

morning has broken chords and lyrics

morning has broken chords and lyrics serve as an essential foundation for musicians and singers looking to perform this timeless and beloved song. Originally a traditional hymn, "Morning Has Broken" gained widespread popularity through various renditions, most notably by Cat Stevens. Understanding the chords and lyrics allows for an authentic and harmonious performance that captures the song's uplifting spirit. This article provides a detailed exploration of the morning has broken chords and lyrics, including the song's background, chord progressions, lyrical analysis, and performance tips. Whether a beginner or experienced musician, this comprehensive guide offers valuable insights into mastering this classic piece. The following sections will cover the history and significance of the song, detailed chord charts, full lyrics, and practical advice for playing and singing.

- Background and History of Morning Has Broken
- Understanding the Chords of Morning Has Broken
- Complete Lyrics of Morning Has Broken
- Tips for Playing and Singing Morning Has Broken

Background and History of Morning Has Broken

The song "Morning Has Broken" originated as a Christian hymn first published in 1931, with lyrics written by Eleanor Farjeon. The hymn celebrates the beauty of a new day and the renewal of life that morning brings. It became widely known outside traditional church settings after Cat Stevens released his popular version in 1971. His soft folk-rock arrangement introduced the song to a broader audience, blending spiritual themes with accessible melodies. The song's gentle and uplifting nature has ensured its lasting presence in both religious and secular music repertoires.

Origins and Composition

Eleanor Farjeon crafted the lyrics as a poetic reflection on the dawn and the natural world's awakening. The hymn was originally set to the traditional Scottish Gaelic tune "Bunessan," which adds a Celtic folk character to the melody. The combination of Farjeon's evocative words and the simple, beautiful tune creates a serene and hopeful atmosphere that resonates across generations.

Popular Versions and Influence

Besides Cat Stevens' version, many artists and choirs have performed "Morning Has Broken" in various styles, from classical arrangements to contemporary adaptations. Its universal themes of renewal and gratitude have made it a staple in worship services, weddings, and inspirational events. The song also frequently appears in instructional materials for music students due to its

straightforward chord structure and memorable melody.

Understanding the Chords of Morning Has Broken

The chords for "Morning Has Broken" are fundamental to its gentle and flowing sound. The song is typically played in the key of C major, which makes it accessible for most guitarists and pianists. The chord progression emphasizes simplicity and smooth transitions, supporting the lyrical content's peaceful and uplifting mood. Mastering these chords allows musicians to accompany the vocals effectively and create an engaging performance.

Basic Chord Progression

The standard chord progression for "Morning Has Broken" includes primary chords in the key of C major: C, F, G, and Am. These chords alternate in a manner that complements the melody and maintains a steady rhythm. The progression often follows a pattern that repeats throughout the verses and chorus, making it easier to learn and memorize.

- **C Major:** The tonic chord that establishes the home key and provides a bright, stable sound.
- **F Major:** The subdominant chord that adds harmonic movement and depth.
- **G Major:** The dominant chord that creates tension and resolution back to C.
- **A Minor:** The relative minor chord that introduces a subtle emotional nuance.

Chord Diagrams for Guitar

For guitar players, the following chord shapes are recommended:

- **C Major:** Place the ring finger on the 3rd fret of the 5th string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the 4th string, and index finger on the 1st fret of the 2nd string.
- **F Major:** Use a barre chord at the 1st fret or a simplified version with the index finger on the 1st fret of the 2nd string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the 3rd string, and ring finger on the 3rd fret of the 4th string.
- **G Major:** Place the middle finger on the 3rd fret of the 6th string, index finger on the 2nd fret of the 5th string, and ring finger on the 3rd fret of the 1st string.
- **A Minor:** Position the index finger on the 1st fret of the 2nd string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the 4th string, and ring finger on the 2nd fret of the 3rd string.

Complete Lyrics of Morning Has Broken

The lyrics of "Morning Has Broken" reflect themes of new beginnings, gratitude, and the beauty of nature. The structure is simple and repetitive, enhancing the meditative and uplifting quality of the hymn. Below is the full set of lyrics as commonly performed.

Full Lyrics

*Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.*

Tips for Playing and Singing Morning Has Broken

Performing "Morning Has Broken" effectively requires attention to both musicality and emotional expression. The song's gentle melody and simple chords provide an excellent foundation for beginners, while subtle nuances in dynamics and tempo can enhance the overall experience for more advanced musicians.

Playing Techniques

When playing the chords on guitar or piano, use a soft and flowing strumming or arpeggiated pattern to reflect the song's peaceful mood. Avoid harsh or abrupt changes in volume. Fingerpicking guitar arrangements are also popular and can add a delicate texture to the performance.

Singing Considerations

Vocally, maintain a clear and warm tone to convey the song's hopeful message. Breath control is important to sustain the longer phrases smoothly.

