

Kansas - 'Dust In the Wind' (1)

Words and Music by *Kerry Livgren* Transcribed by *Kevin Paluzzi*

Key of 'A' Minor

Diagram showing guitar chord shapes for C, Cmaj7, Cadd9, Asus2, Asus4, and Am. Each chord is represented by a six-string guitar fretboard with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-4 and 'X' for muted strings.

Verse Chords

Diagram showing guitar chord shapes for G/B and Dm7. Each chord is represented by a six-string guitar fretboard with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-4 and 'X' for muted strings.

Intro (0:00)

C	Cmaj7	Cadd9	C	Asus2	Asus4
1	1	0	3	1	0
2	1	0	1	0	3
3	0	0	0	2	2
4	2	2	2	2	2
5	3	3	3	0	0
6					

Am	Asus2	Cadd9	C	Cmaj7	Cadd9
1	1	0	3	1	0
2	1	0	1	0	3
3	2	2	0	0	0
4	2	2	2	2	2
5	0	0	3	3	3
6					

Verse 1 (0:23)

Am	Asus2	Asus4	Am	G/B	C	G/B
1	1	0	3	1	1	3
2	1	0	1	3	1	3
3	2	2	2	2	0	0
4	2	2	2	2	2	2
5	0	0	0	0	3	3
6						

I close my

Am	Am	G	Dm7	Am	Am	G/B
1	0	1	1	0	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	3
3	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	2	2	0	0	2	2
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6			3	3	0	2

eyes... only for a moment and the moment's gone...

C	G/B	Am	Am	G	Dm7
1	1	0	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	0	1
3	0	0	2	0	2
4	2	2	2	0	0
5	3	3	0	0	0
6				3	3

All... my dreams... Pass before my eyes a... (to page 2)

'Dust In the Wind' - Performance Notes (1)

Written by Kerry Livgren and released by the group Kansas, the acoustic-based *'Dust In the Wind'* was a departure from the group's progressive rock sound, yet would become it's most successful release. On the original recording, two acoustic guitars are played together. The following sections will focus on an arrangement designed for one guitarist to perform.

Fingerstyle Technique

Use *standard fingerpicking technique*, 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.

First, memorize the *fingerstyle pattern* using the opening 'C' chord shape. The first beat requires the second and fifth strings to be plucked or 'pinched' simultaneously with the thumb and second finger. Then, the 'middle' (*fourth and third*) strings are plucked, followed by the 'outside' (*fifth and second*) strings, then followed again by the 'middle' strings (*shown right*).

Next, focus on *tempo*. The 'C' section can be counted as follows: '1 - 1-2-3-4 - 1-2', with the 'pinched' notes being the initial '1' count. Repeat this tempo a few times with just the 'C' chord shape before moving on to the other chord changes. Make sure to have the 'pinched' notes ring or sustain while the remaining notes are being played.

Fingerstyle Pattern: 'C'

C	
1	
2	1 1
3	0 0
4	2 2
5	3 3
6	
'1 1-2-3-4 1-2'	

Intro

There are a total of **16 measures** in the Intro. Memorize four measures at a time. Note how every four measures are based on either a 'C' or an 'Am' chord shape. Throughout the Intro, keep the fretting hand steady and in position by aligning the fretting fingers as follows: first finger/first fret, second finger/second fret, third finger/third fret for most of the chords.

Note the steady bass note rhythm. Each section has the thumb alternating between the fifth and fourth strings. This alternating bass-note approach to fingerstyle is often referred to as *'Travis Picking'*. Another option in keeping time is to count the fifth string bass note in 'twos' for each chord section.

Verse (0:21)

Memorize one four-chord sequence at a time.

Note the two consecutive measures of 'Am' chords, where the open first string is plucked to begin the first 'Am' section, while the fretted second string is plucked to begin second 'Am' section.

For the 'G' section, the 'pinched' 'G' chord played with the *'only'* vocal can have the first string/third fret played (*instead of the open second string*) if there are no vocals used. (*The first string/third fret 'G' = vocal pitch of 'only'*.)

Each Verse is essentially an eight chord sequence ('C-G/B-Am-Am-G-Dm7-Am-Am') that repeats, with the only variation being the final 'Am' section in each sequence. The first sequence ends with the same two-beat 'Am-G/B' lead-in used in the Intro. The second sequence ends (*see page two*) without the 'Am-G/B' lead-in before going to the Chorus.

