

*From: "Harry Chapin / Guitar Anthology"*

## **Cat's In the Cradle**

by

HARRY CHAPIN and SANDY CHAPIN

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# CAT'S IN THE CRADLE

Words and Music by  
HARRY CHAPIN and SANDY CHAPIN

Moderately, with a 2 feel ♩ = 75

Intro:

A



Asus2



Asus



Asus2



Em/A



\*Acous. Gtr.

*mf fingerstyle*

\*To match recorded key, place capo at 8th fret.

A



1. My

Verses 1, 2, & 3:

A



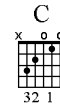
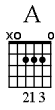
C



D

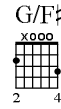
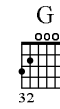
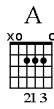
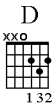


child ar - rived — just the oth - er day, he came to the world in the  
 (2.) son turned ten just the oth - er day. He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come  
 (3.) came from col - lege just the oth - er day, so much like a man, I just



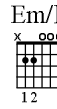
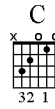
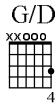
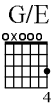
u - su - al way. — But there were planes to catch — and bills to pay. —  
 on, let's play. Can you teach me to throw?" — I said, "Not to - day. — I got a -  
 had to say, — "Son, I'm proud of you. — Can you sit for a while?" — He

TAB: 0 2 2 2 0 | 0 2 2 0 | 3 2 1 2 0



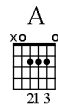
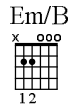
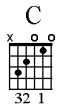
He learned to walk while I was a - way. And he was talk - in' 'fore I knew it. And  
 lot to do." — He said, "That's o - kay." And he, he walked a - way but his  
 shook his head and he said — with a smile, — "What I'd real - ly like, Dad, is to

TAB: 0 2 2 3 0 0 | 0 2 2 2 0 | 3 0 0 0 0



as he grew he'd say, "I'm gon - na be like you, Dad. You  
 smile nev - er dimmed, it said, "I'm gon - na be like him, yeah. You  
 bor - row the car — keys. — See ya lat - er, can I

TAB: 0 0 0 0 | 3 2 2 2 0 | 0 2 2 2 0



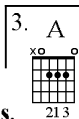
To Next Strain  
(To Chorus:)

know I'm gon - na be like you." }  
know I'm gon - na be like him." }

And the

TAB: 3 2 0 2 2 0 | 0 2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2

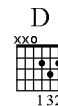
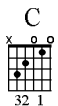
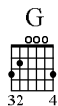
Chorus:



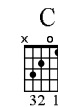
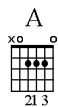
Acous. Gtr.

Acous. Gtr. cont. rhy. simile

have them please?" \_\_\_\_\_ And the cat's in the cra - dle and the

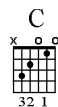
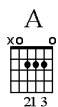


sil - ver spoon, \_ lit - tle boy blue and the man \_ on the moon. \_



To Coda ⊕

"When you com - in' home, { 1.2. Dad?" } { 3.4. Son?" } "I don't know when, but we'll get to - geth - er then, \_



{ Son. Yeah. Dad. } You know we'll have a good time then."

1.2. A Asus2 Asus Asus2 Em/A

Acous. Gtr.

3. Bridge (Instrumental):

F G Em A

Acous. Gtr. cont. rhy. simile

2. My  
3. Well, he

Strings (arr. for gtr.)

F G Em A

Acous. & Elec. Gtrs.

Acous. Gtr.

I've

## Verse 4:

A



213

C



321

D



132

*Acous. Gtr. cont. rhy. simile*

long since re - tired, my son's moved a - way. (I) called him up just the

A



213

G



324

A



213

G



324

A



213

oth - er day. I said, "I'd like to see \_\_\_ you if

C



321

D



132

A



213

G



324

A



213

you don't mind." He said, "I'd love to, Dad, \_ if I could find the time. You see, my

G



324

G/F#



24

Em



12

G/D



4

C



321

Em/B



12

**Acous. Gtr.***Acous. Gtr. cont. rhy. simile*

new job's a has - sle and the kids have the flu, \_\_\_ but it's sure nice talk - in' to

A



213

C



321

Em/B



12

A



213

G



324

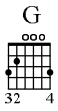
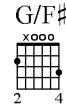
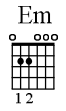
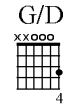
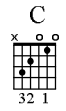
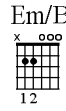
A



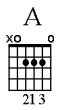
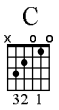
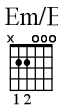
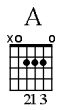
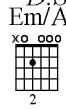
213

**Acous. Gtr.***Acous. Gtr. resume rhy. simile*

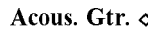
you, Dad. It's been sure nice talk - in' to you." And as I


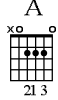
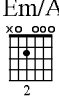
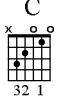
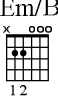
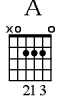
G  G/F#  Em  G/D  C  Em/B 




hung up the phone \_ it oc - curred to me, \_ he'd grown up just like

A  C  Em/B  A  *D.S. al Coda* 

me. My boy was just like me. And the

Acous. Gtr. 

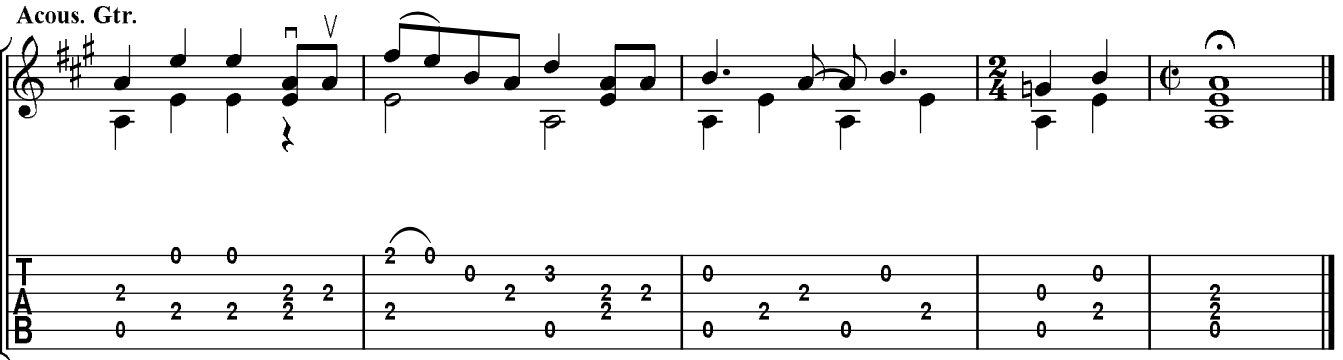
*Coda*  A  Em/A  C  Em/B  A 

Acous. Gtr.       

— Dad. — We're gon - na have a good time then." *rit.*

Asus2  Asus  Asus2  Em/A  A 

Acous. Gtr.



TAB

0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2
0	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2