



MATT STEAD
KANIKAPILA

OSCAR WINNING SONGS

3RD FEBRUARY 2025

Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head

I've Had the Time of My Life

Moon River

People's Choice: Spirit In The Sky

<https://www.youtube.com/live/7n00pYfMxio>

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN' ON MY HEAD

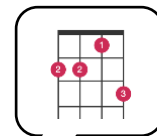
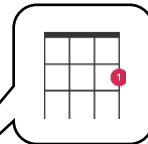
Burt Bacharach + Hal David



KEY: C MAJOR

INTRO

I	V	IV	V
C	G	F	G



VERSES (LINE CLICHÉ)

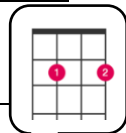
I		IΔ7		I 7		IV	
C		CΔ7		C7		F	
iii	VI 7	iii	VI 7	ii 7			
Em	A7	Em	A7	Dm7			

IV	V
F	G

Tag for end of
V3 + V4 →

I	ii7	I
C	Dm7	C

BRIDGE



I		IΔ7		IV		V	
C		CΔ7		F		G	
iii 7				VI 7		ii 7	
Em7				A7		Dm7	
IV	V	IV	V				
F	G	F	G				

SOLO: BRIDGE - FIRST LINE SOLO.

VOCAL STARTS AGAIN ON 2ND LINE

Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head

[Intro]

[Verse]

Raindrops are fallin' on my head
And just like the guy whose feet
Are too big for his bed
Nothing seems to fit
Those raindrops are fallin' on my head,
They keep fallin'

[Verse]

So I just did me some talkin' to the sun
And I said I didn't like the way
He got things done
He's sleeping on the job
Those raindrops are fallin' on my head,
They keep fallin'

[Bridge]

But there's one thing I know
The blues they send to meet me won't defeat me
It won't be long 'til happiness steps up to greet me

[Verse]

Raindrops keep fallin' on my head
But that doesn't mean my eyes will soon be turning red
Crying's not for me
'Cause I'm never gonna stop the rain by complaining
Because I'm free
Nothing's worrying me

[Solo]

[End of Bridge]

It won't be long 'til happiness steps up to greet me

[Verse]

Raindrops keep fallin' on my head
But that doesn't mean my eyes will soon be turning red
Crying's not for me
'Cause I'm never gonna stop the rain by complaining
Because I'm free
Nothing's worrying me



I'VE HAD THE TIME OF MY LIFE

Franke Previte, John DeNicola + Donald Markowitz



KEY: C MAJOR

INTRO CHORUS

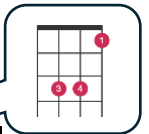
I C	vi Am	b VII Bb		} X 3
I C		b VII Bb		

VERSES

b VII Bb		I C		} X 2
b VII Bb		I C		

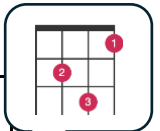
PRE-CHORUS

IV F		b III Eb	
IV F		V G	



**CHORUS

I C	vi Am	b VII Bb	
I C	vi Am	b VII Bb	v Gm



**AFTER 1ST CHORUS PLAY C FOR 4 MEASURES

INSTRUMENTAL: CHORUS CHORDS. SOLO WITH CMAJ PENTATONIC

I've Had the Time of My Life

[Intro Chorus]

Now I've had the time of my life
No, I never felt like this before
Yes I swear it's the truth
And I owe it all to you

'Cause I've had the time of my life
And I owe it all to you

[Verse]

I've been waiting for so long
Now I've finally found someone to stand by me
We saw the writing on the wall
And we felt this magical fantasy
Now with passion in our eyes
There's no way we could disguise it secretly
So we take each other's hand
'Cause we seem to understand the urgency

Just remember

[Pre-Chorus]

You're the one thing
I can't get enough of
So I'll tell you something
This could be love

[Chorus]

Because I've had the time of my life
No, I never felt this way before
Yes I swear it's the truth
And I owe it all to you
Hey baby

[Verse]

With my body and soul
I want you more than you'll ever know
So we'll just let it go
Don't be afraid to lose control, no

Yes, I know what's on your mind when you say
"Stay with me tonight" (stay with me)
And remember

[Pre-Chorus]

You're the one thing
I can't get enough of
So I'll tell you something
This could be love

[Chorus]

Because I've had the time of my life
No, I never felt this way before
Yes I swear it's the truth
And I owe it all to you
'Cause I've had the time of my life
And I've searched through every open door
(never felt this way)
Till I found the truth
And I owe it all to you

