Background Music from Movie Soundtracks

These lists strive to provide a healthy number of appropriate background music for the various locales and cultures of Corum's World of the Five Planes; it is hardly an exhaustive essay on the subject, however. As a general principle, anything from a Biblical or epic film should suit.

The lists are based on the assumption that Corum's setting is of a slightly lower technical level than that of Stormbringer's Young Kingdoms.

Note: Comments are provided by Geoff Gillan. Any items without comments on don't need comments - buy them at once!

Lywm-an-Esh

This continent has the technical level closest to the usual fantasy campaign, so it contains the most, perhaps, obvious music. Most of the music is epic and heroic and some lyrical.

Krull - James Horner - there's a lot of versions of this floating about, but the 2 disc one, while expensive, is the best.

Willow - James Horner

First Knight - Jerry Goldsmith

Dragonheart - Randy Edelman

Legend - Jerry Goldsmith

Cinema's Classic Romances - Silva Collection (easier to get in UK than US)

 $\ensuremath{\textit{Much Ado About Nothing}}$ - Patrick Doyle - soaring and heroic, very easy to underestimate

Henry V - Patrick Doyle

Robin Hood - Geoffrey Burgon (this is the Patrick Bergin movie)

Barbarian Mabden

Brash, epic, brassy scores for the thuggish and crude.

The 13th Warrior - Jerry Goldsmith (use this also for the Briklings and Bro-an-Mabden pirates)

Warriors of the Silver Screen - 2 Disc Silva Collection (easier to get in UK than US)

Conan the Barbarian - Basil Poledouris

Conan the Destroyer - Basil Poledouris - quite different to the original, so worthy in its own right

Kull the Conqueror - Joel Goldsmith (Jerry's son)

Ben Hur - Miklos Rosza

The Ten Commandments - Elmer Bernstein

The Mummy and The Mummy Returns - Jerry Goldsmith and Alan Silvestri - may be a bit modern-sounding, but still very rousing

Summon the Heroes - John Williams and others - contains Olympic Themes, very good for that chariot race/gladiator feel. Ben Hur - Carl Davis - this was commissioned by UK's Channel 4 for the silent film version. Very good, possibly my favorite background music disc.

Xena and Hercules - Joseph LoDuca has done a fistful of these, Volumes 1, 2 and 4 of Xena are recommended and all the Hercules ones. You might want to program out the Main Themes though.

Spartacus - Alex North.

Vadhagh and Nhadragh

Hamlet - Ennio Morricone - This is the Mel Gibson version. I love this score, especially the track The Play which is stark and alien. I use it all the time! I think my players may be sick of it, actually.

Koyaanisqatsi - Philip Glass - Philip Glass is a composer of minimalist film music. His scores are eerie, beautiful, seductive.

Kundun - Philip Glass

Cornish Sounds

You might want to go with a more Celtic feel for the whole campaign, or at least for certain regions. In that case try:

Rob Roy - Carter Burwell

Braveheart - James Horner

The Devil's Own - James Horner (you'll have to program out the songs)

Ragha-da-Kheta

Thanks to their minarets I use Arabian sounds, although I am aware this is not exactly polite to any Arabic people out there, so don't take it as a reflection on your culture.

Passion - Peter Gabriel - a soundtrack to Last Temptation of Christ, not a rock album. Great stuff.

The Message/Lion of the Desert - Maurice Jarre

Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger - Roy Budd - very underrated British composer. This is a gem.

Shalafen

Water seems always in movie soundtracks to be suggested by harps. Here's a few of the more atmospheric ones and/or rousing ones.

Waterworld - James Newton Howard

Atlantis - Eric Serra - French film but should be widely available internationally. Contains one or two unfortunate tracks but can be programmed.

The Big Blue - Eric Serra - as bad track comment above. Also there's an anniversary edition and a new Disc Two release out. Very atmospheric.

SeaQuest DSV - John Debney - Debney is very underrated and this is very heroic stuff, although as usual with over-familiar main themes you may want to program it out.

Cutthroat Island - John Debney