Emphasizing key words like “morning,” “praise,” and “new day” can help communicate the song’s uplifting theme. Additionally, practicing with a metronome can ensure steady tempo and rhythm.

Common Performance Challenges

Some musicians may find the chord transitions between F and G challenging due to finger positioning, especially on guitar. Practicing chord changes slowly and incrementally increasing speed can improve fluidity. Another challenge is maintaining consistent vocal pitch throughout the song’s range, which can be addressed through vocal exercises and careful rehearsal.

- Use gentle fingerpicking or soft strumming to match the song’s mood.
- Practice chord transitions slowly to build muscle memory.
- Focus on breath control for sustained vocal phrases.
- Emphasize lyrical meaning through vocal dynamics.
- Utilize a metronome to maintain steady tempo.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the chords for 'Morning Has Broken' on guitar?

The commonly used chords for 'Morning Has Broken' on guitar are C, F, G7, and Am.

Where can I find the lyrics for 'Morning Has Broken'?

The lyrics for 'Morning Has Broken' can be found on various lyric websites, hymnals, and music books. The song was originally written as a Christian hymn by Eleanor Farjeon.

Who originally wrote 'Morning Has Broken'?

'Morning Has Broken' was originally written by Eleanor Farjeon in 1931 as a hymn text.

How do you play the intro chords of 'Morning Has Broken'?

The intro chords of 'Morning Has Broken' typically start with C major, followed by F major and G7, played in a gentle arpeggiated style.

Is 'Morning Has Broken' in a particular key?

Yes, 'Morning Has Broken' is often played in the key of C major, which makes it accessible for many musicians.

Can I find 'Morning Has Broken' chords and lyrics for free?

Yes, many websites offer free chords and lyrics for 'Morning Has Broken', including Ultimate Guitar, Hymnary, and various music forums.

Are there any popular covers of 'Morning Has Broken'?

Yes, one of the most popular covers of 'Morning Has Broken' was performed by Cat Stevens in 1971, which helped popularize the song worldwide.

What is the time signature of 'Morning Has Broken'?

'Morning Has Broken' is typically played in 3/4 time signature, giving it a waltz-like rhythm.

Additional Resources

1. *Morning Has Broken: The Story Behind the Hymn*

This book explores the history and origins of the beloved hymn "Morning Has Broken." It delves into the life of its author, Eleanor Farjeon, and the cultural context in which the hymn was written. Readers will gain insight into the hymn's lyrical themes of renewal and praise, as well as its enduring popularity in both religious and secular settings.

2. *Easy Piano Chords for Morning Has Broken*

Designed for beginner pianists, this instructional book breaks down the chords and arrangements of "Morning Has Broken." It includes step-by-step tutorials, chord diagrams, and practice exercises to help readers master the song. The book also offers tips on how to add personal expression while playing.

3. *Guitar Chords and Lyrics: Morning Has Broken Edition*

This guide provides detailed guitar chord charts and full lyrics for "Morning Has Broken." It is ideal for guitar players looking to perform the hymn in worship services or informal gatherings. The book also covers strumming patterns and variations to suit different skill levels.

4. *Morning Has Broken: A Lyric Analysis*

Focusing on the poetic elements of the hymn, this book offers a deep literary analysis of the lyrics of "Morning Has Broken." It examines themes such as nature, spirituality, and renewal, highlighting the hymn's use of imagery and metaphor. Perfect for literature enthusiasts and those interested in hymnody.

5. *The Complete Musician's Guide to Morning Has Broken*

Targeted at music students and educators, this comprehensive guide covers the melody, harmony, and rhythm of "Morning Has Broken." It includes sheet music, chord progressions, and performance notes. The book also discusses how to adapt the song for various musical ensembles.

6. *Morning Has Broken: Hymns for Worship and Reflection*

This collection features "Morning Has Broken" alongside other popular hymns for spiritual reflection. Each hymn is accompanied by lyrics and chord charts, making it suitable for worship leaders and choir directors. The book emphasizes the role of music in enhancing worship experiences.

7. Ukulele Chords and Lyrics for Morning Has Broken

Perfect for ukulele enthusiasts, this book presents simplified chord arrangements of "Morning Has Broken" with complete lyrics. It includes tuning tips and strumming techniques specifically tailored for the ukulele. The friendly format makes it accessible for players at all levels.

8. Morning Has Broken: From Hymn to Pop Culture

This book traces the journey of "Morning Has Broken" from its origins as a traditional hymn to its popularization by artists like Cat Stevens. It explores how the song has been interpreted and adapted across different musical genres. Readers will appreciate the cultural impact and legacy of this timeless piece.

9. Chords, Lyrics, and History: The Complete Morning Has Broken Companion

A definitive resource, this companion book combines the lyrics, chord charts, and historical background of "Morning Has Broken." It serves both musicians and historians by providing context as well as practical playing guides. The book is ideal for anyone seeking an in-depth understanding of the hymn.

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