So We Try

Songs of Revelation and Possibility

Peter Buffett

A SONGBOOK

So We Try / Songs of Revelation and Possibility

Composed by Peter Buffett and arranged for chorus by composer and multi-instrumentalist Peter Kiesewalter, *So We Try* is a collection of 19 short choral works that tell the stories of human pride and hubris getting the best of us and our earthly home. They tell us how we can and why we should find our better selves and a better way by accepting responsibility and letting go of what is familiar. Despite the stark realities of the lyrics, every song is rooted in love. Peter Buffett has a gift that reveals a love and understanding of a pop music tradition that prizes melody.

These lead sheets are the basic blueprints for the 18 Peter Buffett tunes (plus one Beatles cover) that make up the *So We Try* song cycle. Melody, chords, and lyrics are included, leaving the artist a multitude of options for interpretation, style, and arrangement. Eminently singable, these melodies are suitable for beginners and masters alike. Whether playing them in the context of a jazz set, classical recital, folk or rock show, around a campfire, or at a simple jam session, consider mixing and matching combinations of these tunes into mini song cycles or including a few of them into concert programs that promote the themes expressed throughout—love, accountability, reflection, and our relationship with the natural world.

Peter Buffett is a musical composer and producer, as well as co-president of the NoVo Foundation. He has created music for commercials, film, and television. Highlights include the Fire Dance scene in the Oscar-winning film *Dances with Wolves* and the score for the eight-hour series *500 Nations*. Buffett's theatrical production *Spirit—The Seventh Fire* was located on the National Mall for the Smithsonian's opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Peter Kiesewalter is a Grammy Award-nominated musician who has carved a niche in New York City as a flexible composer, producer, arranger, touring/recording musician, and music director, most notably with his genre-defying group the East Village Opera Company ("highbrow and brilliant" — *New York Magazine*) and his current multi-disciplinary touring show called *The Moth Project*, a live performance about and inspired by moths that blends art, science, integrated visuals, and family history.

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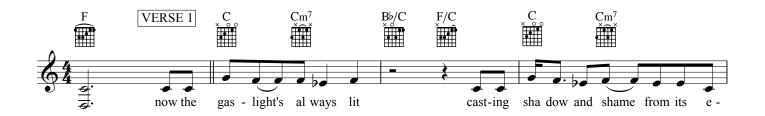
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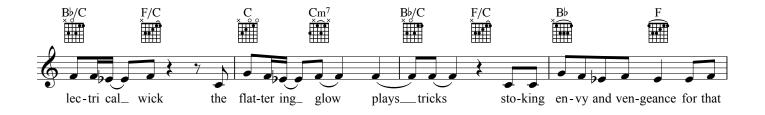
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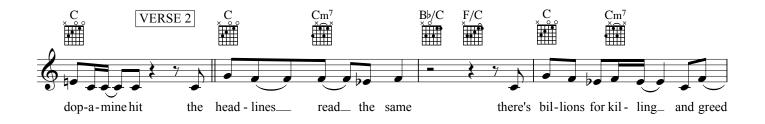
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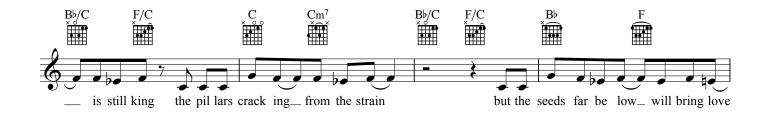
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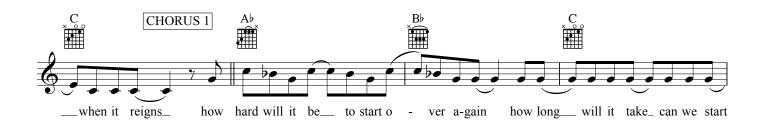
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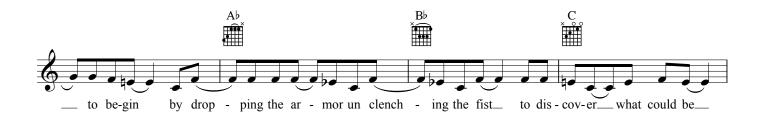


