

Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20191109 – KISS Off

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

As usual, the title of KISS Off is a play on words. There are rock & roll elements in it, however slight, so I evoked the name of the rock band KISS as part of the title. The full name is that of a common epithet, used here in jest.

The music is based on a pavane by Renaissance composer Tielman Susato, written some time in the 16th century. I'll provide a link to a recording of it in a separate post after this one. I don't remember how I got hold of it: I probably found a MIDI file on CompuServe or some other MIDI repository of the day.

My interpretation of the song is, first off, short - a loop of one minute and 45 seconds. It's also not my best stuff, IMHO. The "rock & roll" segments are quite cheesy, compared to the true rock that I wrote later on. As I've stated many times before, I was given only 6 weeks of out-of-office time to compose the ROTT soundtrack, and as a result I reached for everything I had in my bag of tricks.

The analysis of KISS Off is pretty simple. Whereas the Susato original used woodwinds, I used a pipe organ and a rock band for my orchestration. The piece opens up at a bit faster tempo than the original, with the pipe organ playing the first phrase. The rock band comes back and answers the pipe organ, with guitar harmonics (yeesh, I wish I hadn't used that instrument) playing the upper part. This repeats for the second and third phrases. In the fourth and final phrase, the pipe organ and rock band combine to form a grand ensemble, with one of the guitar parts playing a countermelody of my own design throughout the phrase.

And there you have it - KISS Off. With that, allow me to present a link to the song in question. I hope you'll enjoy it. Thank you for choosing it as your "Song of the Weekend!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQgv2Iiulk>