

Composer of music for film, television and video games

by Stella Shepard

Craig Dodge is an award-winning classically trained musician who works as a film, television and video game composer and audio designer. He founded **Taris Studios Inc.** in 2010.

His music has been featured in 120 films and television shows, and more than 35 video games, also acting as lead audio designer for the projects. He regularly works for CTV, NBC, FOX, BBC, CNN, A&E Television, History Channel, and many more networks worldwide.

His first project was writing music for a local video game developer. After a trip to the game developers' conference in San Francisco, he saw the potential for marketing his music.

He already had a music degree, and took a special certification program offered by Berklee College of Music, and then sent hundreds of emails to television producers and music publishers, asking if they were looking for music.

"Several replied, and my name became known," says Craig. "Eighty percent of film, television, and game music is written by freelancers, so there are many opportunities to compose music. However, competition is fiercer than ever. Affordable technology has helped launch the careers of tens of thousands of film, television, and game composers and sound designers."

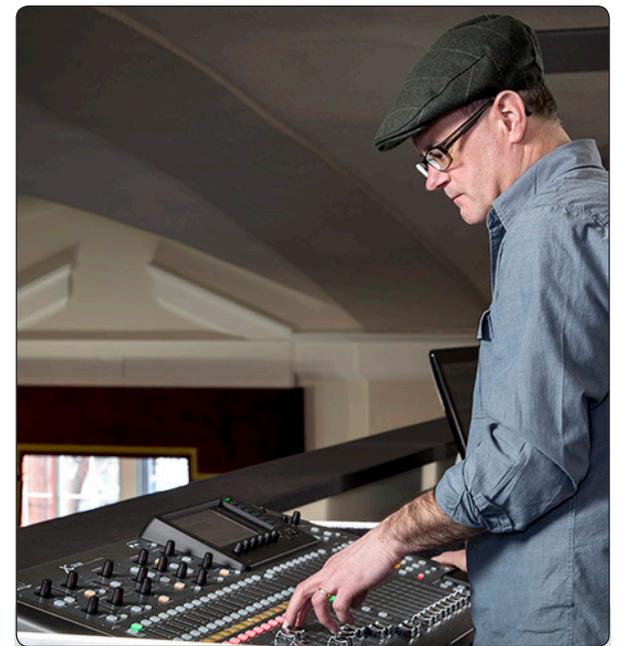
Craig has also taught music at UPEI, and is a core music instructor for the Music Performance program, part of the Holland College School of Performing Arts. He teaches students how to earn a living from music, and how to develop a business in the entertainment industry.

"There are a lot of different ways to make money through music beyond playing gigs and producing CDs. Local musicians don't have to compete only in the local marketplace. They should think globally."

Craig has worked with several local musicians to show them how to connect with the film, television, and video games industry, and how to find markets for their products.

"Every time your music is played on a television show, you get paid. If my music is on a television show nine months or nine years from now, I still get paid. Once you start treating your music career as a business, you can earn money from it."

"I am very active on social media to create my brand. As well, I am writing a book to show musicians how to earn money. Through Skype, I also teach people all over the world how to earn money with their music. It's fun to be able to make a living from music."



Craig Dodge, Composer. Submitted photo.

For more information about **Taris Studios Inc.**, contact **Craig Dodge** at craig@taris-studios.com

Visit www.taris-studios.com



How a career in welding sparked his interest

by Stella Shepard

Dustin Jewell grew up on a mixed farm in York. He developed good work ethics helping out on the farm at an early age. But farming as an adult was not for him.

After graduating from high school in 2000, he worked in the oil fields in western Canada. When Dustin saw a welding crew at work, it sparked an interest in learning more about the trade.

Dustin graduated from the one-year welding program at Holland College, Georgetown. He has worked as a welder in western Canada and the Atlantic provinces. Now he is a Learning Manager for the two-year Welding Fabrication program at Holland College, Georgetown Centre.

"I completed my welding apprenticeship with MacDougall Steel Erectors and got my Red Seal certification in 2004, which opened a tremendous number of doors for me. Later that year, I also earned Pressure Welding certification, which is recognized more in Alberta than PEI."

While working in western Canada, he met by chance an experienced welder who became an unofficial mentor. Dustin learned many hands-on welding skills through that friendship.

"There are a tremendous number of welding jobs on PEI right now, and I don't expect it to slow down anytime soon."

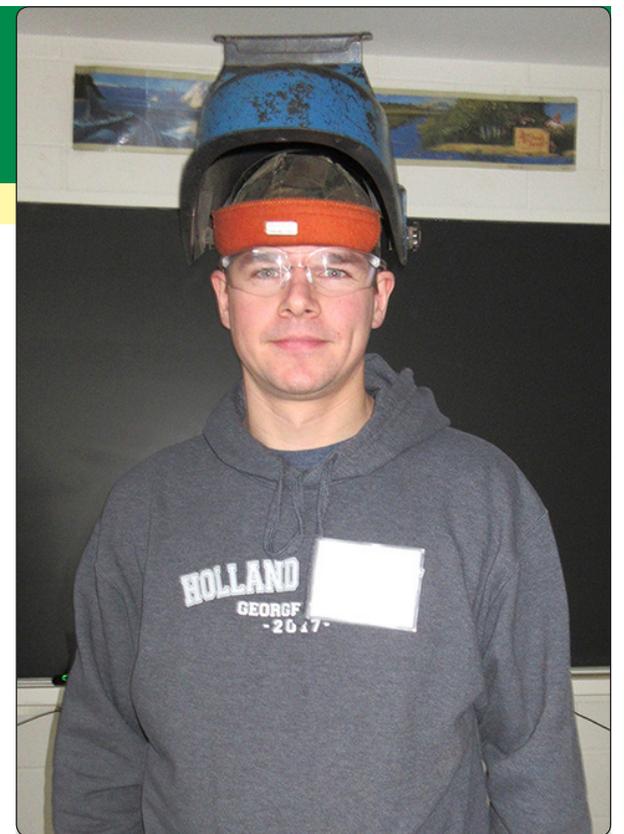
"Our graduates participate in a practicum course that gives them an opportunity to work at a local shop for one month. Through this experience, many students find full-time employment following graduation. It helps them get their foot in the door."

"There are also employment opportunities in shipbuilding in Halifax."

"A few of our welding graduates are working at the Halifax shipyard earning \$33 an hour."

Dustin says the hourly wage for welding jobs on PEI starts at \$14 an hour, and could go up to \$30. "It's a good wage for living on PEI," says Dustin.

"I am now married with three young children, and my family is part of the reason why I moved back to PEI. I am very happy to be able to take my kids to my parents' farm just down the road. PEI is a great place to work and live."



Dustin Jewell, Welder

For more information about the welding program at **Holland College, Georgetown Centre**, call **902-652-2055**.

Visit www.hollandcollege.com/programs/welding-fabrication



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