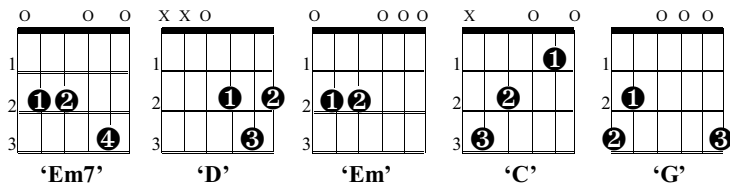


Neil Young - 'Heart of Gold' (1)

Words and Music by Neil Young Transcribed by Kevin Paluzzi

Key of 'G' Major



Intro (0:00 - strum pattern shown below tab)

	Em7	D	Em	Riff	Em7	D	Em	Riff
1	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 2
2	3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 2
3	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 2
4	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 2
5	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 0~2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 0~2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 2
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Verse 1 (0:34)

	Em	C	D	G	Em	C	D	G
1	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3
2	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0
3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0
4	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
5	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3		2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3		2 2 2 2 2
6	0 0 0 0 0 0		3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0		3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3

(V1) I want to live I want to give I've been a miner for a heart of gold
 (V2) I've been to Hollywood I've been to Redwood I've crossed to ocean for a heart of gold

	Em	C	D	G
1	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3
2	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0
3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0
4	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
5	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3		2 2 2 2 2
6	0 0 0 0 0 0		3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3

(V1) Its these expressions I never give...
 (V2) I've been in my mind It's such a fine line...

Chorus (0:51)

	Em	G	C	C	G
1	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3
2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1	0
3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0
4	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0
5	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3	2
6	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3

That keep me searching for a heart of gold and I'm getting old

	Em	G	C	C	G
1	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3
2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1	0
3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0
4	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0
5	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3	2
6	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3

Keep me searching for a heart of gold and I'm getting old

‘Heart of Gold’ - Performance Notes (1)

Though considered a classic rock standard, ‘Heart of Gold’ has more country and folk influences with the inclusion of harmonica and steel guitar. The following sections will focus on learning a basic arrangement designed for an unaccompanied sing-along performance by one guitarist.

Intro

For beginners, a standard open ‘Em’ chord can be used as a substitute chord for ‘Em7’.

For each Riff, the first and second fingers remain in the ‘Em’ chord position and simply lift off each string to play the open notes. Doing so keeps the fretting hand steady and in position.

The *tempo* is in ‘4/4’ time. An example of how the chords and strum patterns ‘sync-up’ with the tempo and beats is shown below. Note the how the first beat is the open sixth string bass note for ‘Em7’:

	Em7				D				Em		(Riff)					
count:	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
strum:	↓		↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓		↑	↓				
strum:	<i>down...</i>				<i>down-up-down-up-down-up-down-up</i>				<i>down...</i>		<i>up-down</i>					

Verses (0:34, 1:36)

For each verse, an ‘Em-C-D-G’ progression is played three times before going to the Chorus. The basic strum pattern for each chord is ‘down-up-down-up - down’ or ‘1-2-3-4 -1’. Many times guitarists will add extra ‘mini-strums’ as a way to fill the extra space or gaps in between chord changes.



Chorus (0:51)

For the ‘Em-G’ section, the strum pattern for each chord follows the drumbeat with a ‘down-up-down-up-down - down-up-down-up-down’ strum or a ‘1-2-3-4-1, 1-2-3-4-1’ count.

Timing

For proper *timing*, try to ‘land’ certain chord changes with specific lyrics. In the Verse section, for example, the ‘C’ chord lands on the ‘live’ and ‘miner’ lyrics, while the ‘G’ chord lands on the ‘give’ and ‘gold’ lyrics. For the Chorus, the ‘G’ chord change will land on each ‘heart’ lyric.

Three Sing-Along Steps

1. Memorize Chord Progression
2. ‘Sync-up’ Chords with Lyrics
3. Focus on Vocal Melody

Arranging Sections

Once the Intro, Verse, and Chorus sections are learned, the next step is to begin to combine these sections in order to develop a better sense of the song’s *arrangement*. Before learning other sections, try playing the abbreviated arrangement shown right. The remaining sections are shown in Performance Notes -2.

