

lyrics and chords to mary did you know

lyrics and chords to mary did you know have become a staple for musicians and singers looking to perform this iconic Christmas song. This article provides an in-depth look into the song's lyrics, the common chord progressions used, and tips for playing and singing it effectively. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, understanding the structure and nuances of "Mary Did You Know" can enhance your performance. The song's poignant lyrics paired with its emotive melody make it a favorite during the holiday season, and having the right chords at hand is essential for accurate rendition. This guide also covers variations in chord arrangements and helpful hints for adapting the song to different musical styles. Below is a detailed table of contents outlining the key areas covered in this article.

- Overview of "Mary Did You Know"
- Complete Lyrics of "Mary Did You Know"
- Basic Chords for "Mary Did You Know"
- Chord Progressions and Playing Tips
- Common Variations and Arrangements
- Performance Suggestions and Vocal Considerations

Overview of "Mary Did You Know"

"Mary Did You Know" is a contemporary Christmas song written by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene. It questions the Virgin Mary about her awareness of the miraculous nature of her son, Jesus Christ. The song's powerful lyrics delve into the theological and emotional aspects of the nativity story, making it a popular choice for church services and holiday concerts. Understanding the background of the song enriches the interpretation and performance, making it more meaningful for both musicians and audiences.

Origins and Popularity

Written in 1984, "Mary Did You Know" gained widespread attention after being recorded by various artists across different genres. Its widespread popularity stems from its heartfelt lyrics and memorable melody, which resonate with listeners during the Christmas season. The song's adaptability to different musical styles has contributed to its enduring presence in holiday repertoires worldwide.

Thematic Elements

The song explores themes such as divine intervention, prophecy, and the innocence of Mary juxtaposed with the monumental role she played. Each verse highlights different miracles attributed to Jesus, prompting reflection on the nativity story's spiritual significance. This thematic richness makes the lyrics a focal point for interpretation in performances.

Complete Lyrics of "Mary Did You Know"

The lyrics of "Mary Did You Know" are essential for understanding the song's message and emotional impact. Presented below are the complete lyrics that are commonly performed in most renditions of the song.

- Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
- Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
- Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
- This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.
- Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
- Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
- Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
- When you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God?
- Mary, did you know?
- The blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the dead will live again.
- The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.
- Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
- Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
- Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
- This sleeping child you're holding is the great I Am.

Basic Chords for "Mary Did You Know"

The fundamental chords to "Mary Did You Know" are suitable for guitar and piano, enabling musicians to accompany the lyrics seamlessly. The song is often played in the key of G major, which balances vocal range and ease of play. Familiarity with these chords allows for more confident and expressive performances.

Common Chords Used

The primary chords used in the song include G, Em, C, D, Am, and Bm. These chords provide a smooth harmonic foundation that complements the song's reflective mood.

- **G major (G)** – The tonic chord, establishes the key.
- **E minor (Em)** – Adds a somber, reflective tone.
- **C major (C)** – Provides harmonic movement and warmth.
- **D major (D)** – Acts as the dominant chord, creating tension and resolution.
- **A minor (Am)** – Adds emotional depth.
- **B minor (Bm)** – Used for minor tonal variations and transitions.

Chord Diagrams for Guitar

For guitar players, mastering the finger positions for these chords is crucial. Basic open chord shapes are commonly used, allowing for smooth transitions during the song. Players can also explore barre chords for a richer tone or to accommodate different vocal ranges.

Chord Progressions and Playing Tips

Understanding the chord progressions in "Mary Did You Know" enhances the ability to play and adapt the song. The progression typically follows a pattern that supports the lyrical phrasing and emotional dynamics of the piece.

Typical Verse Progression

A common chord progression for the verses is G – Em – C – D, which repeats throughout. This progression creates a gentle, flowing accompaniment that underscores the contemplative lyrics.

Chorus Progression

The chorus often uses a sequence such as Em – C – G – D – Em – C – D – G. This progression builds emotional intensity, aligning with the uplifting message of the chorus.

Playing Tips

- Use fingerpicking patterns to add texture and softness to the accompaniment.
- Emphasize chord changes on strong beats to match the phrasing of the lyrics.
- Experiment with capo placement to suit different vocal ranges.
- Maintain a moderate tempo to preserve the reflective mood of the song.

Common Variations and Arrangements

Musicians often adapt "Mary Did You Know" to fit various styles, from traditional worship to contemporary arrangements. These variations involve changes in key, instrumentation, and chord voicings.

Key Changes

To accommodate different vocalists, the song can be transposed to keys like A major or F major. Key changes may require adjusting chord shapes and fingerings but can greatly improve vocal comfort and performance quality.

Instrumental Arrangements

Beyond guitar and piano, arrangements may include strings, percussion, or synthesizers to enhance the sonic palette. These additions can emphasize the song's emotional highs and lows, enriching the listening experience.

Chord Voicing Variations

Advanced players might use suspended chords, add ninths, or employ fingerstyle techniques to create unique interpretations. These subtle changes keep the song fresh while preserving its original spirit.

