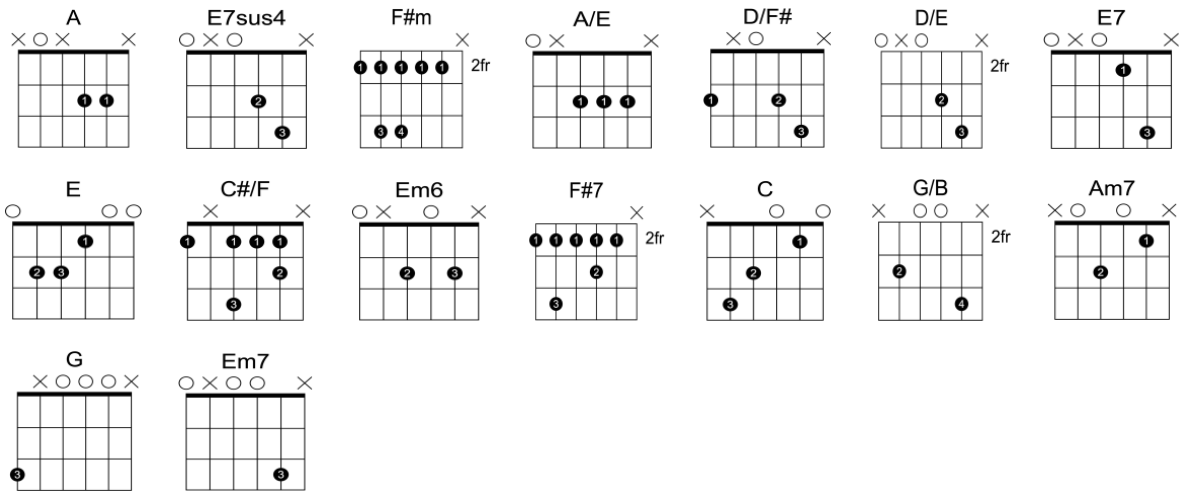


Eric Clapton - 'Tears in Heaven'

Words and Music by Will Jennings and Eric Clapton Transcribed by Kevin Paluzzi

Key of 'A' Major



Intro (0:00)

	A	E7/G#	F#m	A/E	D/F#	D/E	E7	A
1								
2		232	5 5	2 2 2 2	3 3	3 3	2 2 2 2	
3		2 2	4 4	2 2 2 2	2 2	2 2	1 1	2 2
4			0	4 4	2 2	0 0	0 0	2 2
5	0							0
6	0~2		4	2	0 0	2	0 0	

Verse 1 (0:12)

	Riff	A	E7/G#	F#m	A/E	D/F#	A/E	E	A/E
1							0		
2			232	5 5	2 2 2 2	3 3	2 2	0 0	2 3
3			2 2	4 4	2 2 2 2	2 2	2 2	1 1	2 4
4				0	4 4	2 2	2 2	2 2	2 2
5		0							
6	0~2		4	2	0	2	0	0	0

Would you know my name... If I saw you in heaven

	A	E7/G#	F#m	A/E	D/F#	A/E	E	A/E
1						0		
2		2	232	5 5	2 2 2 2	3 3	2 2	0 0 2 3
3			2 2	4 4	2 2 2 2	2 2	2 2	1 1 2 4
4				0	4 4	2 2	2 2	2 2 2 2
5		0						
6			4	2	0	2	0	0

Would it be the same... If I saw you in heaven (to Chorus)

Verse w/Guitar Riff

	A	E7/G#	F#m (Riff)	A/E	D/F#	A/E	E	A/E
1						0		
2			5/7\5			0		
2		232	5 5	5/7\5 5/7\5	2 0	3 3	2 2	0 0 2 3
3		2 2	4 4	4/6\4	2	2 2	2 2	1 1 2 4
4			0			0	2 2	2 2 2 2
5		0						
6	0~2		4			2	0	0

'Tears In Heaven' - Performance Notes (1)

Overview

Both recorded versions of 'Tears In Heaven' (studio and 'Unplugged') feature several guitars, with the primary guitar parts being played on a nylon-string 'classical' guitar. The following lesson will review all the essential sections arranged for a performance by one or two guitarists.

Basic Fingerstyle Technique

Use standard fingerstyle technique with the right hand, which is assigning the first, second, and third fingers to pluck the third, second, and first strings respectfully. The thumb is assigned to pluck either the fourth, fifth, or sixth string.

Intro (0:00)

For the opening 'A' chord section, keep the first finger aligned along the second fret for the sixth string hammer-on, then flatten the first finger across the second and third strings for the hammer/pull-off on the second string. Clapton uses the thumb to fret the bottom string for the 'E/G#' and 'D/F' chords, and a full barre chord shape for the 'F#m' chord. The chord shapes shown in the Tab show an alternative approach to fret these chords, which allows for more clarity for those not accustomed to using the thumb to fret bass notes.

Verse (0:12, 1:09, 1:47, 3:26)

The progression for the Verse is similar to the Intro, up until the fourth note or beat of the 'D/F#' section, where the open first string is played. Both Lines 1 and 2 of the Verse are essentially the same, with the exception being Line 1 starts with a three-note riff while Line 2 does not.