Basic Arrangement

**Intro - Verse 1 - Chorus -
Verse 2 - Chorus**

Neil Young - 'Heart of Gold' (2)

Harmonica Solo (0:12, 1:13, 2:15)

	Em	C	D	G	Em	C	D	G
1	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3
2	0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0
3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0
4	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0
5	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3		2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3		2 2 2 2 2
6	0 0 0 0 0			3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0			3 3 3 3 3

	Em	C	D	G	Em7	D	Em
1	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 0	
2	0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 0	
3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	
4	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 2	0 2
5	2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3		2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2 2	2	0 2
6	0 0 0 0 0			3 3 3 3 3	0		0

Coda (2:32)

	Em7	D	Em	Em7	D	Em
1	0 0 0 0 0	2 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0
2	3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0
3	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0
4	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2
5	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2
6	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0

Keep me searching for a heart of gold

You keep me searching and I'm growing old

	Em7	D	Em	Em	G
1	0 0 0 0 0	2 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3
2	3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0
3	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0
4	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0
5	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2
6	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3

Keep me searching for a heart of gold

I've been a miner for a heart of gold

	C	C	G (end)
1	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3
2	1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1	0
3	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0
4	2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2	0
5	3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3	2
6			3

Intro w/Harmonics (Guitar 2)

	Em7	D	Em	Riff	Em7	D	Em	Riff
1	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	
2	3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 0	3 3 3 3 3 3		3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 0	3 3 3 3 3 3	
3	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	
4	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 2
5	2 2 2 2 2 2		2 2 2 2 2 2	0 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	2	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 2
6	0	0	0		0	0	0	

Harm.....

1	12	12	12	12
2		7		7
3				
4				
5	7		7	
6				

'Heart of Gold' - Performance Notes (2)

Once the essential sections of 'Heart of Gold' are memorized and can be played within a basic arrangement (*Performance Notes -1*), the next step will be to focus on the complete arrangement of the song by learning additional sections as well as various overdubbed guitar parts that can be performed with other guitarists. The following sections provide a step-by-step approach.

Harmonica Solo (0:12, 1:13, 2:15)

This section features the same 'Em-C-D-G' progression and strum patterns as the Verse section. This progression is played three consecutive times, followed by replaying the Intro for two sections.

Coda (2:32)

The same chord progression from the Intro ('Em7-D-G') is played, with a new strum pattern that follows the drumbeat ('down-up-down-up-down') played twice for each section. Note the emphasis on strumming higher strings every fifth strum or beat. This progression is played three times, followed by replaying the four sections of the Chorus to end the song.

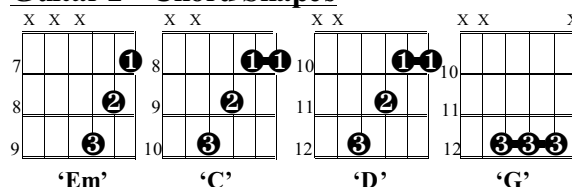
Intro w/Harmonics (Guitar 2)

During the Intro, *harmonics* are played on a second guitar that harmonize with each chord played. Each harmonic played will 'land' on a specific beat or chord change.

Verse w/Guitar 2 Chords

For each verse, a second guitar (*Guitar-2*) follows the same chord progression, but uses different *chord voicings* with various arpeggios and strum patterns. The chord shapes used are shown right.

Guitar 2 - Chord Shapes



Additional Notes

'Heart of Gold' is in the Key of 'G' Major, using the *three primary chords* ('G', 'C', and 'D') and one chord ('Em') from its *relative minor key*.

All harmonica solos are also in the Key of 'G' Major. For unaccompanied 'sing-along' performances by one guitarist, each Harmonica Solo section can be deleted and substituted with the Intro section.

A pedal steel guitar plays a background melody along with each Verse & Chorus section, but is not played during each Harmonica Solo section.

On the original recording, the background vocalists heard during the Coda section are Linda Ronstadt and James Taylor.

Song Arrangement

Intro
Harmonica Solo
Verse 1
Chorus
Harmonica Solo
Verse 2
Chorus
Harmonica Solo
Coda

Lyrics

I want to live I want to give
I've been a miner for a heart of gold
It's these expressions I never give
That keep me searching for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old
Keep me searching for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old
I've been to Hollywood I've been to
Redwood
I've crossed the ocean for a heart of gold
I've been in my mind Its such a fine line
That keeps me searchin' for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old
Keeps me searchin' for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old
Keep me searching for a heart of gold
You keep me searching and I'm growing