[Solo]

[Chorus]

Now I've had the time of my life
No, I never felt this way before *(never felt this way)*
Yes I swear it's the truth
And I owe it all to you

[Chorus]

I've had the time of my life
No, I never felt this way before *(never felt this way)*
Yes I swear it's the truth
And I owe it all to you
'Cause I've had the time of my life *(I had the time of my life)*
And I've searched through every
open door *(you do it to me,
baby)*
Till I found the truth *(you do it
to me, baby)*
And I owe it all to you

PATRICK SWAYZE · JENNIFER GREY



MOON RIVER

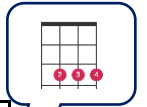
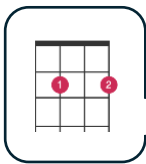
Henry Mancini + Johnny Mercer



KEY: G MAJOR **¾ TIME**

VERSE

I G	vi Em	IV C	I G
IV C	I G	ii Am	III 7 B7
vi Em	I 7 G7	IV C	iv Cm
vi 7 Em7	II 7 A7	ii Am	V 7 D7



BRIDGE

I G	vi Em	IV C	I G
IV C	I G	ii Am	III 7 B7
vi Em	vi 7 Em7	iv Cm	
I G	IV C	I G	IV C
I G	vi Em	ii Am	V 7 D7

END

I G	iv Cm	I G
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INSTRUMENTAL: FULL VERSE + BRIDGE.

SOLO WITH G MAJ / E MINOR

Moon River

[Verse]

Moon river, wider than a mile
I'm crossing you in style some day
Oh, dream maker, you heart breaker
Wherever you're going, I'm going your way

[Verse]

Moon river, wider than a mile
I'm crossing you in style some day
Oh, dream maker, you heart breaker
Wherever you're going, I'm going your way

[Bridge]

Two drifters, off to see the world
There's such a lot of world to see
We're after the same rainbow's end
Waiting 'round the bend
My huckleberry friend, moon river and me

[Bridge]

Two drifters, off to see the world
There's such a lot of world to see
We're after the same rainbow's end
Waiting 'round the bend
My huckleberry friend, moon river and me

[Instrumental Verse + Bridge]



SPirit IN THE SKY

Norman Greenbaum



KEY: G MAJOR

INTRO	I	I // b III / IV /	I	I // IV / b III	X 2
	G	G // Bb / C /	G	G // C / Bb /	

VERSE	I			IV
	G			C
	IV	I	V	V I
	C	G	D	D G

CHORUS	I			IV
	G			C
	IV	I	V	I
	C	G	D	G

NO LYRICS	I	I // b III / IV /	I	I // IV / b III	X 2
	G	G // Bb / C /	G	G // C / Bb /	

INSTRUMENTAL	I	VII	I	IV
	G	F	G	C
	I	VII	I	IV
	G	F	G	C

NO LYRICS	I	I // b III / IV /	I	I // IV / b III	X 2
	G	G // Bb / C /	G	G // C / Bb /	

SOLO USING THE E MINOR (OR G MAJOR) PENTATONIC SCALE

Spirit in the Sky

[Intro]

[Verse]

When I die and they lay me to rest
Gonna go to the place that's the best
When I lay me down to die
Goin' up to the spirit in the sky

[Chorus]

Goin' up to the spirit in the sky
That's where I'm gonna go when I die
When I die and they lay me to rest
I'm gonna go to the place that's the best

[Verse]

Prepare yourself you know it's a must
Gotta have a friend in Jesus
So you know that when you die
He's gonna recommend you to the
Spirit in the sky

[Chorus]

Oh he'll recommend you to the spirit in the sky
That's where you're gonna go when you die
When you die and they lay you to rest
You're gonna go to the place that's the best

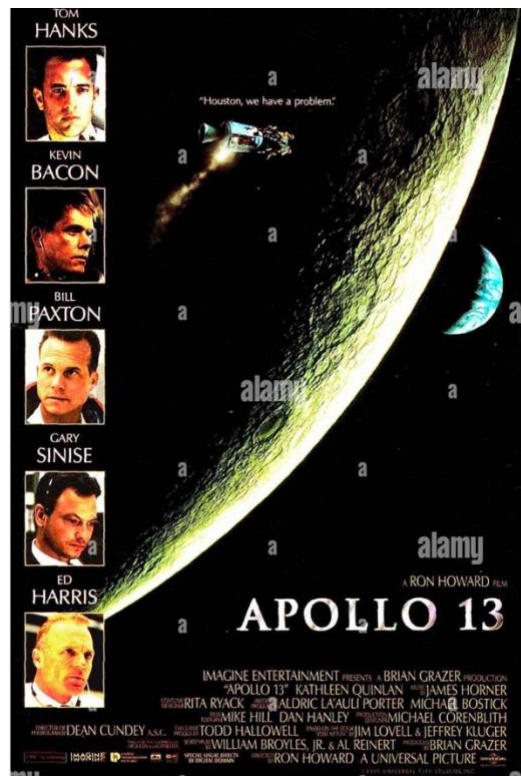
[Instrumental]

