



Tell Old Bill

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Db Gb Bb Eb, 'Joni' Tuning: x545

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Played on Baritone ukulele.
Tuning (low to high): Db Gb Bb Eb
Joni tuning: Db545

(Or use guitar with all strings tuned one semitone down to Eb Ab Db Gb Bb Eb,
and use only the top 4 strings)

Chord shapes:

- Gb/Db: 0003
- Abm/Eb: 2210
- Abm7/Eb: 2213
- Db7: 0212
- Db9sus4: 0213
- Db9(no 3rd): 0210
- Gb7/Db: 0001
- Bbm/Db: 0432

For simplicity, I'll write out most of the chord names without the altered bass notes (e.g. Gb rather than Gb/Db), except for the Bbm/Db chord as this alternative bass note has a more important role in the overall sound of this chord to my ears.

Note that in the main part of the song, the open strings are often strummed as the chord shape changes, a technique Joni would often use later on in her career on the guitar, to allow the left hand time to move between chords.

Intro

Gb Abm Gb Abm

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Eb---3--3--0----0-----0--3--3--0-----0-----
Bb---0-----1-----3-----0-----1-----
Gb---0-----2-----0-----2-----
Db---0-----2-----0-----2-----

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Gb Abm Abm7 Db7

Eb---3--3--0---0---3---0---2-----
Bb---0-----1---1---1---1---1-----
Gb---0-----2-----2---2---2-----
Db---0-----2-----2-----0---0---2---4---

Verse 1

Gb Abm

Eb-----3-3-3---0-----0--0--0-----
Bb-----0-0-0---0---1--1--1--0-----
Gb---0--0---0---0---2-----2-----
Db-----2-----2-----

Bbm/Db Abm

Eb-----2-2-2---0-----0--0--0-----
Bb-----3-3-3---0---1--1--1--1-----
Gb-----4--4---0---2-----2-----
Db---0-----2-----

Gb Db7sus4

Eb-----3-3-3---3-----3--3--3-----
Bb-----0-0-0---0-----1--1--1-----
Gb-----0--0---0-----2--2--2-----
Db---0-----

Gb

Eb---3--3-3-3---3-----3--3--3-----
Bb---0--0-0-0---0-----0--0--0-----
Gb---0--0---0---0-----0--0--0-----
Db---0-----

(similar strumming pattern throughout)

Gb Abm Gb Abm Gb Abm Bm/Db Abm
Tell old Bill when he gets home this morning

Gb Abm Gb Abm Db7 Db9(no 3rd) Db7 Db9(no 3rd) Db7
Tell old Bill when he gets home this evening

Gb Db Gb Db
Tell old Bill when he gets home

Abm Db7
Leave those downtown girls alone

Gb7 Abm Db7 Gb Abm G Abm
This morning, this evening, so soon

Verse 2

Old Bill's wife she was bakin' bread this morning
Old Bill's wife she was bakin' bread this evening
Old Bill's wife she was bakin' bread
When she found out that Bill was dead
This morning, this evening, so soon

Verse 3

She said oh no it can't be so this morning
She said oh no it can't be so this evening
She said oh no it can't be so
Bill left home about an hour ago
This morning, this evening, so soon

Verse 4

They brought Bill home in a hurry-up wagon this morning
Brought Bill home in a hurry-up wagon this evening
Brought Bill home in a hurry-up wagon
Brought him home with his feet a-draggin'
This morning, this evening, so soon

Verse 5

Hmm-hmm-hmm hmm-hmm hmm-hmm-hmm hmm-hmm-hmm
Doo-doo-doo doo-doo doo-doo-doo doo-doo-doo

Tell old Bill when he gets home
Leave those downtown girls alone
This morning, this evening, so soon
This morning, this evening, so soon