

# Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20191012 – Mist Ache

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

Mist Ache has the distinction of being a song not written for a level, but for a \*feature\*. Rise of the Triad used a rather realistic emulation of fog, or "mist," which obscured your enemies. That inspired the first part of the song name. Of course, it wouldn't be one of my songs without more wordplay. "Ache" got thrown in for the pain you'd inflict on your enemies. And the whole title, "Mist Ache," reads like the word "mistake," which is what your enemies would be making if they went up against you.

The word fun didn't end there. Project director Tom Hall assigned the song to a level named "Foggy Mountain." Yes, we had fun during the ROTT development days.

The song itself is based mainly around a string orchestra. It opens with a 6/8 rhythmic drone in the basses. The middle strings introduce the melody for 8 bars, then repeat the opening line as the upper strings play a 6/8 pattern above them. After the first phrase finishes, the upper strings play a 4 bar transition leading into a repeat of the opening phrase, this time played by a synthesized harpsichord sound patch. This phrase is followed by another transition segment, but this time a harp takes over the high strings pattern. The melodic phrase is repeated again, with slight variations, played this time around by the cellos. The final transition builds into a climactic section where all but the harp play the second half of the phrase, with the high strings finally taking over the melodic line at last.

It's one of my more complex songs, and I believe it works quite well. So did my son's elementary school class, for that matter. He had a book report to deliver, and he used a tape recording of Mist Ache as background music while he read his report. He came home and told me that his class and teacher liked the music so much that they insisted that he play the music a second time after his report. I would have liked to have seen that.

With that, please allow me to offer a link to a recording of Mist Ache. I hope you'll enjoy it!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_n12-Dzdwi0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_n12-Dzdwi0)