Keeping up with the speed of the original recording is not as important as maintaining a *steady tempo*, which is playing chords 'in-sync' with the corresponding vocals. Try to 'land' each chord change with

Kansas - 'Dust In the Wind' (2)

Chorus

D/F# G Am7/G

Bridge

Am/add2 A9sus4 F#11 F6/A

Verse 1 (cont'd)

First Chorus (0:41)

Am	Am	D/F#	G	Am	Am7/G
1 0					
2 1	1 1	3 3	0 0	1 1	1 1
3 2 2	2 2 2	2 2	0 0	2 2	0 0
4 2 2	2 2 2	0 0	0 0	2 2	2 2
5 0 0	0 0			0 0	
6 2 2		2 2	3 3		3 3

...curiosity... Dust in the wind...

D/F#	G	Am	Am	G/B
1 3 3	0 0	0 1 1	0 1 3	
2 2 2	0 0 0	2 2		
3 0 0	0 0	2 2		
4 0 0		0 0	0 2	
5 2 2	3 3			

All they are is dust in the wind... (to Verse 2)

Second Chorus (1:12)

D/F#	G	Am	Am7/G	D/F#	G
1 3 3	0 0	1 1	1 1	3 3	0 0
2 2 2	0 0 0	2 2	2 2	2 2	0 0 0
3 0 0	0 0	2 2	2 2	0 0	0 0
4 0 0		0 0			
5 2 2	3 3		3 3	2 2	3 3

Dust in the wind.... All we are is dust in the (to Bridge)

Bridge (1:20)

Am/add2	A9sus4	F#11
1 0 0	0 0	0 0
2 5 5	5 5	7 7
3 7 7	7 7	5 5
4 0 0	0 0	0 0
5 0 0	0 0	0 0

wind...

F6/A	F#11
1 3 3	0 0
2 5 5	5 5
3 3 3	3 3
4 0 0	0 0

'Dust In the Wind' - Performance Notes (2)

Verse 1 (cont'd)

The first two sections are a continuation of Verse 1. (see Performance Notes -1)

First Chorus (0:41)

For a smoother chord transition from 'Am' to 'Am7/G', continue to fret the 'Am' chord shape and simply lift the third finger in order to fret the sixth string bass note of the 'Am7/G' chord.

In the last section, note the hammered second string plucked simultaneously with the open fifth string bass note of the 'Am' chord.

Arranging

Once the Intro, Verse, and Chorus sections are learned, the next step is to begin to combine these sections in order to develop a better sense of the song's *arrangement*. Before learning other sections, try playing the basic *abbreviated arrangement* shown right.

Second Chorus (1:12)

The Second Chorus is identical to the First Chorus, with the exception of the last two 'Am' sections being deleted, with the last '*All we are is dust in the...*' vocal leading directly into the Bridge section.

Bridge (1:20)

The Bridge section is played following the Second Chorus, and then played two more times to begin the Violin Solo section.

Despite the complex chord names, most of the Bridge requires only two fingers to fret each chord.

The 'Am/add2'-'A9sus4' change only requires the first and third fingers to switch between the third and fourth strings, with the first finger remaining aligned along the fifth fret.

The 'F6/A' chord may be challenging, and some may prefer to simply maintain playing the 'F#11' chord instead.

Three 'Sing-Along' Steps

1. Memorize Chord Progression
2. 'Sync-up' Chords with Lyrics
3. Focus on Vocal Melody

Basic Arrangement

Intro - Verse - Chorus
Verse-Chorus

'Dust In the Wind' - Performance Notes (3)

Third Chorus (2:31)

For the Third Chorus, the initial four-chord sequence of the First Chorus ('D/F#-G-Am-Am7/G') is played three and a half times before going to the Coda.

Coda (2:49)

After the final Chorus, a repeated 'Am-Asus2-Asus4' progression is played as the Coda ('fade-out' ending).

Additional Notes

'Dust In the Wind' is in the Key of 'A' Minor. The solo section (*played with a violin*) uses the 'A' Minor scale. When viewing the fretboard as either an 'A' Minor or a 'C' Major *scale pattern* (both scales are relative scales, sharing the same seven notes), all the chord shapes used will 'fit' into either scale pattern.

Lyrics

I close my eyes
Only for a moment and the moment's gone
All my dreams
Pass before my eyes a curiosity
Dust in the wind
All they are is dust in the wind
Same old song
Just a drop of water in an endless sea
All we do
Crumbles to ground though we refuse to see
Dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
Now don't hang on
Nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky
It slips away
And all your money won't another minute buy
Dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
Dust in the wind
Everything is dust in the wind

Song Arrangement

Intro
Verse 1
Chorus
Verse 2
Chorus
Bridge (3x)
Intro
Verse 3
Chorus
Coda