



Koji Kondo is best known for his musical contributions to the video game series, *Mario*, and *The Legend of Zelda* series by Nintendo. At the age of five this Japanese born composer, sound designer, and sound director was learning how to play the electronic organ. As he grew older, his skills on the electronic organ continued to grow. He was part of a band which played both jazz and rock music. While in school at the Osaka University for the Arts, Kondo gained some experience in writing and arranging music. Music was not the only thing to captivate his interest. He was also a gamer and he used computer and the piano to help him as he composed.

By the time Kondo was a senior he had already worked on the arcade game, *Punch Out*. When the university received word that Nintendo was looking for individuals who were serious about composing and sound programming, Kondo applied for the position. Nintendo hired three people and Koji was one of them. Of the people hired, he was the first to be hired by Nintendo as a specialist in music composition. His job was to create sound effects and music for their video games.

In the music Mr. Kondo composed for the *Super Mario* video games, he wanted to create melodies that gamers would be able to hear over and over and yet not be bored. The main theme he wrote for *Super Mario Bros* has been incorporated into the music of many other musicians. It is recognized throughout the world and is a popular ring-tone on many cell phones.

Until 1994, Kondo usually composed all the music on a video game project by himself. Over the last few years, the music created for many of the Nintendo video games has been a team effort. Kondo has continued to compose music and has served as an advisor and supervisor for others who were writing music for games. The melodies he wrote for *The Legend of Zelda* are known throughout the video game industry. This popular video game series has sold over sixty million copies.

Koji Kondo playing Super Mario Bros

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=koji+kondo&&view=detail&mid=D357F32DA017CADB9528D357F32DA017CADB9528&FORM=VRDGAR>

Composer Spotlight: Koji Kondo/The Man Who Composed Your Childhood

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Koji+Kondo+Zelda&&view=detail&mid=EADC2E026AB8FEA1C6F4EADC2E026AB8FEA1C6F4&FORM=VRDGAR>

Nintendo Minute: Chatting with Koji Kondo

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=koji+kondo&&view=detail&mid=90637DA8157A969FEC4990637DA8157A969FEC49&rvsmid=D357F32DA017CADB9528D357F32DA017CADB9528&fsscr=0&FORM=VDQVAP>

Some piano improvisations on themes from Nintendo video games.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs654PYe3qw>

A video of Thank you Tributes to Nintendo on the Thirtieth Anniversary of Super Mario Bros in 2015

<http://supermario.nintendo.com/>