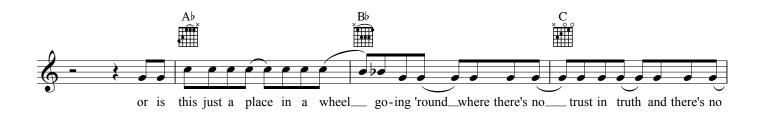


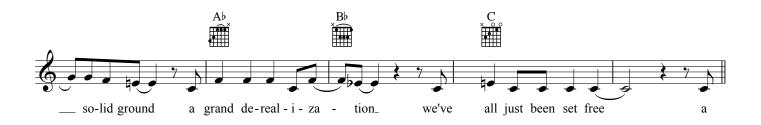


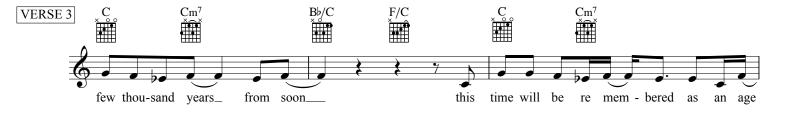


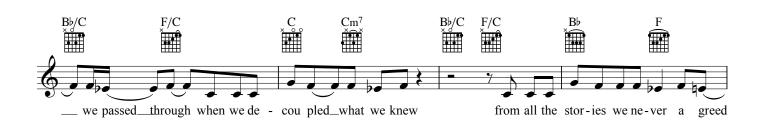


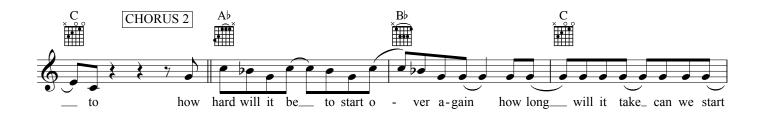


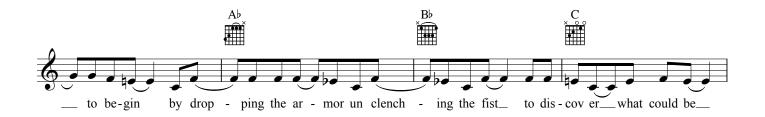


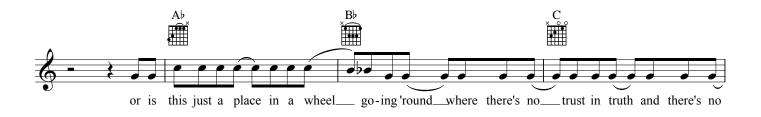


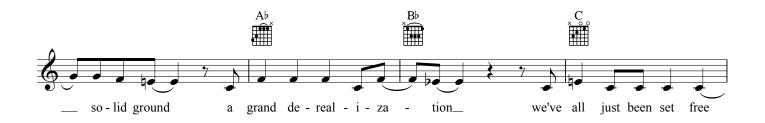


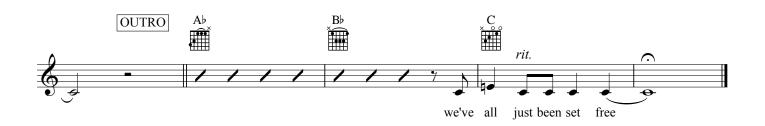




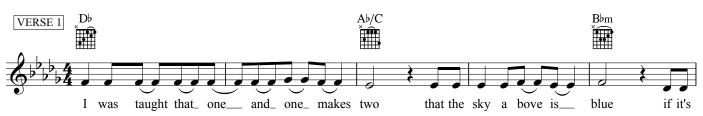


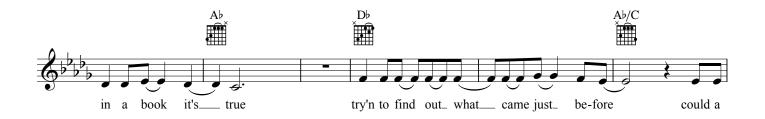




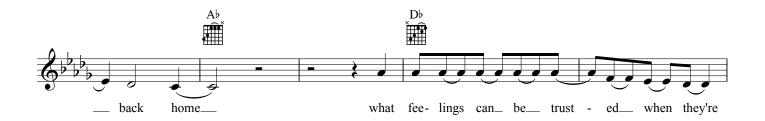


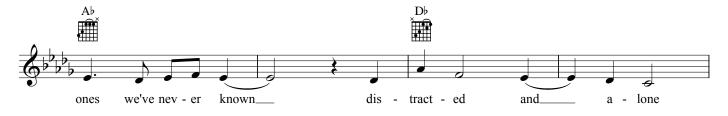


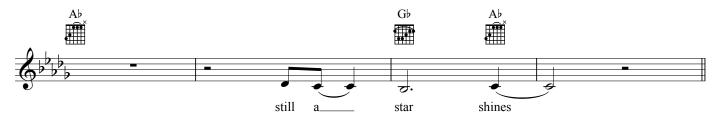


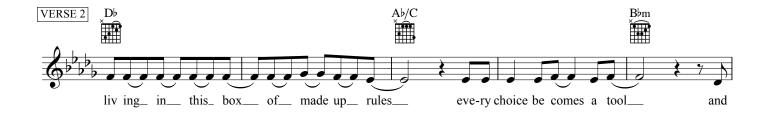


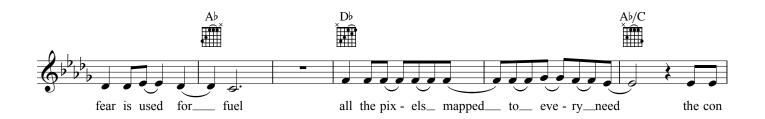


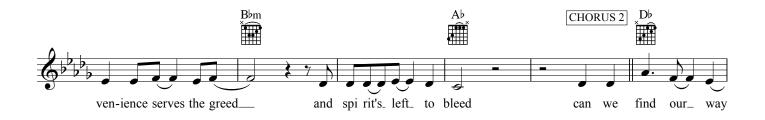


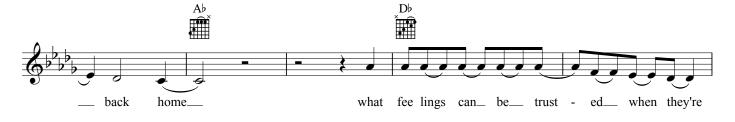








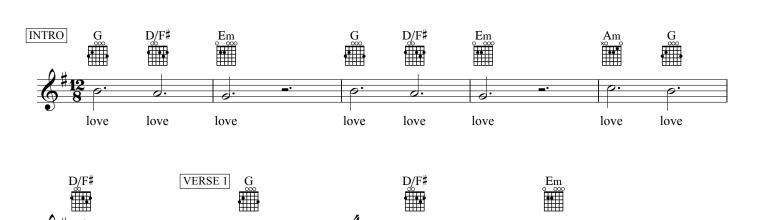


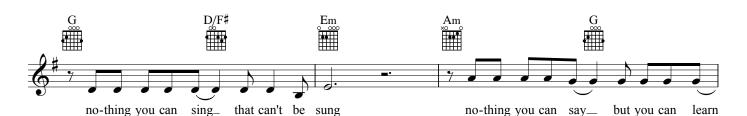






love



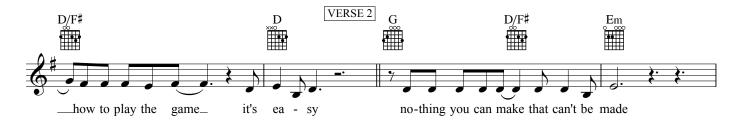


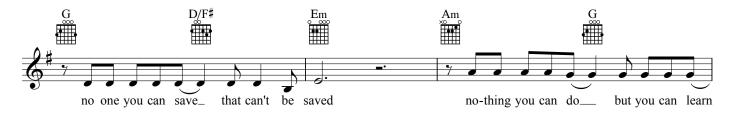
that can't

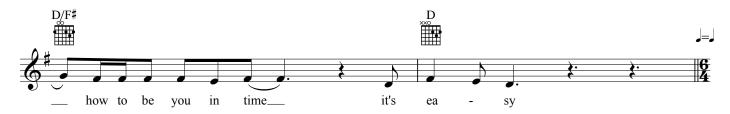
be

done

there's no-thing you can do



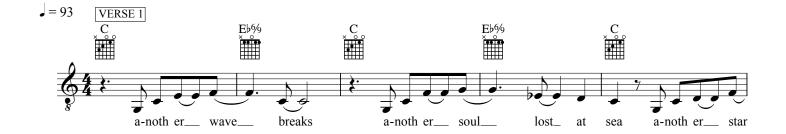


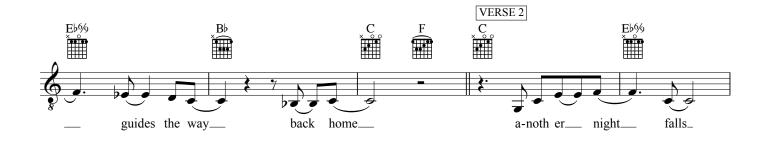


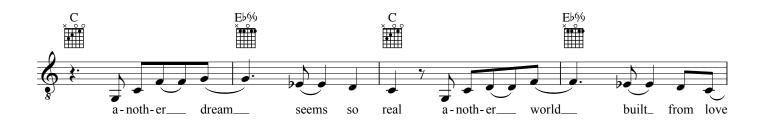


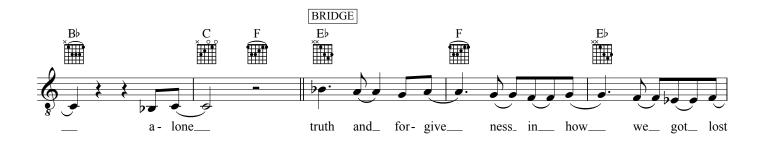
Eat at the dining halls or one of our restaurants: the Grille or Crossroads Café.

