. If you are a fan of orchestra concerts –the calm spectators clapping politely at just the right moments– this performance was not for you. Rarely have I seen such audience enthusiasm, energy and sheer joy for the music being performed, it was infectious.

... a fun, exciting, and unique experience.



RECENT POSTS

[Theatre Review: 'Impossible! A Happenstance Circus' at Theatre Project](#)

[Theatre Review: 'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot' at Forum Theatre](#)

[News: Actor Frank Britton Attacked on Way Home from Opening Night in Silver Spring](#)

[Theatre Review: '42 Street' at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre](#)



The National Symphony Orchestra was stellar, conducted with elegance and mirth by Emmanuel Fratianni. They were gleefully cheered on as they had to perform the music, sound effects and all, while select members of the audience got on stage and played super smash brothers live. It is hard to imagine a better way to expose young people to the wonder of the orchestra as with music that they already love and appreciate.

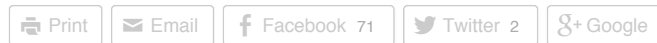
Composed by Nobuo Uematsu, a “famous” composer in the gaming world, “Final Fantasy 8, Liberi Fatali” was one piece that stood out, and I must say that the music was absolutely AMAZING. This song is the introduction when you start a new game, foreshadowing the epic love story between Squall and Rinoa. For the time this game came out (1999), this took video game music to a whole new level. Nobuo said, “screw that”, to conventional video game music, which was usually really short and catchy. He wanted to make something huge and beautiful and he did. They also performed a medley from Zelda. The girl who played the flute for the medley is Laura Intravia, and she became popular via youtube for doing this.

I can promise you that going to a performance of *Video Games Live*, whether you are a gamer, a musician, a parent or all three, you will have a fun, exciting, and unique experience.

Running time: Three hours with two encores.

Video Games Live: Bonus Round! was their only performance at Wolf Trap. For future events at Wolf Trap click [here](#).

Share this:



Wolf Trap Tickets

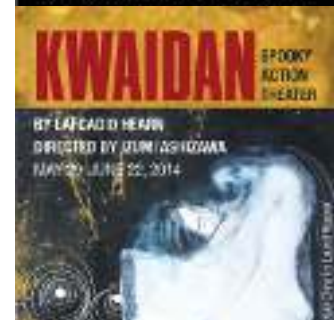
wolftrap.ticketofficesales.com

Wolf Trap Wolf Trap Events Now on Sale. Call today!

Filed Under: [Uncategorized](#) Tagged With: [video games live](#), [wolf trap](#)

About Helen Gushue

Helen Gushue is a DC native, and graduate of Guilford college in North Carolina where she earned her degree in Music performance. She's an arts lover who has worked as an educator in various fields and believes whole-heartedly in arts education. She is pursuing a career in or surrounding world music and education.





 NY THEATRE GUIDE

[RETURN TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

[COPYRIGHT © · MD THEATRE GUIDE PRIVACY POLICY ·](#)