



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

Chinese Café

Author: Sam Stone

CGDFCE, 'Joni' Tuning: x77374, Capo 2

This transcription is the author's own work and represents their interpretation of the song. You may only use this file for private study, scholarship, or research. Copyrighted material on this website is used in accordance with 'Fair Use'

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):

```

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)

```

          Caught      in      the      middle
002200 > 0022200 > 002200 555400
Ca - rol - we're middle class, we're middle aged
          775555
We were wild in the old days
          555400
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
 "Oh 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.