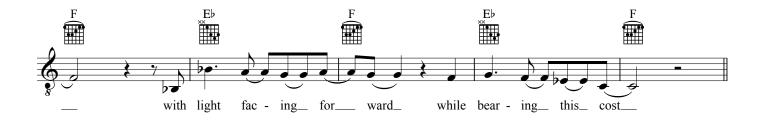
Another

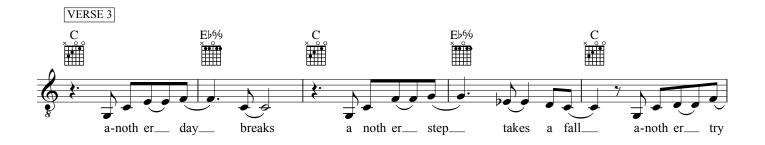


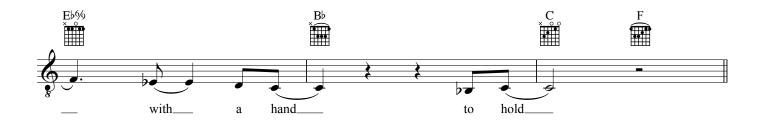


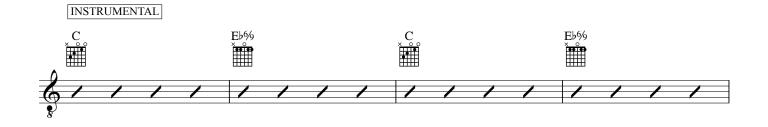


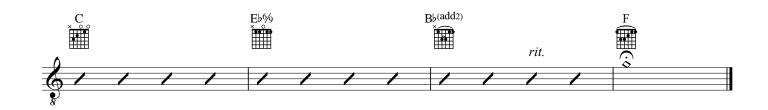




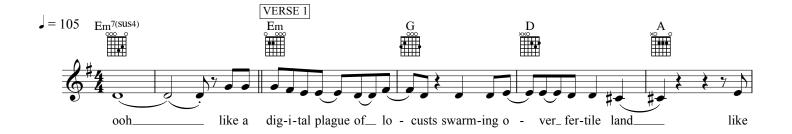


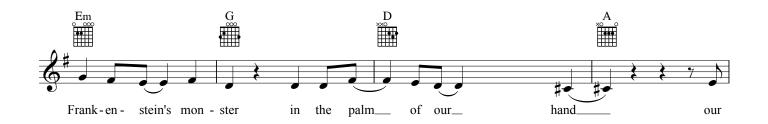


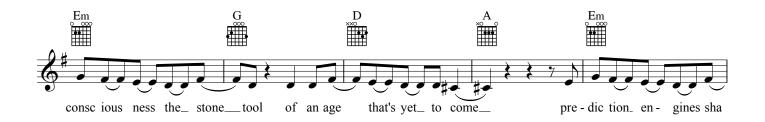


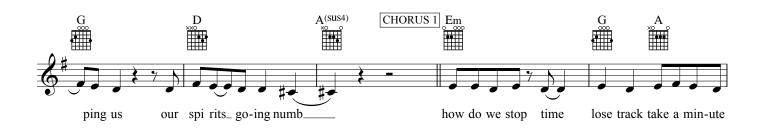


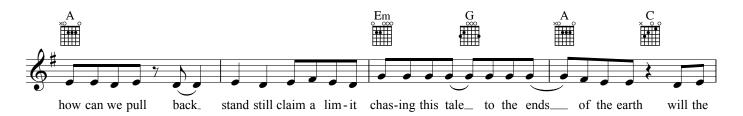
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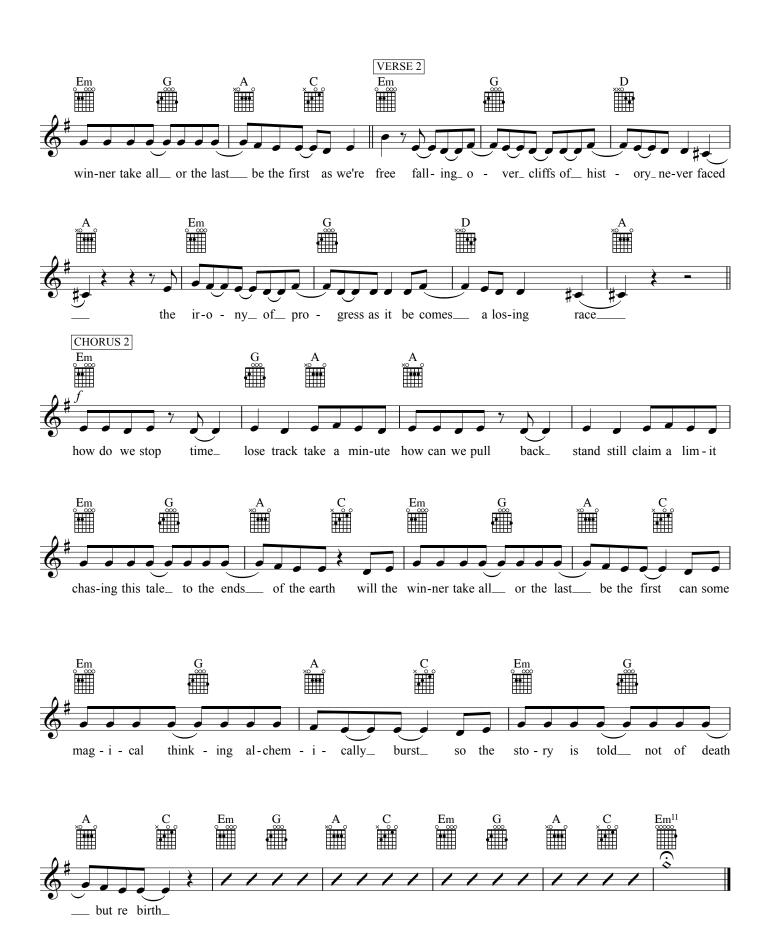








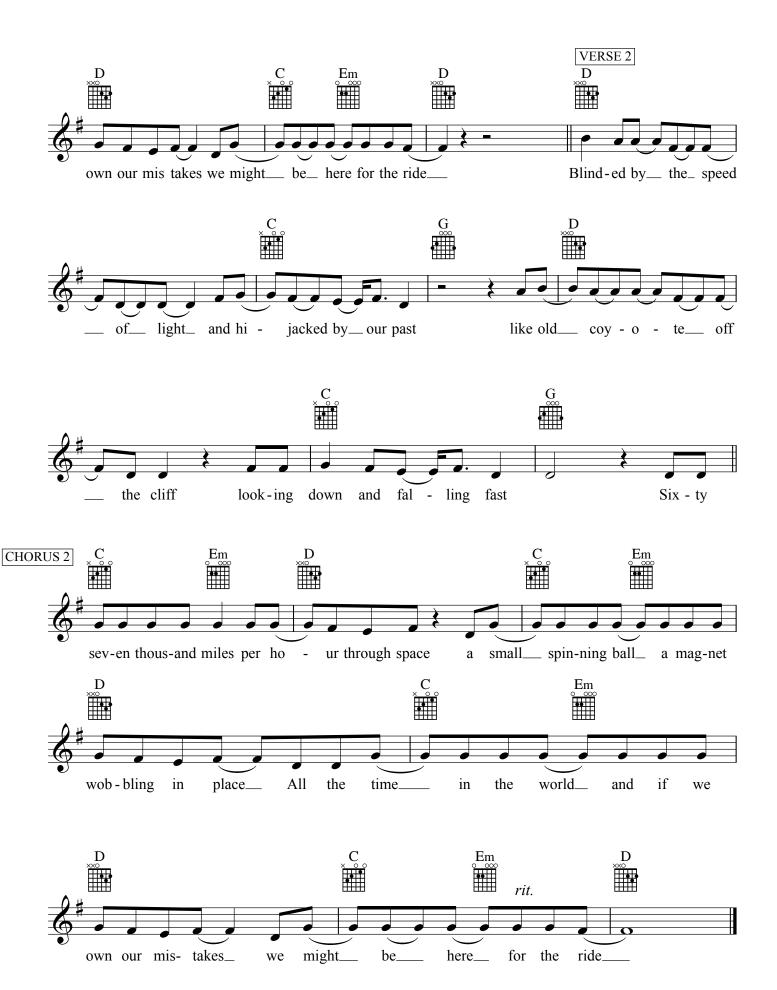




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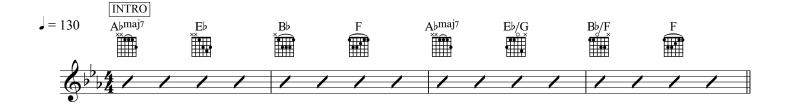
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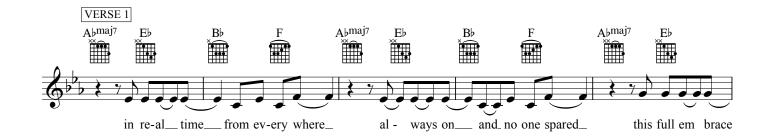


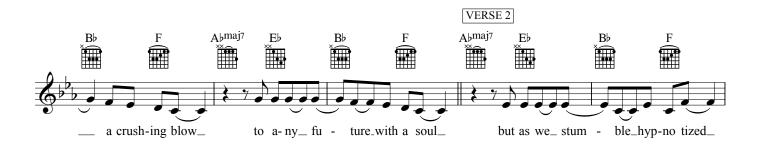


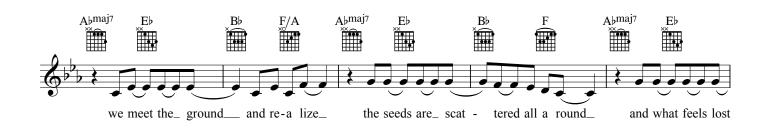
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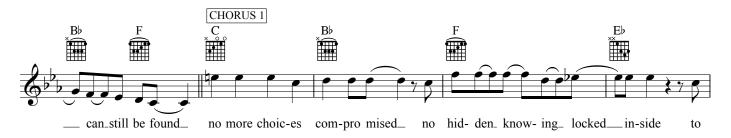
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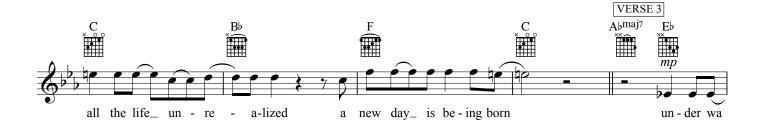


