

Song of the Weekend

By Lee Jackson

From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20211030 – Big Ben Bang

This week's "Song of the Weekend" is Big Ben Bang, from the album, "Calibrations."

Big Ben Bang was originally written as level music for the "Duke Nukem 3D: 20th Anniversary World Tour" episode. It went with the London-based level, which I believe was the third level of the episode. Part of the level was built around the famous Palace of Westminster's Clock Tower, with its Great Bell known as Big Ben. That's where I got the name for the song.

The song itself is an arrangement of George Frideric Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks," composed in 1749. I made some major modifications to the original: for example, while the original piece is in the key of D Major, I transcribed the key for my arrangement to D Minor.

Aside from the key, Big Ben Bang is written in 4/4 time and moves along at 90 beats per minute. It is scored for the Roland SC-88Pro, and utilizes both the A and B channels of the unit for percussion parts. Whereas nowadays I would record each individual channel and mix down the audio inside Cakewalk using plugins, back then I did not do this: instead, I recorded the entire song to a single stereo track and mastered it for the CD.

Musical Analysis:

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide a musical analysis this week, as I have been fighting the side effects of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster shot all week and all weekend. I am barely up to the task of analyzing Handel's work when I am well, much less when I am under the weather. Please accept my apologies, as well as my promise that I will provide a musical analysis next time.

Please allow me to at least provide you with a link to the song on YouTube. Thank you for voting for your "Song of the Weekend."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj52wDFb0T4>