[Verse]

Never been a sinner, I never sinned
I got a friend in Jesus
So you know that when I die
He's gonna set me up with the spirit in the sky

[Chorus]

Oh set me' up with the spirit in the sky
That's where I'm gonna go when I die
When I die and they lay me to rest
I'm gonna go to the place that's the best
Go to the place that's the best
Go to the place that's the best



FASCINATING FACTS

****Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head (Burt Bacharach & Hal David, 1969)**

Movie trailer: [Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid](#) starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford

The original plan was to have Simon and Garfunkel's **Feelin' Groovy** playing in the scene where Paul Newman (Butch Cassidy) is riding a bike with Katharine Ross (Etta Place) sitting on the handlebars. Burt Bacharach concluded that it didn't work. He wanted a honky-tonk feel and decided the music needed to start with a ukulele and a tack piano. With thumbtacks put into the hammers of the piano keys, he would get the sound of raindrops he was looking for.

Although the scene was shot in the sunshine, the song stayed as first written. Hal David had tried to change the lyrics, but nothing worked as well as "raindrops keep falling on my head."

Bacharach had approached Bob Dylan and Ray Stevens to sing it for the soundtrack, but both turned it down. Dionne Warwick, who had recorded many of Bacharach's songs and had had hits with them, recommended B.J. Thomas. B.J. was just getting over laryngitis when he recorded the soundtrack. He re-recorded it later for radio play and at that time a horn solo was added at the end.

[Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head](#) won the 1970 Oscar for Best Song From A Motion Picture. [B.J. Thomas performed it on the Ed Sullivan Show](#) that year, and got very wet in the process.

****I Had The Time Of My Life (F. Previte, J. DeNicola & D. Marowitz, 1987)**

Movie trailer: [Dirty Dancing](#) starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey

Originally one of Lionel Richie's songs was supposed to be used in the big final dance scene of **Dirty Dancing** but choreographer Kenny Ortega preferred **I've Had the Time of**

My Life. (Which Richie song? There is no info on the internet that your Fascinating Facts researcher can find, but it may have been [All Night Long](#)). The scenes were filmed out of sequence, with that scene filmed first to a demo version of the song. Patrick Swayze later told Previte that having that demo was so important, as they had to get that final scene just right.

The song starts with the chorus which is unusual. The songwriters knew that the scene was planned to be seven minutes long, so they decided to start it off in half time to set the mood, and then bring it up to speed at the first verse.

Although Franke Previte wanted to sing it himself, Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers was chosen. Medley wasn't keen, saying that **Dirty Dancing** sounded like the title of a porno movie and that he couldn't possibly do it while his parents were still living. He also wanted to be in town and at home when his wife gave birth. He was pressured for two months, but once Jennifer Warnes signed on as his duet partner, he agreed.

The movie and the song are still hugely popular today, 38 years later. It won a 1987 Grammy Award for Best Vocal Performance by a Duo and an Oscar for Best Film Song.

I've Had The Time of My Life has been recorded by many artists since then, and has been used in other movies and in television commercials. [Check out this one for United Health](#), in which a couple attempt the big dance scene and end up hurting themselves in the process.

Patrick Swayze died of pancreatic cancer in 2009. He was 57. In 2010, the digital files of the original demo for the song were released to raise money for the Patrick Swayze Pancreas Cancer Research Fund at Stanford University in California.

Jennifer Grey kept on dancing. In 2010, at the age of 50, she was a [contestant in the 11th season of Dancing With The Stars](#) and placed first with her partner, Derek Hough.

****Moon River (Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer, 1961)**

Movie trailer: [Breakfast at Tiffany's](#) starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard

Moon River was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Actress for Audrey Hepburn, and won two, for Music Score of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture and Best Song. It also won two Grammy Awards in 1962, one for Record of the Year and the other for Song of the Year.

