

# Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ljackaudiogroup>)

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This week's "Song of the Weekend" is Departure, from the 3D Realms hit, "Duke Nukem 3D."

Departure is one of the songs written for the "Plutonium Pak" add-on levels, later released as part of the four-episode "Duke Nukem 3D: Atomic Edition" version of the game. During this stage of development of the game, I was regularly coming home for dinner with the family, watching a bit of TV, then going back up to the 3D Realms offices to work through the remainder of the night and into the early morning.

One night while home, I managed to catch a rebroadcast of the "V: The Final Battle" miniseries on one of the cable networks. I was particularly struck by the music used for the main theme--it had some great elements to it that were both eerie and military sounding. I went back to the office with the theme in my head and tried to whip up a tribute to it that wouldn't step on anyone's copyright toes.

Where the "V:TFB" theme has been processed to achieve an otherworldly sound, I obviously couldn't do that with the General MIDI patch set I had to work with. I decided to go with the orchestral sound that I'd used on some other Duke Nukem 3D pieces. Also, there is very little development of the "V:TFB" theme--it builds upon the sound effects, but the main theme itself remains practically unchanged for the entire two minute duration. I split with the original and went more melodic with the main string section, the choral section that follows, and in the second altered string melody that wraps up the song.

The one thing that ties both songs together is a pulsing 6/8 rhythm in the percussion section, although the sound of the original is, I'll admit, much more brutal and more effective than my own. I don't think that it would have fit with if you'd have swapped it for the percussion parts used in Departure, however. I'll leave that as a matter for you to discuss.

With that, I invite you to please enjoy listening to the 20th Anniversary World Tour recording of Departure! I do hope you enjoy it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO0ZW15qYtQ>