



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

This Place

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BbFDFBbC, 'Joni' Tuning: x79352

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This song is pretty simple in terms of chords: there are only 6 different ones used. That means it's easy to play the basic chord changes, but it's harder to get the Joni nuances right to make the song work.

The basic chords used in the song are:

Bbadd9 = 0 12 12 0 0 0
Ebadd9 = 555555
Gadd9 = 999999
Fadd9 = 777777
Cadd9 = 222222
Csus4 = 2232xx

As with so many Joni guitar songs, open strings are used in certain places to "blur the edges" of the chord changes. Using the open strings in this way gives the fretting hand a little time to move into place for the next chord, and the sustained sound of the open strings gives harmonic continuity between chords. The main use of these open string "passing chords" is shown in the chord sequence given below.

Another detail worth focussing on is, for each chord, to listen to whether all the strings are used. Listen to the original to try and hear whether just the lower or middle strings are strummed, or whether all strings are used for each chord.

The other crucial element to this song is Joni's tried-and-tested "percussive acoustic shuffle" technique. As with similar songs (Cherokee Louise, Crazy Cries of Love) the basic rhythm used in the picking hand is a triplet shuffle (1-2-3, 2-2-3, 3-2-3, 4-2-3) but the way the thumb and fingers play alternate strokes in this pattern (on bass and middle/treble strings) gives a more complex two against three feel. This can take time to get comfortable with, so practice, and stick to the basic triplet/shuffle feel to start with.

Intro:

NB notes played as harmonics are enclosed in angle brackets e.g. <12> = harmonic at 12th fret

The intro uses the basic sequence of chords used for all the verses, with a chord of 12th fret harmonics used to start the song. I've written brief open string chords/notes in brackets, where these are used as short "passing chords" between the main chord changes.

```
x <12> <12> <12> <12> x          0 12 12 0 0 0
      Bbadd9                      Bbadd9
```

```
(xx0xxx)      555555      (x000xx)
                Ebadd9
```

```
0 12 12 0 0 0
      Bbadd9
```

```
(xx0xxx)      555555      (x000xx)
                Ebadd9
```

```
0 12 12 0 0 0      999999
      Bbadd9          Gadd9
```

```
555555      777777
Ebadd9      Fadd9
```

```
0 12 12 0 0 0
      Bbadd9
```

Here's the same intro sequence written out in (slightly simplified) tablature:

Percussive tabs/slaps of the strings are shown using "x".

```
C-----5-----
Bb--<12>-----0-----5-----5-----
F---<12>-----0-----5-----5--5-----5--0---
D---<12>-----12-----0--5---x-----5-----x-----5--0---
F---<12>---12---12---x---5---x---5-----x-----5--0---
Bb-----0---0-----x---5-----5-----x-----
```

```
C-----
Bb-----0-----
F-----0-----5-----5--5-----5--0-----
D-----12-----0--5---x-----5--5---x-----5--0-----
F---12---12---x---5---x---5--5---x---5--0-----
Bb-0---0---x---5-----5-----5---x-----
```

```
C-----0-----5-----7-----
Bb-----0---9-----5-----5---7-----7---7-----
F-----0---9---x---9---5-----5---7-----7---7-----
D-----12---9---x---9---5---5---5---7---7---7---7-----
F---12---12---9---x---9---5---5-----7---7-----
Bb---0---0---9---9-----5---5-----7---7---7-----
```

```

C-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0---
Bb-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0---
F-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0---
D-----12-----12-----12-----12-----12-----
F-----12-----12-----12-----12-----12-----
Bb--0---0---0---0---0---0---0---0---0---0---0---0---

```

The picking pattern used at the end here for the final Bbadd9 chord is worth practising as it's used pretty consistently at the end of each verse. Keep the triplet 1-2-3, 2-2-3, 3-2-3, 4-2-3 pattern in mind, and try to get the alternating thumb strokes (on the bass string) and finger strokes (on the other strings) working so that they pattern sounds smooth and comfortable.

Verse 1

(Use the basic chord sequence as above for all the verses)

Sparkle on the ocean
Eagle at the top of a tree
Those crazy crows always making a commotion
This land is home to me.

Verse 2

I was talking to my neighbor
He said, "When I get to heaven, if it's not like this,
I'll just hop a cloud and I'm coming right back down here
Back to this heavenly bliss."

Middle 8:

555555
Ebadd9
You see those lovely hills

They won't be there for long

They're gonna tear 'em down

0 12 12 0 0 0 x <12> <12> <12> <12> x
 Bbadd9

And sell them to California

222222 2232xx 222222
Cadd9 Csus4 Cadd9

Here come the toxic spills

2232xx 222222
Csus4 Cadd9

Miners poking all around

