Song of the Weekend

By Lee Jackson

From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group
(https://www.facebook.com/groups/ljackaudiodiscgroup)

Entry: 20190316 – Cccool

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This week's "Song of the Weekend" is Cccool, from the Apogee Software classic, "Rise of the Triad."

Cccool got its unusual name from the Howard Stern show, which was popular among the ROTT team at the time. The Stern show had a popular character named Stuttering John, and examples of his voice peppered the show. I mimicked that with the extra Cs in the title.

Inspiration for the song originally came from Frankie Goes To Hollywood's "Welcome to the Pleasuredome." one of my favorites. I paid tribute to the opening bass line in Pleasuredome with a similar yet shorter one in Cccool, then built up to a big chord progression that resolved the opposite direction of the one that FGTH used.

All of that segued into something that was rather unique for a video game song at the time: a piano solo. If you'll recall from other interviews I've done about ROTT's music, I was under serious time pressure. I had six weeks to come up with 36 songs, so when it came to drawing inspiration, I pulled from every idea that popped into my head. The piano solo happened to be one of those ideas. I started putting the notes into the song, liked the way it sounded, and said to myself, "why not?" So, the solo stayed in the song. It was followed up by another first - a fretless bass solo, at about 1:56 into the song. Fortunately, Tom Hall liked both.

At one point, Cccool was the theme song for ROTT. It has a corresponding song called Mmmenu which is a shorter loop without the solos. Higher voices prevailed, however, and a song by Bobby Prince called "Rise" became the theme song (Cccool remained as level music and Mmmenu stayed on as menu music).

And with that, here is a link to the song itself:

https://youtu.be/DfMeH_EpqSU