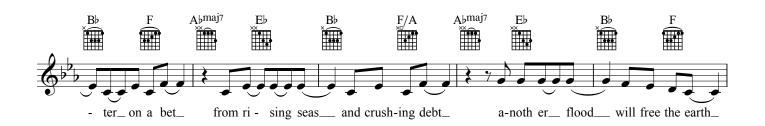


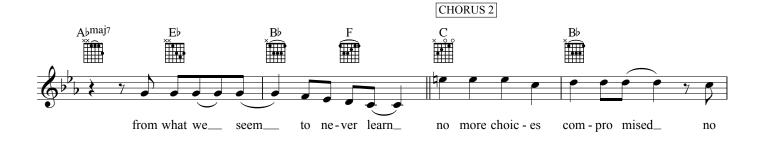


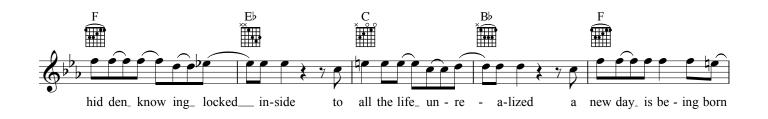


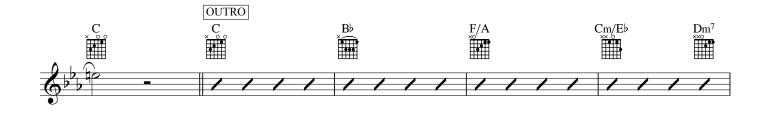


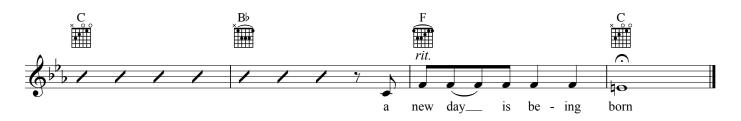


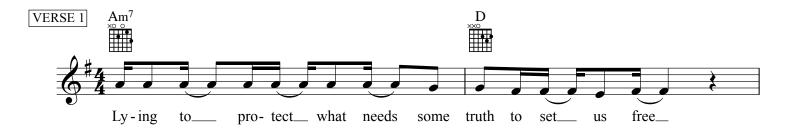


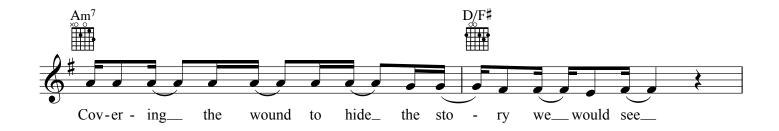


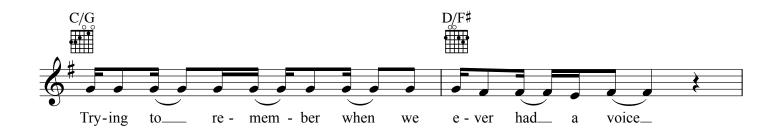


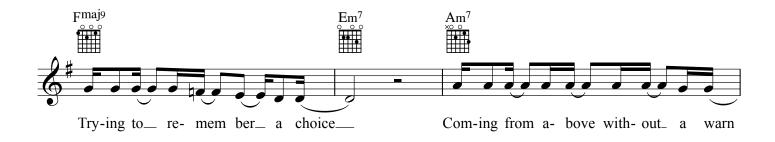


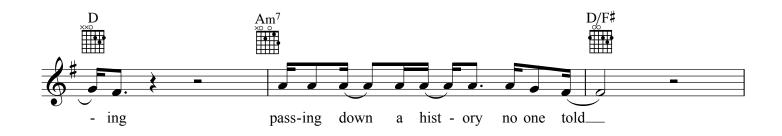


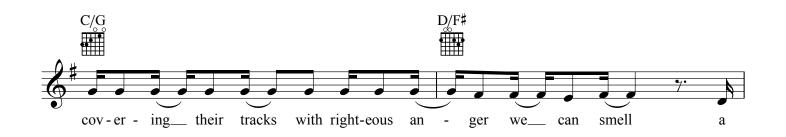


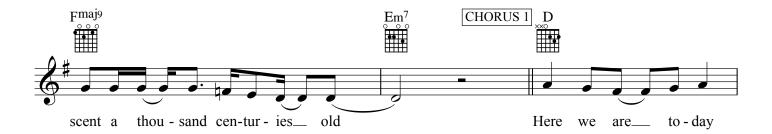


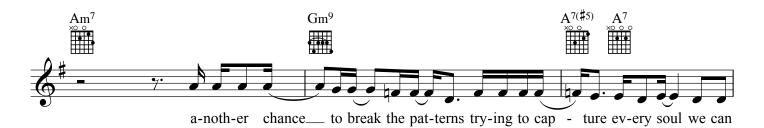




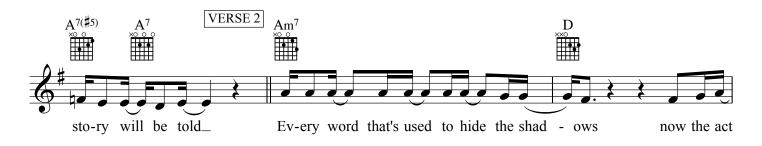


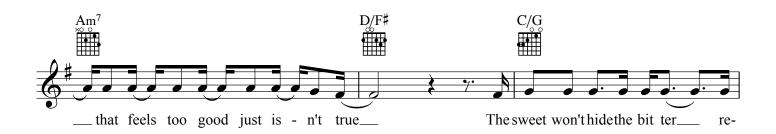


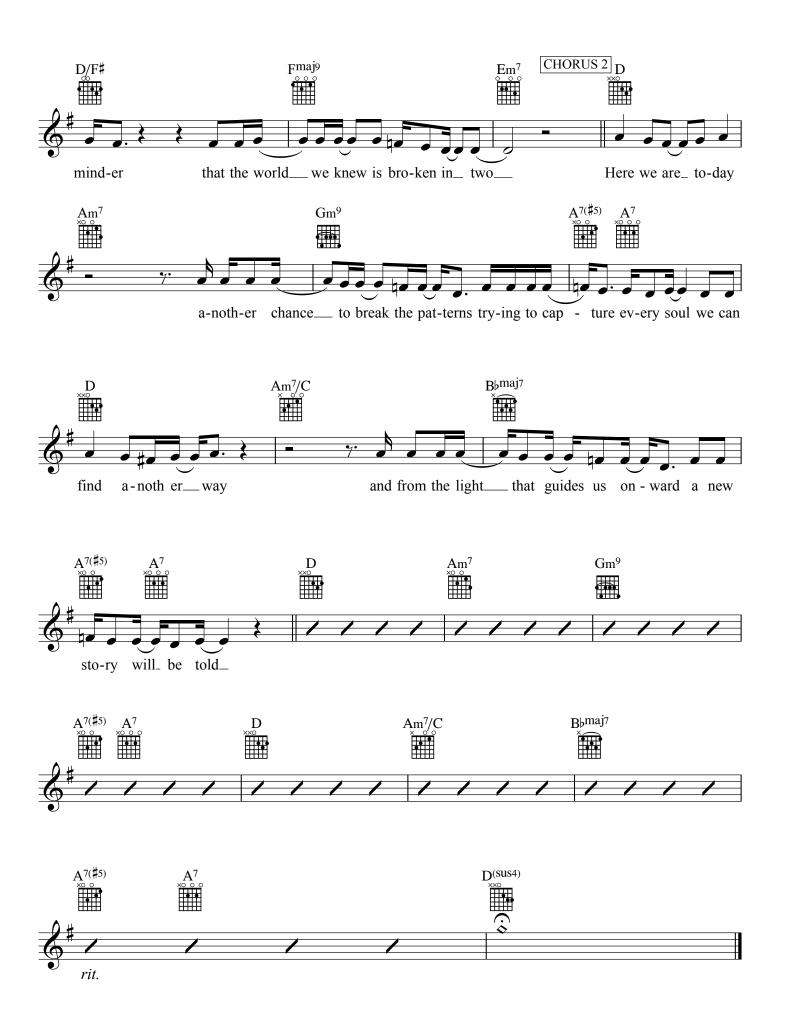






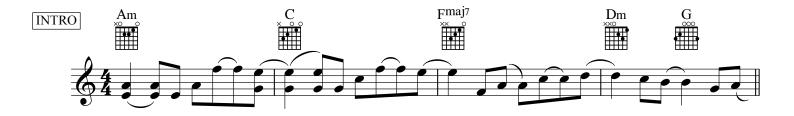






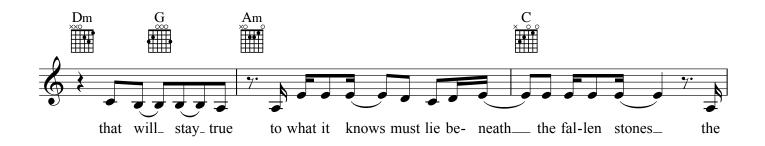
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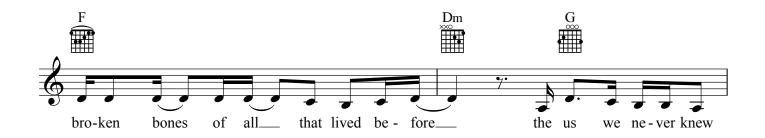
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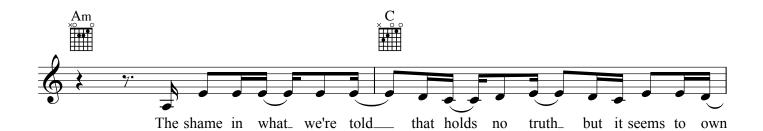


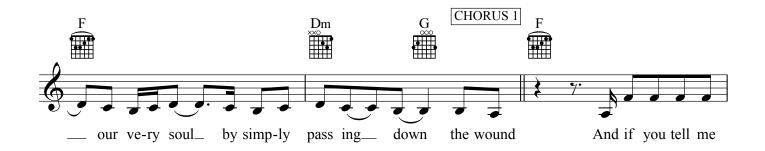


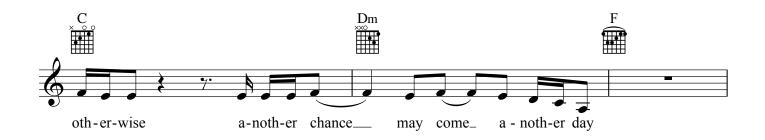
If you tell me oth-er- wise I'll turn a- way to start a- gain a-gain with diff-'rent eyes but with a heart

