

tears in heaven chords ultimate guitar

Tears in Heaven chords ultimate guitar is a popular search term among guitarists looking to learn one of Eric Clapton's most poignant songs. Written in memory of his son, Conor, who tragically passed away, "Tears in Heaven" resonates with many due to its emotional depth and simplicity. In this article, we will delve into the chord progression of the song, techniques for playing it, and tips for mastering this beautiful acoustic piece.

Understanding the Song's Background

Before we dive into the technical details, it's essential to appreciate the emotional weight that "Tears in Heaven" carries. Eric Clapton wrote the song following the death of his four-year-old son, which adds layers of sorrow and longing to its lyrics. The song was included in the 1991 album "Rush" and quickly became one of Clapton's signature hits.

The song's themes revolve around loss, love, and the hope of reuniting with loved ones in the afterlife. This sentiment is palpable in both the lyrics and the music, making it a favorite among musicians and listeners alike.

The Chord Progression

To play "Tears in Heaven," you'll need to familiarize yourself with a few essential chords. The song is primarily in the key of A major, and the chord progression is relatively simple, making it accessible for beginner to intermediate players. Here is a breakdown of the chords you will need:

- A
- E/G
- Fm
- D
- A/C
- Bm
- E

Chords Breakdown

Here's how to play each chord:

- A:
 - Place your index finger on the second fret of the D string (4th string).
 - Place your middle finger on the second fret of the G string (3rd string).
 - Place your ring finger on the second fret of the B string (2nd string).
 - Strum from the A string (5th string).

- E/G:
- Place your index finger on the first fret of the G string (3rd string).
- Your middle finger should be on the second fret of the A string (5th string).
- Your ring finger should be on the second fret of the D string (4th string).
- Let the low E string ring open.

- Fm:
- Barre all strings at the second fret with your index finger.
- Place your ring finger on the fourth fret of the A string (5th string).
- Place your pinky on the fourth fret of the D string (4th string).

- D:
- Place your index finger on the second fret of the G string (3rd string).
- Place your middle finger on the second fret of the e string (1st string).
- Place your ring finger on the third fret of the B string (2nd string).
- Strum from the D string (4th string).

- A/C:
- This is similar to the A chord but with a C in the bass.
- Keep your A shape and add your middle finger to the fourth fret of the A string (5th string).

- Bm:
- Barre all strings at the second fret with your index finger.
- Place your ring finger on the fourth fret of the D string (4th string).
- Place your pinky on the fourth fret of the G string (3rd string).
- Place your middle finger on the third fret of the B string (2nd string).

- E:
- Place your index finger on the first fret of the G string (3rd string).
- Place your middle finger on the second fret of the A string (5th string).
- Place your ring finger on the second fret of the D string (4th string).

Chord Progression for "Tears in Heaven"

The verses of "Tears in Heaven" follow a specific chord progression that is both beautiful and mournful, matching the song's lyrical content. Below is the chord progression for the first verse:

1. A
2. E/G
3. Fm
4. D
5. A/C
6. Bm
7. E

This pattern repeats throughout the verses. The chorus utilizes a similar structure but may vary slightly. Here is the general progression:

1. A
2. E/G
3. Fm
4. D
5. A/C
6. Bm
7. E

Practicing these progressions will help you get comfortable with switching between chords smoothly.

Strumming Patterns and Techniques

One of the critical aspects of playing "Tears in Heaven" is mastering the strumming pattern. The song's gentle rhythm enhances its emotional impact. Here are some tips on how to achieve the right feel:

Basic Strumming Pattern

A common strumming pattern for this song is as follows:

- D-DU-UDU
- "D" represents a down strum.
- "U" represents an up strum.

You can experiment with the tempo, but keeping it slow and steady will help convey the song's emotion.

Fingerpicking Technique

Some guitarists prefer to fingerpick "Tears in Heaven" for a more intimate sound. Here's a basic fingerpicking pattern you can try:

1. Thumb on the bass note (root of the chord).
2. Index finger on the G string (3rd string).
3. Middle finger on the B string (2nd string).
4. Ring finger on the high e string (1st string).

Repeat this pattern, alternating your bass notes with the thumb while using your other fingers for the melody.

Practice Tips

Learning "Tears in Heaven" can be an emotional journey, but here are some tips to help you along the way:

1. Break it Down: Focus on one section at a time. Start with the chords, then move on to the strumming.
2. Use a Metronome: This will help you keep your timing consistent.
3. Record Yourself: Listening to your playing can help you identify areas for improvement.
4. Play Along with the Song: Once you feel comfortable, try playing along with the original recording. This will help you get a feel for the pacing and dynamics.
5. Be Patient: Mastering a song like "Tears in Heaven" takes time. Don't rush the process.

Conclusion

In summary, mastering Tears in Heaven chords ultimate guitar involves understanding the song's emotional depth, familiarizing yourself with the chords, and practicing diligently. With its beautiful melodies and heartfelt lyrics, "Tears in Heaven" is not just a song to play; it's an experience that resonates deeply with both the player and the listener. Whether you choose to strum or fingerpick, the key is to convey the emotion behind the music. With patience and practice, you'll be able to share this poignant piece with others, honoring the legacy of Eric Clapton's heartfelt tribute to his son.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic chords for 'Tears in Heaven' by Eric Clapton?

The basic chords for 'Tears in Heaven' are A, E, Fm, Cm, and D.

Where can I find the complete chord progression for 'Tears in Heaven'?

You can find the complete chord progression for 'Tears in Heaven' on Ultimate Guitar's website or app, where users share tabs and chord sheets.

Are there any beginner-friendly versions of 'Tears in Heaven' chords?

Yes, many users on Ultimate Guitar provide simplified versions of the chords that are suitable for beginners.

Can I find a video tutorial for playing 'Tears in Heaven' chords?

Yes, there are numerous video tutorials available on platforms like YouTube that teach you how to play 'Tears in Heaven' using the chords from Ultimate Guitar.

What is the strumming pattern for 'Tears in Heaven'?

The common strumming pattern for 'Tears in Heaven' is a simple down-up strumming pattern, but you can find specific patterns suggested by users on Ultimate Guitar.

Is there a capo required to play 'Tears in Heaven'?

You can play 'Tears in Heaven' without a capo, but if you prefer to play in a higher key, you can use a capo on the 2nd fret.

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