

Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20200516 – How'd I Do

This week's "Song of the Weekend" is How'd I Do, from the Apogee Software cult classic, "Rise of the Triad."

How'd I Do is really not so much a song in itself as it is a companion piece to a much larger song, CCCool, which served as "Song of the Weekend" on March 16th of 2019. You see, I had intended CCCool to be the theme song to ROTT, and How'd I Do was going to be a "call-back" to CCCool for the end-of-level screens. One of the beta versions of the game did in fact go out that way, and IMHO it worked quite well. However, someone up the line - the George Filter? I don't know - ordered Bobby Prince's Rise to be used as the theme song instead, relegating CCCool to the status of level music. How'd I Do now stood on its own as the end-of-level music.

To borrow briefly from CCCool's explanation, How'd I Do was similarly heavily influenced by the Frankie Goes to Hollywood song, Welcome to the Pleasuredome. Frankie Goes To Hollywood is one of the few groups that my I have seen live in concert with my wife (I don't get out much, I know), and their presentation of Pleasuredome literally shook my pants legs. I've used the CD recording of it as a subwoofer tester ever since.

Musical Analysis:

The song is only 55 seconds long, so there's not much to say. It starts with a figure in the drums and bass guitar on an "off-beat" that will allow for a smooth loop when the end comes around. The bass guitar drives the piece with a sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth pattern, with a heavy accent on the first sixteenth note of each beat. Above this, a trio of trumpets sound a syncopated fanfare in close chordal voicing for 4 bars. They repeat the fanfare for another 4 bars as strings join them, playing ascending and descending arpeggios.

The trumpet fanfare chords begin to climb the scale as the strings cut out, replaced by the sine and sawtooth synths on arpeggiated 5th patterns for the next 8 bars. The synths and trumpets crescendo into a huge hit, supported by blasts of bass and percussion for a measure.

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At this point, the synths take over from the trumpets on the lead line, playing a melodic line to the end of the song while the trumpets play fanfares beneath them. The strings join back in as well, sweetening the overall arrangement, while the bass is split in two - a sustained low bass note on the pedal tone, and the bass guitar playing the rhythm part. This builds for several measures until everything culminates in a two-note hit that leads back into the bass guitar and drum intro section at the beginning of the song.

That's all there is for How'd I Do. Please allow me to leave you with a link to the song. Thank you for reading, and thank you for voting for your "Song of the Weekend"!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1ZOafpi5Eg>