

# Song of the Weekend

By Lee Jackson

From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

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

Entry: 20220326 – Restricted Area

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This week's "Song of the Weekend" is Restricted Area, from the 3D Realms hit game, "Duke Nukem 3D."

Restricted Area was written as part of the Plutonium Pak add-on for the original Duke Nukem 3D game (later incorporated into the "Atomic Edition" of the game). There's no real wordplay in its title. It gets its name from the inspiration I had for the song, which was that of a secret or restricted area that Duke was not supposed to be in. Boring, I know, but you take what you can get.

The song is in the key of Bb, although it revolves around the IV-V (Eb-F) chord progression for its duration. It moves at 96 beats per minute in 4/4 time, and is scored for the following General MIDI instruments: French Horn (3 of them), Choir Aahs, Fantasia/Ice Rain, Strings, Bassoon, Tympani, Melo Tom 1, and various members of the Roland Orchestra drum set patch group.

Musical Analysis:

Restricted Area begins with a percussion section solo, as the Tympani, Melo Tom 1, and Orchestra percussion play a military-style cadence by themselves for four measures. They will continue this cadence throughout the entire piece.

The three French Horns start off the piece proper, playing small, sustained fanfare figures on top of each other. They will keep the semblance of a IV-V chord progression, with some notes suspended at times and with occasional dissonance, as the fanfares continue from measure 6 until measure 22 (if you're counting along with the MIDI file – subtract one measure if you're listening to the audio file).

Beginning in measure 20, the Choir Aahs sing a lead-in to the next part of the melodic line, which they pick up at measure 22 and carry on through measure 29. The French Horns then take over again at measure 30, this time accompanied by short, rhythmic patterns in the Strings. They will play through measure 37, at which point the Choir Aahs will resume their melody once more until they fade out in measure 45, this time joined by the French Horns playing a different fanfare figure to accompany them.

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The drum cadence plays alone from measure 48 through measure 52, at which point the bassoons enter, playing an 8-count interval of a C and an F#, followed by 8-counts of an F# and an A. They repeat this until the end of the piece in measure 69. Meanwhile, the Ice Rain instrument plays short variations of the French Horns' main fanfare figures from measure 62 through the end, at which time the piece loops.

That sums up Restricted Area in a rather large nutshell. Now, please allow me to leave you with a link to a YouTube video of the song. Thank you for reading, and thank you for voting for your "Song of the Weekend!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM3DQBbmrFY>