Syncing Lyrics with Chords

To help with timing, certain lyrics will sync-up or 'land' with specific beats and chord changes. The example below shows a three-way comparison between beats, lyrics, and guitar chords to start Verse 1. Note how the 'know' and 'my' lyrics land with specific notes, as well as the 'name' lyric landing on the 'F#m' chord change.

Example

	A	E7/G#	F#m
1			
2		2 3 2	5 5 2
3		2 2 4	4 4 2
4			0
5	0		
6	0~2	4	2

Would you know my name...

4 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 1

Main Guitar Riff

On both recordings of 'Tears in Heaven', various lead guitar riffs are played along with the accompanying rhythm chords played by a second guitarist. One (main) guitar riff is played several times throughout the song during the Intro and Verse sections over the 'F#m' chord. The two notes that makeup the last doublestop of the riff are the same two notes on the second and third strings of the 'D/F#' chord that begins the next section. This doublestop riff should be timed properly so that the last doublestop 'lands' on the 'D/F#' chord change.

Eric Clapton - 'Tears in Heaven' (2)

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Chorus (0:38)

	F#m	C#/F	Em6	F#7
1				
2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2
3	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	0 0 0 0	3 3 4 3
4	4 4 4 4	3 3 3 3	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2
5				4 4
6	2 2	1 1	0 0	2 2

I must be strong... and carry on 'cause I

	Bm7	Bm7/E
1		
2	3 3 3 3	3 3 3
3	2 2 2 2	2 2 2
4	4 4 4	
5	2 2	
6		0 0

...know I don't belong... here in heaven

Bridge (2:05)

	C	G/B	Am7	D/F#	G	D/F#	Em7	D/F#
1	0							
2	1 1 1 3 3	1 1 3 3	0 0 3 3	3 3	3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3	3 3
3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 2 2	0 0 2 2	2 2	0 0 2 2	0 0 2 2	0 0 2 2	0 2
4	2 2 0 0	2 2 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0
5	0 2 3 2	0 2	0 2	2	3 2	0 2	0 2	0 2
6								

Time can bring you down time can bend your knees

	C	G/B	Am7	D/F#	G	D/F#	E	A/E
1	0							
2	1 1 1 3 3	1 1 3 3	0 0 3 3	3 3	0 0 3 3	0 0 2 3	0 0 2 3	0 0 2 3
3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 2 2	0 0 2 2	2 2	0 0 2 2	1 1 2 4	1 1 2 4	1 1 2 4
4	2 2 0 0	2 2 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2
5	0 2 3 2	0 2	0 2	2	3 2	0 0	0 0	0 0
6								

Time can break your heart have you begging please ... beggin' please

Guitar Solo (2:31- play 2x)

	A	E7/G#	F#m	D/F#	A/E	E	A/E
1	9 10 9 7	12 14	9	10 12	9 7 9 7 (\5)	7	7
2		10					
3							
4							
5							
6	3 4 3 1 4	1 3	1	1 3	1 1 3 1 (\1)	1	1

Suggested Ending

	A	E/G#	F#m	D/F#	A		
1		2 3 2	5 5	2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3	2 2 3 2	2
3		2 2 4 4	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 1	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2
4		0	4 4 2 2	0 0 0 0		2	
5		0				0 0	
6	0 2	4	2 0	2 0 0			

'Tears In Heaven' - Performance Notes (2)

Chorus (0:38, 1:34, 2:55)

Keep a steady tempo, using an 'eight-count' throughout the first three sections.

Simply remaining on the 'F#7' chord shape for the entire 'F#7' section (instead of including 'F#7sus4') can be a less-challenging option.

Bridge (2:05)

On the original recording of 'Tears in Heaven', numerous guitars can be heard simultaneously, especially during the Bridge section. For one guitarist, keeping a steady tempo is essential. Each section of the Bridge can be counted with eight total beats per section, with two chords in each section using four beats each.

Guitar Solo (2:31)

This guitar solo is arranged for one guitarist to play over Verse 3. The solo essentially follows the vocal melody of the Verse section is played twice before going to the Chorus.

Suggested Ending (4:17)

Revisit the Intro, then follow with the Suggested Ending ('A' section) arranged for one guitarist.

Arranging

Before learning the entire song, 'Tears in Heaven' can be performed as an abbreviated arrangement, with the Intro being used as an ending followed by a strummed 'A' chord.

Arrangement

Intro - Verse - Chorus - Interlude - Verse - Chorus - Interlude - Bridge

Guitar Solo - Chorus - Interlude - Verse - Chorus - Ending

Lyrics

Would you know my name - If I saw you in heaven
Would it be the same - If I saw you in heaven
I must be strong and carry on
'cause I know I don't belong here in heaven
Would you hold my hand - If I saw you in heaven
Would you help me stand - If I saw you in heaven
I'll find my way through night and day
'Cause I know I just can't stay here in heaven
Time can bring you down, time can bend you knees
Time can break your heart, have begging please, begging please
Beyond the door there's peace I'm sure
And I know there'll be no more tears in heaven
Would you know my name - If I saw you in heaven
Would it be the same - If I saw you in heaven
I must be strong and carry on
'Cause I know I don't belong here in heaven