



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

# Chinese Café

Author: Sam Stone

CGDFCE, 'Joni' Tuning: x77374, Capo 2

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## CHINESE CAFE / UNCHAINED MELODY

written by Joni Mitchell, utilizing the words and music of North/Zaret and Goffin/King from 'Wild Things Run Fast,' 1982

Arranged for guitar by Sam Stone

Note: This arrangement is one of those that just "came to me." I had been looking at the chords as noted (in standard tuning) in the "Joni Mitchell Complete" songbook from 2006 and decided to "fiddle with the knobs," as Joni says. By magic or something I accidentally ended up in the good old CGDFCE tuning and, after playing through this arrangement a few times, I wouldn't be surprised if this was the tuning Joni actually used for this song, maybe in an early demo or something of that sort. That said, this is not an exact transcription. It's just a guitar arrangement that seeks to combine the many elements of the full-band recording and synthesize them down, hopefully offering a sufficient "stripped down" version which can be played relatively easily and in a familiar tuning.

All fret numbers ten and above are written with numbers such that A=10, B=11, etc.

Intro (approximately, listen to the album to get the rhythm):

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E -----
C -----0-
F -----9-----4---  ->  002200  002000  002200  002000  002200
002000
D -7/8--A-8--A--A-8--8--3-----
G -----
C -----

```

0002200 002200 > 0022200 > 002200 (hammer on and off F string following the melody)

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          Caught      in      the      middle
002200 > 0022200 > 002200 555400
Ca - rol - we're middle class, we're middle aged
          775555

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We were wild in the old days
          555400

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Birth of rock 'n' roll days

220000

Now your kids are coming up straight

A7800X

And my child's a stranger

775555 555400

I bore her, but I could not raise her

220000

Nothing lasts for long

002200

Nothing lasts for long

AA8900

Nothing lasts for long

775555

Down at the Chinese Cafe

220000

We'd be dreaming on our dimes

x3050x 7755xx 33550x

We'd be playing "Oh my love, my darling"

002220 > 002000 002220 002000 002220 002000 002220

One more time

Uranium money

Is booming in the old home town now

It's putting up sleek concrete

Tearing the old landmarks down now

Paving over brave little parks

Ripping off Indian land again

How long how long

Short sighted business men

Ah nothing lasts for long

Nothing lasts for long

Nothing lasts for long

Down at the Chinese Cafe

We'd be dreaming on our dimes

We'd be playing "You give your love, so sweetly"

One more time

Christmas is sparkling

Out on Carol's lawn

This girl of my childhood games

With kids nearly grown and gone

Grown so fast

Like the turn of a page

We look like our mothers did now

When we were those kids' age

Nothing lasts for long  
Nothing lasts for long  
Nothing lasts for long

Down at the Chinese Cafe  
We'd be dreaming on our dimes  
We'd be playing

x3050x            7755xx        33550x  
          "O'h my love, my darling  
          55540x                    x3050x  
I've hungered for your touch  
          7755xx

A long lonely time  
x3050x                    77555x        33550x  
          And time goes by so slowly  
          55540x                    x3050x  
And time can do so much  
          77555x        220000  
Are you still mine?

          x3050x                    555400  
I need your love  
          77555                    220000  
I need your love  
          33550x                    555400    0022000  
God speed your love to            me"

002200 002000 002200 002000 002200 002000  
Time goes - where does the time go? I wonder where the time goes.peats.