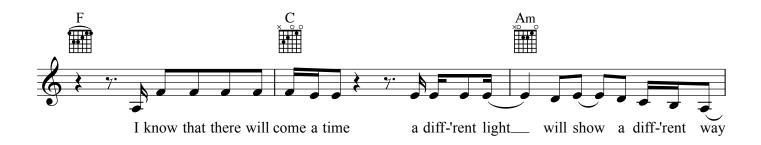




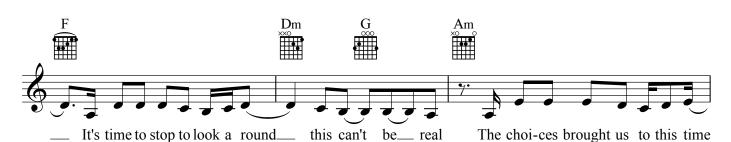


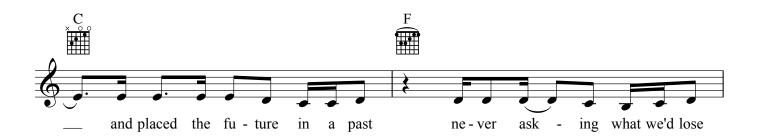




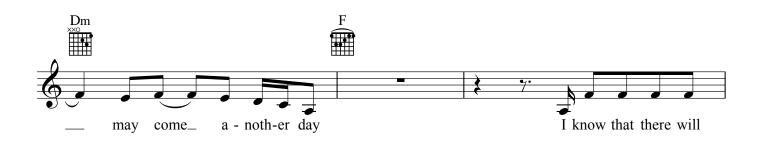


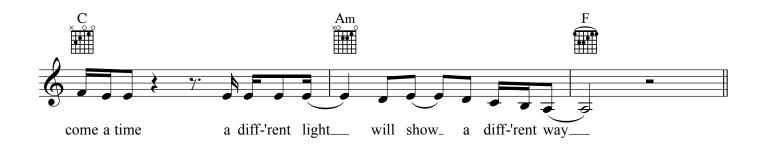


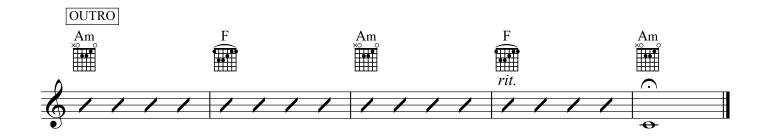






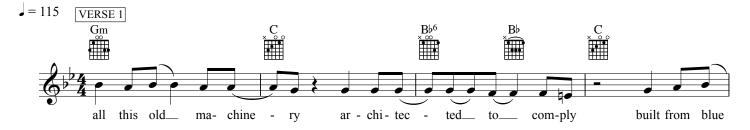


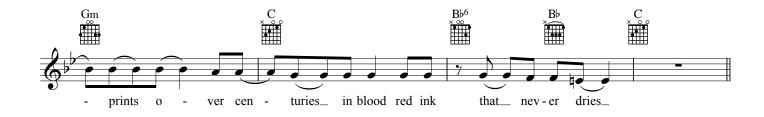


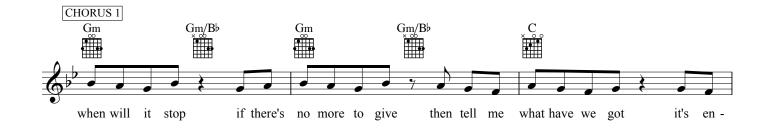


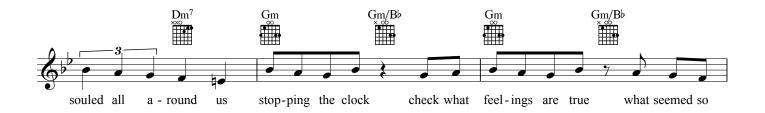
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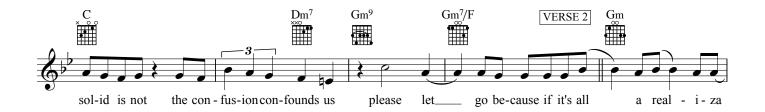
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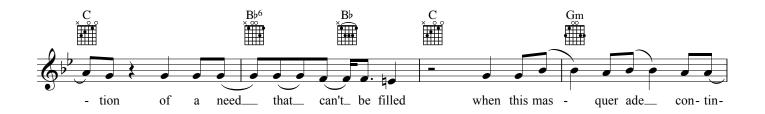


