Library of Congress Publishes Dan Spencer's National Recording Registry Essay on the 'Doom' Soundtrack

Best Music Coach founder Dan Spencer (Music Mentor Dan) wrote the expanded essay on Bobby Prince's 1993 score, one of eight in the 2026 induction class

WILMINGTON, DE, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Library of Congress has published an essay by video game composer Dan Spencer, founder of Best Music Coach, on the soundtrack to "Doom," the 1993 game whose score was inducted into the National Recording Registry this year.

> “Everyone hears the metal. What I wanted to show is the blues underneath it, because that's where the music actually comes from.”
>
> *Dan Spencer, founder of Best Music Coach*

Dan Spencer's essay, "The Metalification of the Blues," appeared on loc.gov on August 7, 2026, as the National Recording Registry's expanded essay on the "Doom" recording. Dan Spencer composes for independent games under the artist name Music Mentor Dan and founded Best Music Coach, a music education company for gamers, in 2018.

The National Recording Registry is the Library of Congress's list of sound recordings judged "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" to life in the United States. Each year the Library of Congress inducts 25 recordings and invites writers with expertise in a recording's subject to contribute expanded essays on some of them. The "Doom" soundtrack, composed by Bobby Prince, is one of eight 2026 inductees with an expanded essay, and the Library of Congress chose Dan Spencer to write it.

In its induction notes, the Library of Congress describes "Doom" as a game that "brought a heavy metal energy to MS-DOS systems across the globe, while at the same time pioneering the ever-popular 'first-person shooter' genre," adding that "key to Doom's popularity was the adrenaline-fueled soundtrack created by freelance video game music composer, Bobby Prince."

Dan Spencer's essay argues that the "Doom" score's metal surface conceals an older foundation. Drawing on Bobby Prince's 1960s background playing rhythm and blues, the essay traces I-IV-V progressions, major-minor ambiguity and other blues signatures through "Doom" tracks such as

"The Imp's Song" and "Dark Halls," and credits the "Doom" soundtrack with helping establish custom-composed game music, rather than licensed songs, as the industry norm. "The metal is a paint job over a much older machine," Dan Spencer writes.

Bobby Prince died in June 2026 at the age of 81, seven weeks before the Library of Congress published Dan Spencer's essay.

"Bobby Prince wrote the music that taught a generation of gamers what a game could sound like," said Dan Spencer, founder of Best Music Coach. "Everyone hears the metal. What I wanted to show is the blues underneath it, because that's where the music actually comes from. Getting to make that case in the Library of Congress's own archive is a high honor of my career."



Dan Spencer, video game music composer and founder of Best Music Coach, wrote the Library of Congress National Recording Registry essay on the 1993 "Doom" soundtrack.

Dan Spencer's own scores, released as Music Mentor Dan, include the original soundtracks to "Medieval Legends" (Believor) and "Yes, My Warlord" (Staple Studios), both released in 2026. Dan Spencer is the author of 12 books on music, most recently "Compose Legendary Video Game Music," and breaks down game soundtracks live for more than 130,000 subscribers on Best Music Coach's YouTube channel, Music Theory for Gamers.

Dan Spencer's Library of Congress essay is available at https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/national-recording-preservation-board/documents/Doom_Spencer.pdf and the full 2026 National Recording Registry induction class is listed at https://www.loc.gov/programs/national-recording-preservation-board/recording-registry/registry-by-induction-years/2026/

Dan Spencer is available for interviews on the Library of Congress essay, Bobby Prince's "Doom" score and the history of video game music. More about Dan Spencer and Best Music Coach: https://www.bestmusiccoach.com/gamer-music-mentor-dan/

About Best Music Coach

Best Music Coach is a music education and independent publishing company founded in Dover, Delaware, in 2018 by video game composer Dan Spencer and based today in southern Chester County, Pennsylvania, outside Wilmington. Best Music Coach teaches gamers to compose and release their own music through books, courses, one-on-one coaching and the YouTube channel Music Theory for Gamers. Learn more about Best Music Coach at https://www.bestmusiccoach.com/

About Dan Spencer

Dan Spencer is a video game music composer and the founder of the music education company Best Music Coach. He releases music under the artist name Music Mentor Dan, and he composed the original soundtracks for the indie games Medieval Legends, Yes, My Warlord and Minimalist Rally 2D. The Library of Congress selected him to write the official National Recording Registry essay on the Doom (1993) soundtrack. He has published 12 books on music, six of which reached #1 in their Amazon categories, and he teaches composers to finish and release their own music.

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