The movie studio's first choice for the role of Holly Golightly was Marilyn Monroe, but she declined on the advice of her acting coach, Lee Strasburg. He didn't think taking on the role of a call girl would be good for her career. Shirley MacLaine and Kim Novak also declined. Eventually Audrey Hepburn accepted. Truman Capote, on whose novella the movie was based, was not happy about the studio's final choice and stated publicly that Paramount had double-crossed him. The film went through two screenwriters and deviated from Capote's original work. The narrator of the story was a gay man, but that role was changed for the movie, making him Golightly's straight love interest. In the novella Holly Golightly is a 19 year old who had run away from her rural existence to find her fortune in New York. The story ends with her going to Brazil to evade the police. In the movie she is much older and quirky, rather than edgy. Hepburn was 31 when it was filmed.

Mickey Rooney played the role of Holly's neighbour, I.Y. Yunioshi, a role which has not weathered well, as his portrayal is racist by 2025 standards. In a documentary (see link below), Blake Edwards said that if he could re-cast the role, he would, but at the time, he thought Mickey Rooney's portrayal was OK.

Moon River's original title was **Blue River**, but lyricist Johnny Mercer changed it after he discovered that there already was a popular song with that title. Mancini wrote the music specifically for Audrey Hepburn, ensuring that it was in her vocal range. Audrey took guitar lessons for her role and was not impressed when director Blake Edwards said he wanted to cut [the scene where she is sitting in her apartment window, strumming and singing](#). Her response was "Over my dead body!" And so the scene stayed.

Audrey Hepburn could sing, but did not always do so in her movies. [Funny Lady](#) and **Breakfast At Tiffany's** were the exceptions. In 1964 she was cast as Eliza Doolittle in [My Fair Lady](#). (Julie Andrews, who played the role on Broadway in 1956, was disappointed that she hadn't been chosen instead.) Audrey's voice was deemed too weak for the role, so her singing parts were dubbed by Marni Nixon, who was popular in the 1960s for her "ghost singer" work. She provided the voice for several actresses including Deborah Kerr in **The King and I**, and Natalie Wood in **West Side Story**.

The "huckleberry friend" in the song lyrics is not a reference to the cartoon character Huckleberry Hound or to Mark Twain's novel **Huckleberry Finn**, but to a childhood memory of Johnny Mercer's. When he was a child in Savannah, Georgia, USA, he would often go out with his friend to pick huckleberries by the Back River. That river was renamed Moon River in honour of the song; Mercer's childhood home is now known as [The Moon River House](#).

The song has been recorded by many including Frank Sinatra. [Andy Williams's](#) version is probably the most well-known, as he used it as the theme song for his television show which ran on American networks from 1962 to 1967.

In 2012, **Breakfast At Tiffany's** was preserved in the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

[See this short 15 minute YouTube documentary on the making of the movie.](#)

****Spirit in The Sky (Norman Greenbaum, 1969)**

Movie trailer: [Apollo 13](#) (1995) starring Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, Bill Paxton, Gary Sinise and Ed Harris

Norman Greenbaum is best known as a one-hit wonder, that hit being [Spirit In The Sky](#). Prior to its release he had been in a band called Dr. West's Medicine Show and Junk Band. They broke up in 1968, as they had only had one successful song, [The Eggplant That Ate Chicago](#).

Norman's post-music careers included managing a burger bar, working as a sous-chef and raising goats.

He decided he'd write a rock and roll song with a religious theme after he had heard a song about a preacher by country singer Porter Wagoner. He made the conscious decision to reference Jesus, telling Rolling Stone magazine "I'm just some Jewish musician who really dug gospel music. I decided there was a larger Jesus gospel market out there than a Jehovah one."

At first the record company was unwilling to release the song, due to its lyrical content. It did eventually become a gold record although some Christian organizations objected to the line "Never been a sinner. I've never sinned. I got a friend in Jesus" as it did not reflect their belief in original sin. The Christian rock group DC Talk changed that line to "You know I'm a sinner, we've all sinned, but I got a friend in Jesus".

*The song has been used in many movies, including [Apollo 13](#), where the astronauts play it on a radio as background music for their TV broadcast from space. That scene was inaccurate. Astronaut Jim Lovell said they played [Aquarius](#) from the musical **Hair**, as Aquarius was the name of the lunar landing module (LEM).*

In 2009 Gareth Gates [released his official video of the song](#), featuring the fictional British TV family, The Kumars. It's an amusing rendition of a Christian-themed song, written by a Jew, with Bollywood production touches.

*According to several sites on the internet **Spirit In The Sky** is a popular choice for funeral and memorial services.*

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