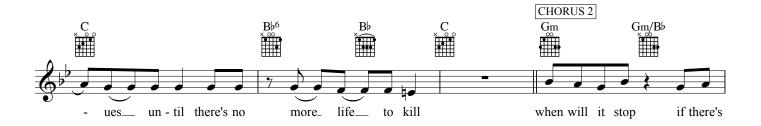


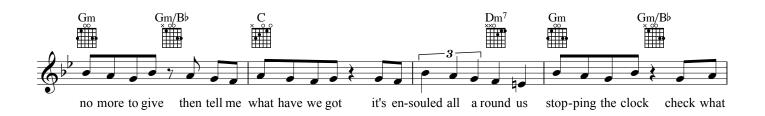


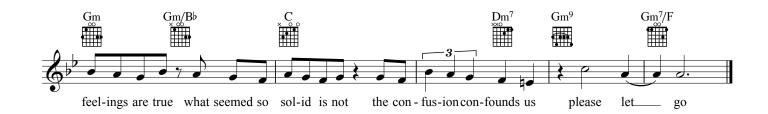


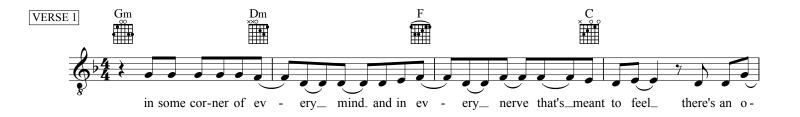


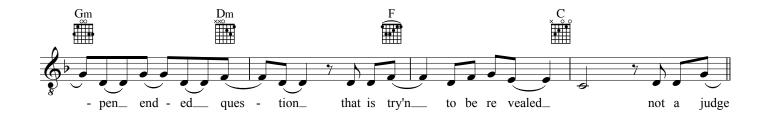


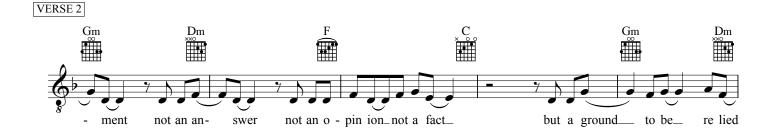


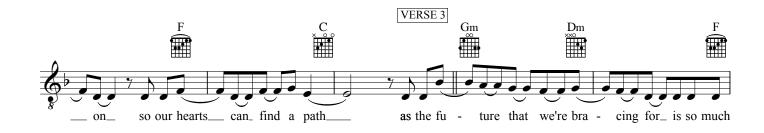


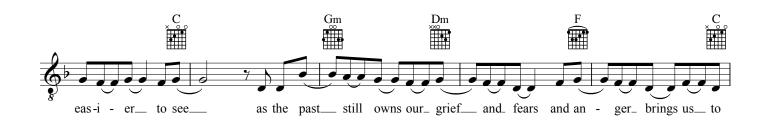


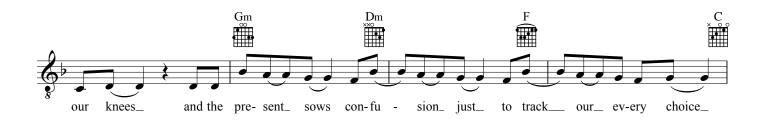


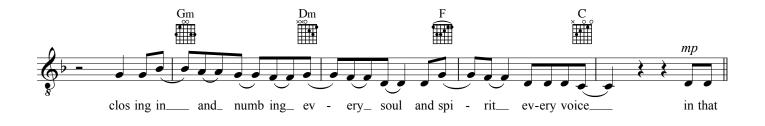


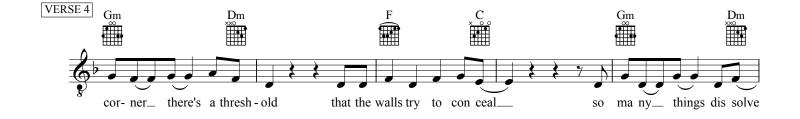


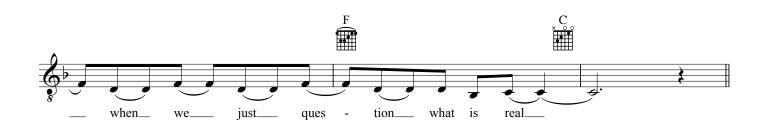


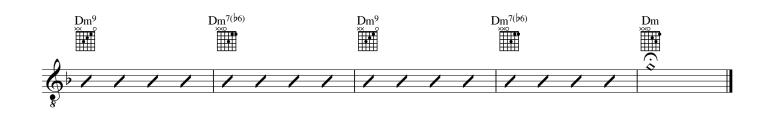






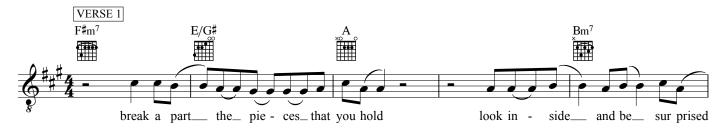




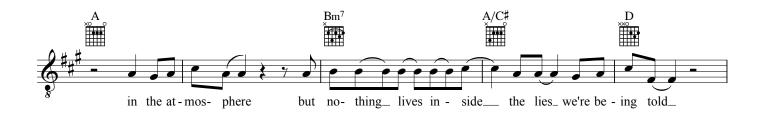


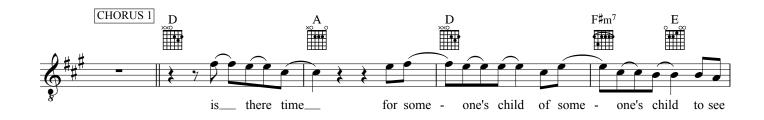


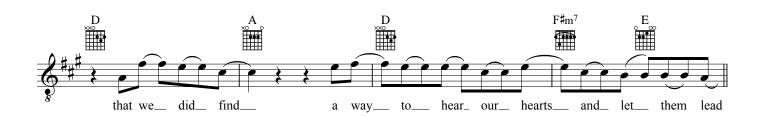
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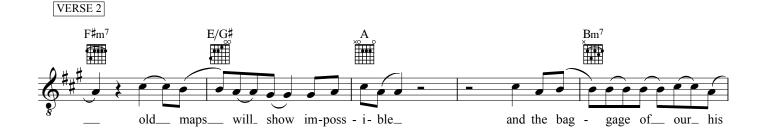


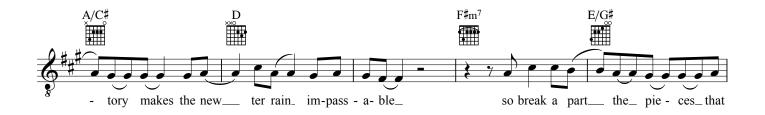


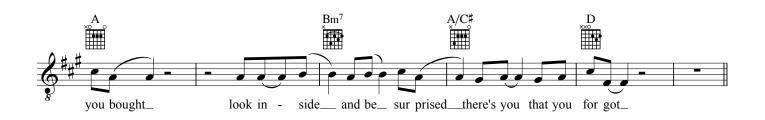


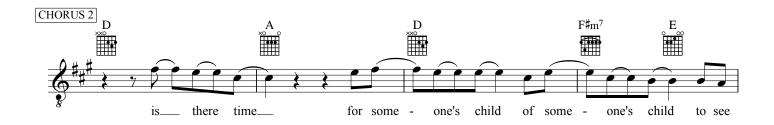


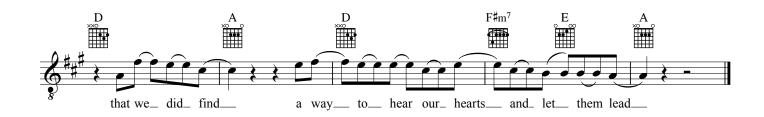


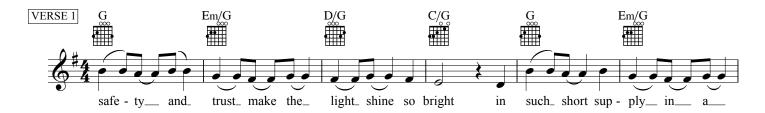




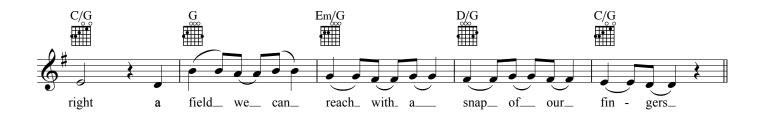


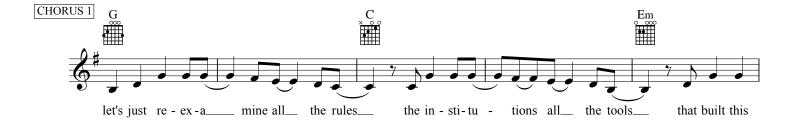


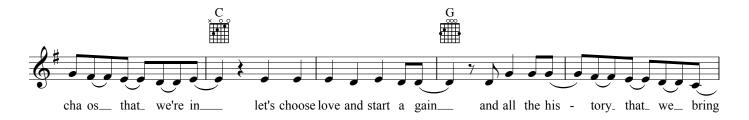


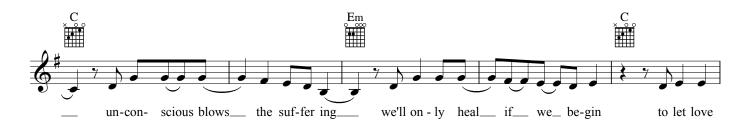














INTRO





VERSE 1

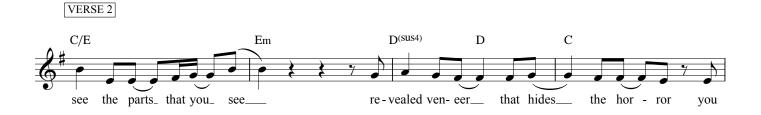




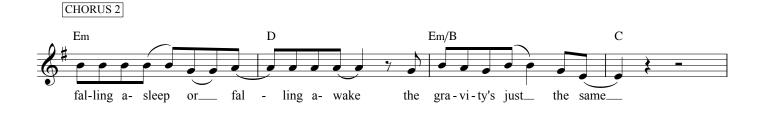
CHORUS 1









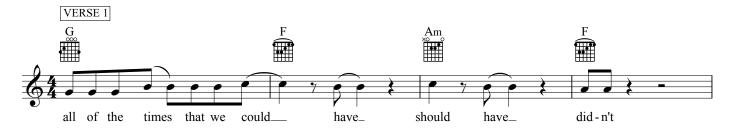


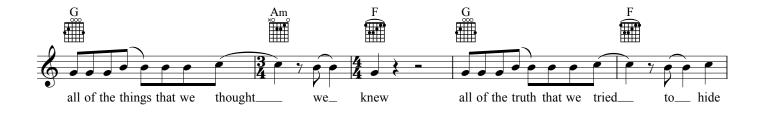


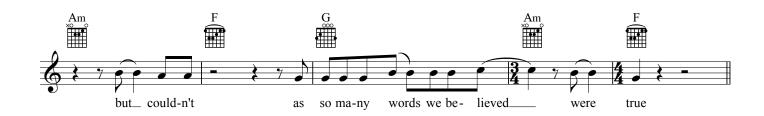
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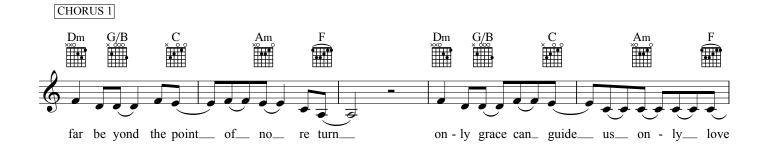
The Turn

words and music by Peter Buffett

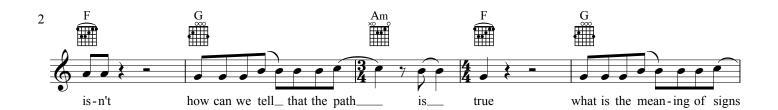


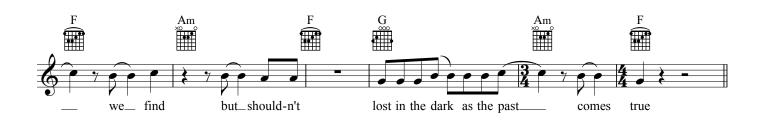


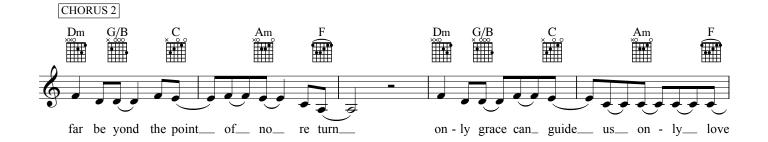


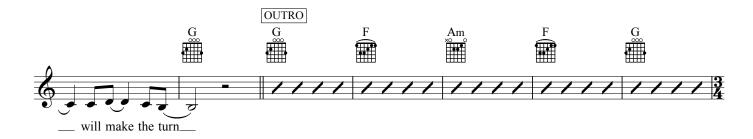


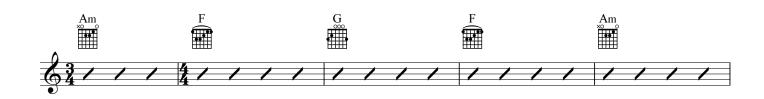












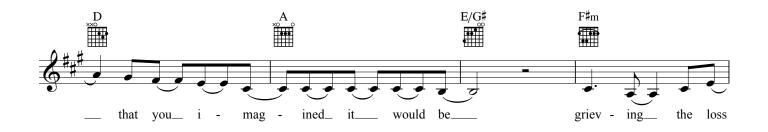


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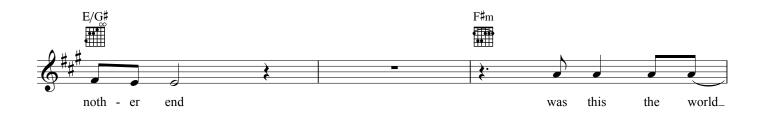
This World

