Rock Band 3 sets precedent for music games

By Scott Pachilis
Electronic News Editor

It was during the 2005 Electronic Entertainment Expo that a small buzz began to grow among game enthusiasts about a band of games about a game buried in the far corners of the convention center. With little to no promotion and a location that was almost equivalent to the night’s Friday night death slot, no gamer thought that a concept as such a game could ever become a worldwide phenomenon and spawn its own genre, yet it happened in less than a year. That game was Guitar Hero.

Review

Its developer, Harmonix, left the series after the second incarnation and began work on the Rock Band franchise in 2007. Having released the games Amplitude and Frequency prior to Rock Band, it’s easy to see why they are the leaders in the rhythm-gaming market and the subsequent Rock Band franchise, now developed by Neversoft, reportedly has double the sales of its competitors.

With last month’s release of Rock Band 3, it’s clear that this game is the zenith of all music and rhythm gaming. With every game in the series, it is very hard to find ways to innovate the series from title to title. Harmonix now seems to have found its niche, and what is focused on most are the games’ interface and the songs they are playing relative unchanged.

However, some Harmonix fans will see everything that was lacking in the first two titles whether you noticed or not. Let’s start with the tray that every gamer should know. Reflexes are as powerful as ever, Harmonix listened to the criticism and tailored the game to the feedback they received.

Menu Changes

Menu changes are probable to the franchise is the drop-in/drop-out of a mode called Pro Mode. Based off a concept set in place by Guitar Hero 5, this feature will allow for a drop-in or out at any time in one of the campaigns while playing a song. This menu change can alter the gameplay making the difficulty accessible at will.

Instead of exchanging your library for a new one, your song library is also a nice addition. You can now streamline your entire catalog of songs to the game. Changes such as these can only enhance the overall game experience.

Campaign

Campaign is similar to the structure set in place by Rock Band 2. Your band will rise from obscurity and become the top band of the world by playing various music genres and playing needed events. Along the road challenges are short to three song sets designed in a form one challenge and each event will have a certain combination of stars and spades. While the challenge system from the newly, the added Pro Mode offers the player’s abilities to launch overdrive, complete sections of songs flawlessly. Collecting stars and spades will elevate the level of freshness and replay value to veteran players.

In addition to the popularization of Xbox 360 achievements and trophies, Rock Band 3 includes goals, which are separate but parallel to the main campaign. The goals are set by Harmonix to challenge gamers who enjoy going for 100 percent completion in games.

Cross Compatibility

What sets Rock Band apart from being just a single franchise is added with each future title. Rock Band 1 and 2 both utilized the Power as an additional game feature. Rock Band Hero puts the power in a fully integrated into the menus. With almost all the songs from the series first two entries, the spin-offs, Rock Band 600 song library. The Rock Band music store is integrated nicely into the in-game menus as well as the displaying recommendations based on your current library.

Keyboard

Now to the highly publi- zed added feature in Rock Band 3 a huge achievement for gaming.

By Danyce Hill
Staff Writer

Faith Tabernacle celebrates 32 years

By Danyce Hill
Staff Writer

Celebrated gospel singer Apostle Michael Goings will be featured in a leadership seminar for all pastors and church leaders on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until noon. Call the church at 910-865-5252 to register for the seminar. The Anniversary Ban-quet will be held on Dec. 4 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux in Fayetteville, N.C. For tickets and more details call the church at 910-865-5252. Students and the commu-