

Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20190817 – Ah, Geez!

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

Ah, Geez! is an orchestral song that wound up being used with episode one, level seven of the game ("Faces of Death"). It gets its name from Tom Hall, who frequently used the phrase, "Ah, Geez!" around the Apogee/3D Realms offices during his time there, as well as from the expected user reaction to the frantic pace of the song.

The song is inspired by two different pieces of music. The first and biggest influence is the opening theme used during the 1970s to a show seen on Houston's KPRC-TV channel 2 called, "The Eyes of Texas." Unfortunately, I cannot find a good example of this theme, but I can let you know that it used the same type of pizzicato that I used throughout Ah, Geez!, as well as an overall frantic feel. I don't know why, since most of the segments on "The Eyes of Texas" were general interest pieces or downright folksy stories at times, but there you have it. If you run across a 70s or extremely early 80s version of this theme song that isn't heavily distorted, please let me know of it.

The second inspiration for Ah, Geez! is much easier to locate online. It is John Williams's Battle in the Snow from "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back." This is the music used in the background of the battle where the AT-AT walkers are first introduced. It speaks for itself in terms of tension and excitement.

You'll note from listening to Ah, Geez! that it has a sort of stuttering start: the drums play, followed by the piano and pizzicato low strings, followed by silence, followed finally by the high strings plus temple blocks in the percussion. This repeats for another measure and adds a xylophone to the high strings before the piece really kicks into gear. Now, extremely early incarnations of the song didn't have this beginning tacked on. They simply started with the main ostinato and ripped right into the music. I believe I came back and added the current beginning after originally submitting the song to the George filter. If memory serves, there was no need to do so: the song passed muster on the first try. I just liked the way it sounded with the extended beginning, so I submitted a new version and got it past the filter as well.

With all that in mind, I hope you'll enjoy listening to Ah, Geez! Thank you for voting!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvSz821Q3S4>