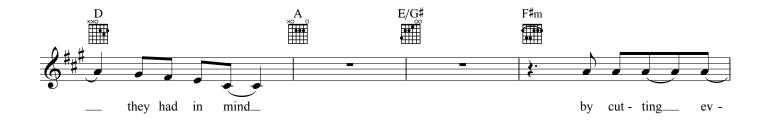
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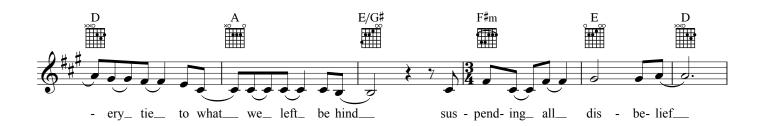


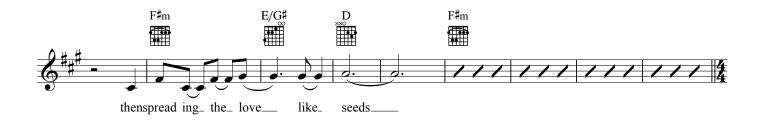


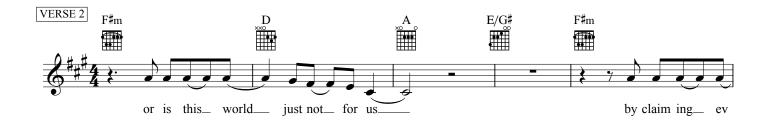


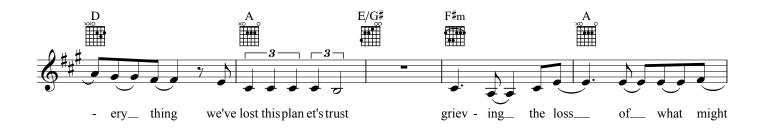


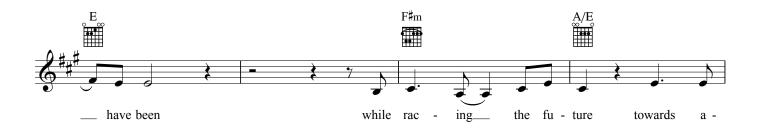


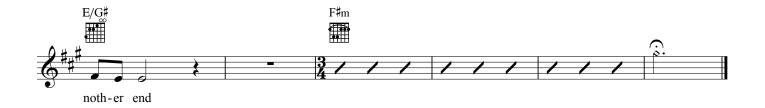












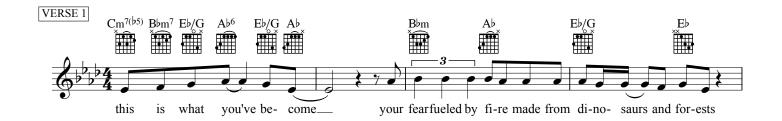
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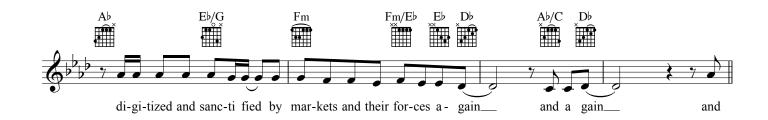
Time To Walk Away

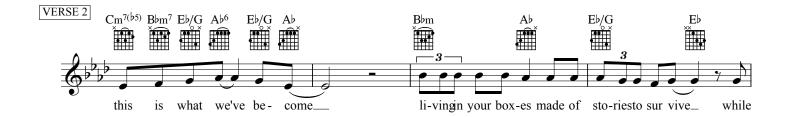
words and music by Peter Buffett

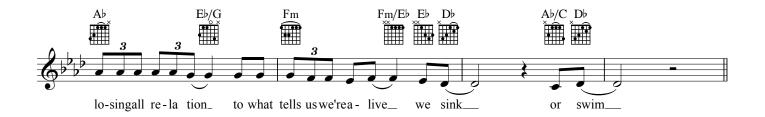


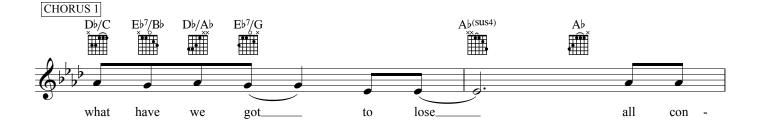


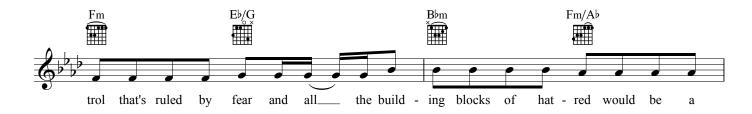


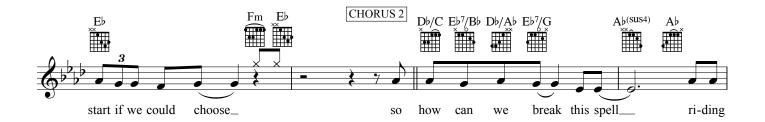


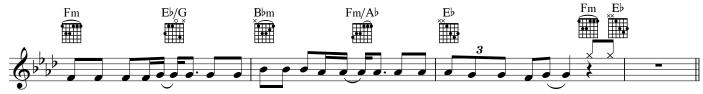




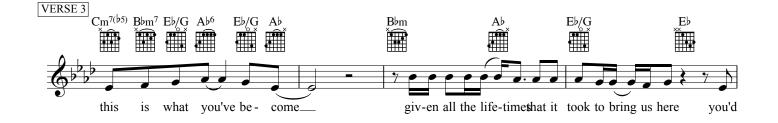


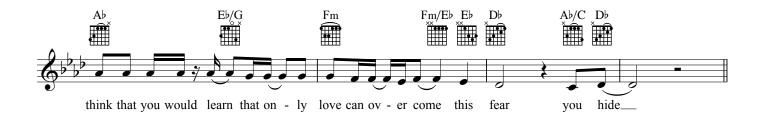




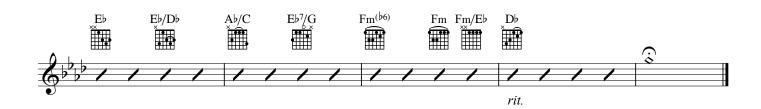


pro-gress like an ar - row dipped in poi-son o-ver cen turies min-ing hea-ven build-ing hell_









A Grand Derealization

Now the gaslight's always lit casting shadow and shame from its electrical wick The flattering glow plays tricks Stoking envy and vengeance for that dopamine hit

The headlines read the same
There's billions for killing and greed is still king
The pillars cracking from the strain
But the seeds far below will bring love when it reigns

How hard will it be to start over again? How long will it take? Can we start to begin by dropping the armor, unclenching the fist to discover what could be?

Or is this just a place in a wheel going 'round where there's no trust in truth and there's no solid ground?

A grand derealization

We've all just been set free

A few thousand years from soon
This time will be remembered as an age we passed through
when we decoupled what we knew
from all the stories we never agreed to

How hard will it be to start over again? How long will it take? Can we start to begin by dropping the armor, unclenching the fist to discover what could be?

Or is this just a place in a wheel going 'round where there's no trust in truth and there's no solid ground?

A grand derealization

We've all just been set free

A Star Shines

I was taught that one and one makes two that the sky above is blue if it's in a book it's true

Trying to find out what came just before Could a wall become a door?
Could a dream be something more?

Can we find our way back home?

What feelings can be trusted when they're ones we've never known?

Distracted and alone

Still a star shines

Living in this box of made up rules Every choice becomes a tool And fear is used for fuel

All the pixels mapped to every need The convenience serves the greed And spirit's left to bleed

Can we find our way back home?

What feelings can be trusted when they're ones we've never known?

