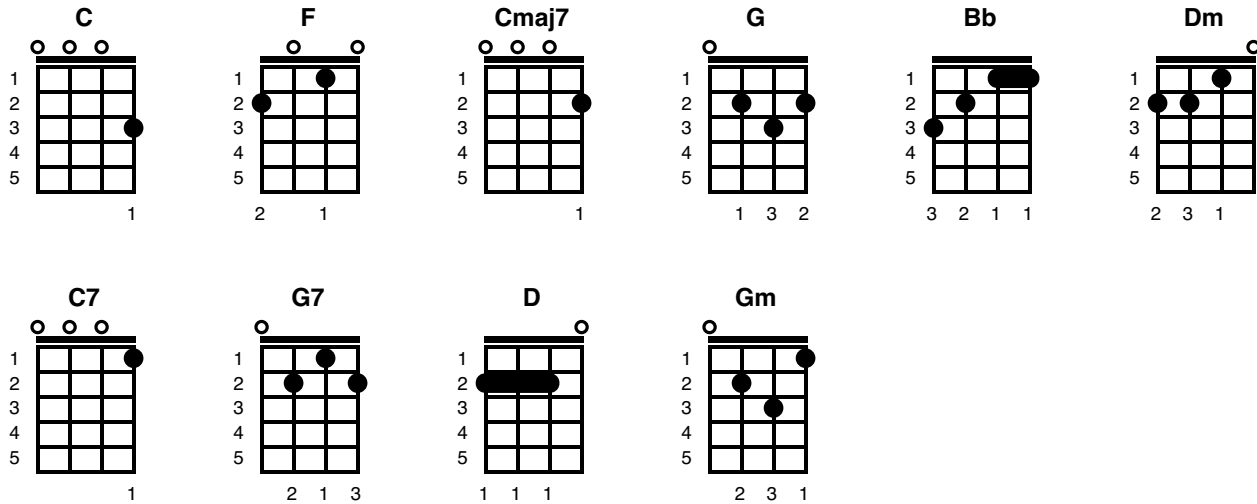


Canadian Railroad Trilogy

Gordon Lightfoot

Key of C



C F C C
 There was a time in this fair land when the railroad did not run
Cmaj7 F G G
 When the wild majestic mountains stood alone against the sun
C F C C
 Long before the white man and long before the wheel
G Bb C
 When the green dark forest was too silent to be real

C F C C
 But time has no beginnings and history has no bounds
Cmaj7 F G G
 As to this verdant country they came from all around
C F C C
 They sailed upon her waterways and they walked the forests tall
G Bb C C
 Built the mines mills and the factories for the good of us all

C F C C
 And when the young man's fancy was turnin' in the spring
Cmaj7 F G G
 The railroad men grew restless for to hear the hammers ring

C F C C
Their minds were over-flowin' with the visions of their day
G Bb C C
And many a fortune won and lost and many a debt to pay

Tacet G Dm
For they looked to the future and what did they see
Bb C
They saw an iron road running from the sea to the sea
G Dm
Bringin' the goods to a young growin' land
Bb C
All up from the seaports and into their hands

G Dm
Bring in the workers and bring up the rails
Bb C
We gotta lay down the tracks and tear up the trails
G Dm
Open her heart let the life-blood flow
Bb C
Gotta get on our way 'cause we're movin' too slow
Bb G G
Get on our way 'cause we're movin' too slow

C C7 F G7
Behind the blue Rockies the sun is declinin'
C F D G G
The stars they come stealin' at the close of the day
C F G
Across the wide prairies our loved ones lie sleeping
C F G C
Beyond the dark oceans in a place far away

C7 F G
We are the navvies who work upon the railway
C C7 F G7
Swingin' our hammers in the bright blazin' sun

C C7 F G7
Livin' on stew and drinkin' bad whiskey
C F G7 C
Bendin our backs 'til the long days are done

C7 F G7
We are the navvies who work upon the railway
C C7 F G7
Swingin our hammers in the bright blazin sun

C C7 F G7
Layin down tracks and building the bridges
C F G7 C C C C
Bendin our backs till the railroad is done

G Dm
So over the mountains and over the plains
Bb C
Into the muskeg and into the rain
G Dm
Up the St. Laurence , all the way to Gaspé
Bb C
Swingin our hammers and drawin our pay

G Dm
Drivin 'em in and tyin 'em down
Bb C
Away to the bunkhouse and into the town
G Dm
A dollar a day and a place for my head
Bb G
A drink to the livin, a toast to the dead

C Gm C
Oh the song of the future has been sung
Gm C
All the battles have been won
Gm C
On the mountain tops we stand

Gm: frets 0231

Gm C
All the world at our command
Gm C
We have opened up the soil
Gm Tacet G
With our teardrops and our toil

C F C C
Oh there was a time in this fair land when the railroad did not run
Cmaj7 F G G
When the wild majestic mountains stood alone against the sun
C F C C
Long before the white man and long before the wheel
G Bb C C
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real
G Bb C C
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real
G Bb C C C Gm C
And many are the dead men, too silent.....to be real