Performance Suggestions and Vocal Considerations

Effective performance of "Mary Did You Know" depends on balancing the technical aspects of playing with emotional delivery. Vocalists and musicians should consider tone, dynamics, and phrasing carefully.

Vocal Range and Expression

The song's melody requires a moderate vocal range, typically spanning about an octave and a half. Singers should focus on clear enunciation of the lyrics and controlled breathing to convey the song's reflective and reverent tone.

Accompaniment Techniques

Musicians should aim for sensitivity in dynamics, using softer playing during verses and gradually increasing intensity in the chorus. This dynamic contrast highlights the song's emotional narrative.

Tips for Group Performances

When performed by choirs or ensembles, harmonizing and careful arrangement of vocal parts enhance the song's impact. Coordinated timing and balance between lead and background vocals are essential for a polished presentation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the official lyrics to 'Mary Did You Know'?

The official lyrics to 'Mary Did You Know' can typically be found on licensed music websites such as Musicnotes, SongSelect by CCLI, or the artist's official website.

What are the basic chords for playing 'Mary Did You Know' on guitar?

The basic chords for 'Mary Did You Know' commonly include Em, D, C, G, and Am. These chords can be played in a simple progression to accompany the song.

Is there an easy version of 'Mary Did You Know' chords for beginners?

Yes, many guitar tutorials offer simplified versions of 'Mary Did You Know' using basic open chords like Em, C, G, and D, making it accessible for beginners.

Can I find sheet music that includes both lyrics and chords for 'Mary Did You Know'?

Yes, sheet music that combines lyrics and chords for 'Mary Did You Know' is available for purchase or download from music retailers like Musicnotes, Sheet Music Plus, and Amazon.

Are there different chord arrangements for various versions of 'Mary Did You Know'?

Yes, different artists may perform 'Mary Did You Know' with slight variations in chord progressions and keys, so chord arrangements can vary depending on the version.

How can I transpose 'Mary Did You Know' chords to a different key?

You can transpose the chords by shifting each chord up or down by the same number of steps. Online chord transposer tools or capo placement on the guitar can help adjust the key easily.

Are there any video tutorials that teach 'Mary Did You Know' lyrics and chords?

Yes, numerous video tutorials on platforms like YouTube provide step-by-step guidance on playing 'Mary Did You Know' with chords and singing the lyrics.

Additional Resources

1. *Mary, Did You Know? - The Story Behind the Song*

This book explores the origins and meaning of the popular Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?". It delves into the songwriters' inspirations and the biblical references within the lyrics. Perfect for fans who want a deeper understanding of this heartfelt piece.

2. *Mary, Did You Know? - Lyrics and Chords for Worship*

Designed for musicians and worship leaders, this book provides the full lyrics and guitar chords for "Mary, Did You Know?". It includes tips on playing the song in various styles and arrangements suitable for church settings. A practical guide to help bring the song to life in worship services.

3. *Christmas Classics: Mary, Did You Know? and More*

A collection of beloved Christmas songs including "Mary, Did You Know?", this book features lyrics, chords, and sheet music. It is ideal for beginners and experienced players alike, offering easy-to-follow arrangements. Enhance your holiday repertoire with this comprehensive resource.

4. *Behind the Music: The Making of Mary, Did You Know?*

This insightful book narrates the creative process behind "Mary, Did You Know?", including interviews with the songwriters and performers. Readers gain an appreciation for the song's emotional and spiritual impact. It's a must-read for anyone interested in songwriting and music history.

5. *Mary, Did You Know? - Chord Charts and Playing Guide*

Focused on guitarists, this book breaks down the chord progressions and finger placements for "Mary, Did You Know?". It also offers variations for different skill levels and styles, from simple strumming to fingerpicking. A helpful resource for mastering the song on guitar.

6. *Sing Along: Mary, Did You Know? and Other Inspirational Songs*

This sing-along book features lyrics and chords for "Mary, Did You Know?" alongside other inspirational songs. It includes background information on each song's message and tips for group singing. Perfect for family gatherings, choirs, and community events.

7. *The Complete Guide to Christmas Songs: Featuring Mary, Did You Know?*

A comprehensive guide to popular Christmas songs, with detailed lyrics, chords, and performance notes for "Mary, Did You Know?". The book also covers song origins and variations to enrich your musical knowledge. Great for musicians, teachers, and holiday enthusiasts.

8. *Mary, Did You Know? - Vocal Arrangements and Piano Scores*

This book provides vocal sheet music and piano arrangements for "Mary, Did You Know?" suitable for soloists and choirs. It includes harmonies and dynamic markings to enhance performance quality. Ideal for vocal coaches, pianists, and church musicians.

9. *Acoustic Christmas: Mary, Did You Know? and More for Guitar*

Featuring acoustic guitar arrangements of "Mary, Did You Know?" and other holiday favorites, this book offers chords, tabs, and performance tips. It caters to those who enjoy playing warm, unplugged versions of Christmas classics. A seasonal essential for acoustic players.

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