Distracted and alone

Still a star shines

All You Need Is Love

Love, love, love Love, love, love

There's nothing you can do that can't be done Nothing you can sing that can't be sung Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game It's easy

Nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to
be you in time
It's easy

All you need is love All you need is love All you need is love, love Love is all you need

Nothing you can know that isn't known Nothing you can see that isn't shown There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be, it's easy

All you need is love All you need is love All you need is love, love Love is all you need

All you need is love All you need is love All you need is love, love Love is all you need

Love is all you need Love is all you need Love is all you need Love is all you need

Another

Another wave breaks
Another soul lost at sea
Another star guides the way back home

Another night falls
Another dream seems so real
Another world built from love alone

Truth and forgiveness in how we got lost With light facing forward while bearing this cost

Another day breaks
Another step takes a fall
Another try with a hand to hold

Chasing this Tale

Like a digital plague of locusts swarming over fertile land

Like Frankenstein's monster in the palm of our hand Our consciousness the stone tool of an age that's yet to come

Prediction engines shaping us Our spirits going numb

How do we stop time lose track take a minute?
How can we pull back stand still claim a limit?

Chasing this tale to the ends of the earth Will the winner take all or the last be the first?

As we 're free falling over cliffs of history never faced The irony of progress as it becomes a losing race

How do we stop time lose track take a minute?
How can we pull back stand still claim a limit?

Chasing this tale to the ends of the earth Will the winner take all or the last be the first? Can some magical thinking alchemically burst so the story is told not of death but rebirth?

Here for the Ride

Waking, walking, wondering what steps we have to take To dismantle very carefully this creation that we made

The tide goes out, more truth revealed The castles made of sand Now every grain's connected Can we try to understand?

Sixty-seven thousand miles per hour through space A small spinning ball A magnet wobbling in place All the time in the world and if we own our mistakes we might be here for the ride

Blinded by the speed of light And hijacked by our past Like old coyote off the cliff Looking down and falling fast

Sixty-seven thousand miles per hour through space
A small spinning ball
A magnet wobbling in place
All the time in the world
and if we own our mistakes
we might be here for the ride

New Day

In real time from everywhere Always on and no one spared This full embrace a crushing blow to any future with a soul

But as we stumble, hypnotized we meet the ground and realize the seeds are scattered all around and what feels lost can still be found

No more choices compromised No hidden knowing locked inside To all the life unrealized A new day is being born

Underwater on a bet from rising seas and crushing debt Another flood will free the earth from what we seem to never learn

No more choices compromised No hidden knowing locked inside To all the life unrealized A new day is being born

Onward

Lying to protect what needs some truth to set us free Covering the wound to hide the story we would see Trying to remember when we ever had a voice Trying to remember a choice

Coming from above without a warning Passing down a history no one told Covering their tracks with righteous anger we can smell a scent a thousand centuries old

Here we are today
Another chance to break the patterns
trying to capture every soul
We can find another way
and from the light that guides us onward
a new story will be told

Every word that's used to hide the shadows Now the act that feels too good just isn't true The sweet won't hide the bitter reminder that the world we knew is broken in two

Here we are today
Another chance to break the patterns
trying to capture every soul
We can find another way
and from the light that guides us onward
a new story will be told

Otherwise

If you tell me otherwise I'll turn away to start again Again with different eyes but with a heart that will stay true

to what it knows must lie beneath the fallen stones the broken bones of all that lived before The us we never knew

The shame in what we're told that holds no truth but seems to own our very soul by simply passing down the wound

And if you tell me otherwise another chance may come another day I know that there will come a time a different light will show a different way

The language turning meaning upside down And every step is losing ground It's time to stop to look around This can't be real

The choices brought us to this time and placed the future in a past never asking what we'd lose If we can't feel

And if you tell me otherwise another chance may come another day I know that there will come a time a different light will show a different way

Please Let Go

All this old machinery architected to comply
Built from blueprints over centuries in blood-red ink that never dries

When will it stop?

If there's no more to give then tell me what have we got?

It's ensouled all around us

Stopping the clock

Check what feelings are true

What seemed so solid is not

The confusion confounds us

Please let go

Because if it's all a realization of a need that can't be filled Then this masquerade continues until there's no more life to kill

When will it stop?

If there's no more to give then tell me what have we got?

It's ensouled all around us

Stopping the clock

Check what feelings are true

What seemed so solid is not

The confusion confounds us

Please let go

Question

In some corner of every mind and in every nerve that's meant to feel there's an open ended question that is trying to be revealed

Not a judgment, not an answer not an opinion, not a fact But a ground to be relied on so our hearts can find a path

every voice

As the future that we're bracing for is so much easier to see

As the past still owns our grief and fears and anger brings us to our knees And the present sows confusion just to track our every choice Closing in and numbing every soul and spirit,

In that corner there's a threshold that the walls try to conceal So many things dissolve when we just question what is real

So We Try

As below, so above There's no cover from this storm But in whoever's here tomorrow lives the choice to walk us home

All we broke in the rush to feed some hungry ghost can be woven back together and the future could be born

So we try and we try and we try and we try....

Try
and we try
and we try
and we try

We won't see all we've done the damage lives too deep But as the light reveals the shadow loving truth might set us free

So we try and we try and we try and we try

Someone's Child

Break apart the pieces that you hold Look inside and be surprised at how much you've been sold

Controlling interests everywhere.

On the street... in the atmosphere

But nothing lives inside the lies we're being told

Is there time for someone's child of someone's child to see? That we did find a way to hear our hearts and let them lead

Old maps will show impossible And the baggage of our history makes the new terrain impassable.

So break apart the pieces that you bought Look inside and be surprised there's you that you forgot

Is there time for someone's child of someone's child to see? That we did find a way to hear our hearts and let them lead

Start Again

Safety and trust make the light shine so bright In such short supply in a world filled with anger I hear there's a place that's beyond wrong or right A field we can reach with a snap of our fingers

Let's just re-examine all the rules the institutions, all the tools that built this chaos that we're in Let's choose love and start again And all the history that we bring Unconscious blows, the suffering We'll only heal if we begin to let love lead and start again

Fall into Winter and Winter to Spring
A patient reminder what ends is beginning
A reckoning quiet as new fallen snow
as seeds far beneath break new ground as their
love grows

Let's just re-examine all the rules the institutions, all the tools that built this chaos that we're in Let's choose love and start again And all the history that we bring Unconscious blows, the suffering We'll only heal if we begin to let love lead and start again

Take the Blame

Grind the ax that you grind Sharpened blades but dull consistence Fights you think that you fight Nothing more than weak resistance

Falling asleep or falling awake the gravity's just the same Searching for answers repeating mistakes And no one will take the blame

You see the parts that you see Revealed veneer that hides the horror You buy the comfort you buy Blind that you just sold tomorrow

Falling asleep or falling awake the gravity's just the same Searching for answers repeating mistakes And no one will take the blame

The Turn

All of the times that we could have, should have... didn't
All of the things that we thought we knew
All of the truth that we tried to hide but couldn't

As so many words we believed weren't true

Far beyond the point of no return Only grace can guide us Only love will make the turn

How do we know when we feel what's real, what isn't? How can we tell that the path is true? What is the meaning of signs we find, but shouldn't? Lost in the dark as the past comes due

Far beyond the point of no return Only grace can guide us Only love will make the turn

This World

Is this the world you thought you'd see? Is this the way that you imagined it would be?

Grieving the loss of what might have been While racing the future towards another end

Was this the world they had in mind? By cutting every tie to what we left behind

Suspending all disbelief
Then spreading the love like seeds

Or is this world just not for us? By claiming everything, we've lost this planet's trust

Grieving the loss of what might have been While racing the future towards another end

Time to Walk Away

When someone decided that they were on top What should never have started could never be stopped

With time as an arrow and fear as a tool Language a weapon and force as a rule The logical outcome the world that we're in Let's look in the mirror and start to begin

Loving who we are without the price tag on our soul Making peace with all the demons in the way Recognize the pain that came with all the stories we were told

No more fighting. Now it's time to walk away

Can we say we don't know and we're lost and we're scared?

Every compass is broken and no one's prepared What we remember we'll know it by heart At this moment in time it's the best place to start

Loving who we are without the price tag on our soul Making peace with all the demons in the way Recognize the pain that came with all the stories we were told

No more fighting. Now it's time to walk away

Time to walk away

What You've Become

This is what you've become
Your fear fueled by fire made from dinosaurs
and forests
digitized and sanctified by markets and their forces
again
and again

And this is what we've become Living in your boxes made of stories to survive while losing all relation to what tells us we're alive We sink or swim

What have you got to lose? All control that's ruled by fear and all the building blocks of hatred would be a start if we could choose.

So how can we break this spell?
Riding progress like an arrow dipped in poison over centuries
mining heaven, building hell

This is what you've become
Given all the lifetimes that it took to bring us here
you'd think that you would learn that only love
can overcome
this fear
you hide

