

Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20210508 – Dukelinka

This week's "Song of the Weekend" is Dukelinka, from the album "Calibrations."

Dukelinka was used in the "Duke Nukem 3D: 20th Anniversary World Tour" edition released by Gearbox Software for the Russian level. The title is a portmanteau of the words "Duke" and "Kalinka," with "Kalinka" being one of the folk songs quoted in the track.

The song utilizes my Roland SC-88Pro and my Kawai K5000R rackmount synth, along with a VST called "ToxicBiohazard." It is written in the key of G minor and runs at 88 beats per minute in 2/4 time.

Musical Analysis:

I'm not going to get into a measure-by-measure breakdown of Dukelinka, since it wouldn't be best served in that manner. I'll keep this write-up simple, since even that is a tad bit complicated.

Dukelinka starts with a line of pulsing eighth notes that continue throughout the song, playing a D (the 5th of the G minor key). This is the only "rhythm section" of the song: there is no percussion, save for some bells that are struck at times. A drone on the D comes in after a couple of measures, then fades out before the melodic segments begin.

The first melodic lines heard in the song come from the Russian folk song, "Kalinka." Only the beginning notes are quoted at first. Then, the string section begins playing it in earnest in pizzicato mode, much more slowly than the song is normally performed. This gives "Kalinka" "spooky footsteps" feel that it would not otherwise have.

The next song quoted after "Kalinka" is "Grabbag," a song of my own creation. Again, only the first few notes are played, and the line is stretched out over a longer amount of time than normal.

Next up is a folk song called, "The Broad and Rolling Steppe." This has been sped up slightly and broken into segments separated by a toll of a bell. It's followed by a reprise of the first melodic lines of "Kalinka," which is used as a separator in the same way "Grabbag" was used earlier.

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The final song quoted is the Russian National Anthem. It is played beginning somewhere in the middle of the song, broken up by hard strikes of low notes. Once the quote is done, the pulsing eighth notes continue until the song loops.

This is another song best listened to than read about. With that in mind, please allow me to give you a link to the song on YouTube. Thank you for reading, and thank you for voting for your "Song of the Weekend!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Poa5Mms8uBY>