

**Stranger With The Melodies**  
**Harry Chapin**

#-----PLEASE NOTE-----#  
 #This file is the author s own work and represents their interpretation of the #  
 #song. You may only use this file for private study, scholarship, or research. #  
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Stranger With The Melodies Harry Chapin  
 As recorded (approximately :) ) on Legends of the Lost and Found

Information:  
 TAB: one space equals one eighth note

[tab]main pattern repeats through out song (note variations at end of choruses):

D	D/G	D/E	D/A
e ----3--- 2---0--- ----3--- 2---0--- ----3--- 2---0--- ----3--- 2---0---			
B --3---3- --2---3- --3---3- --2---3- --3---3- --2---3- --3---3- --2---3-			
G -2-2-2-2 -3-3-2-2 -2-2-2-2 -3-3-2-2 -2-2-2-2 -3-3-2-2 -2-2-2-2 -3-3-2-2			
D 0----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----			
A ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- 0----- -----			
E ----- ----- 3----- ----(2)- 0----- ----- ----- -----			

[tab]end of verse progression:

A	A7	A6	A
E A D G B E	E A D G B E	E A D G B E	E A D G B E
o-o-----o	o-o-----	o-o-----	o-o-----o
2 2 2	2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2
	3		

other verse pattern (I don t know the pick pattern, so I just strum these):

**Bm F Am Em**  
**F Em G A A7 A6 A**

last chord:

D (final)  
 [tab]E A D G B E  
 x o o[tab]  
		7 7	
			10

INTRO:

**D D/G D/E D/A**  
**D D/G D/E D/A**

[tab] **D**

It was my first night in that room in house, [/tab]

[tab] **D/G**

in the last room down the hall. [/tab]

[tab] **D/E**

I heard a hoarse voice, and an old guitar, [/tab]

[tab] **D/A**

comin through the paper thin walls. [/tab]

[tab] **D**

A crazy nonsense nursery rhyme, [/tab]

[tab] **D/G**

it did not mean a thing. [/tab]

[tab] **D/E**

But for the first of what was to be a thousand times, [/tab]

[tab] **D/A**

this is what I heard him sing. [/tab]

CHORUS:

[tab] **D**

Hold that "D" chord on the old guitar, [/tab]

[tab] **D/G**

till I find the "G." [/tab]

[tab] **D/E**

Drop it down to old "E" minor, [/tab]

[tab] **D/A**

**D**

**D/A**

till the "A" chord rolls back home around to "D." [/tab]

[tab] **D**

**D/G**

I had to lay there listening, it seemed he was in the room. [/tab]

[tab] **D/E**

**D/A**

The stranger with the melodies, singin there in the gloom. [/tab]

[tab] **Bm**

**F**

And he repeated it over and over again, such a soft and sinking sound. [/tab]

[tab] **Am**

**Em**

It was kind of like a music box that was slowly windin down. [/tab]

[tab] **F**

**Em**

And he sang it, he hummed it, he whistled it, and he strummed it. [/tab]

[tab] **G**

**A**

**A**

**A7**

**A6**

He laughed it, and he cried it. He did anything but hide it. [/tab]

CHORUS:

[tab] **A D**

Hold that "D" chord on the old guitar, [/tab]

[tab] **D/G**

till I find the "G." [/tab]

[tab] **D/E**

Drop it down to old "E" minor, [/tab]

[tab] **D/A**

**D**

**D/A**

till the "A" chord rolls back home around to me. [/tab]

[tab]           D   D/G  
So I lay there in that lumpy bed, counted choruses instead of sheep, [/tab]  
[tab]           D/E   D/A  
till I banged on the wall and out I called, "Hey bub, I need some sleep." [/tab]  
(D) (stop pattern, just base)                   (G)  
A sudden void of silence, then I heard that hoarse voice say,  
[tab](E)   (A)                   D (resume pattern) D/A  
"It weren t so long ago, boy, they paid me to play. [/tab]  
[tab]           D   D/G  
So I said, "It s kind of late for music, sir. Two hours till it s  
daylight." [/tab]  
[tab]           D/E   D/A  
He answered, "I need my music most in these dark hours of the night. [/tab]  
[tab]                   Bm   F  
You see I ve tried gettin high on somethin , son; it only brings me down. [/tab]  
[tab]                   Am   Em  
Stayin dry don t work out better, boy, cause my eyes get wet and I  
drown. [/tab]  
[tab]                   F   Em  
Won t you please let me continue, and I ll be in your debt. [/tab]  
[tab]                   G   A                   A                   A7  
A6  
You see I m not singin to remember, son. I m just singin to forget. [/tab]

CHORUS:

[tab]           A                   D  
Hold that "D" chord on the old guitar, [/tab]  
[tab]           D/G  
till I find the "G." [/tab]  
[tab]                   D/E  
Drop it down to old "E" minor, [/tab]  
[tab]                   D/A   D   D(strum) D(strum) A  
till the "A" chord rolls back home around to me. [/tab]

[tab]                   C   G  
That s when I said, if I m supposed to listen to you, sir, [/tab]  
[tab]C   G  
one quick question, then. [/tab]  
[tab]F   C                   A  
Why in the hell do you sing one song, over and over again? [/tab]

(spoken) And this is what he said.

[tab]D   D   D   D/G  
I gave her the music, son. She gave me the words. [/tab]  
[tab]   D/E   D/A  
Together we d write the kinds of songs the angels must have heard. [/tab]  
[tab]   D   D/G  
Of course, we d fight like cats and dogs; life ain t no rosebud dream. [/tab]

[tab]                               **D/E**   **D/A**  
Still, where ever we d go, everybody d know, we were truly a team. [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D**   **D/G**  
I can t remember now if I d done her wrong, or if she d done wrong to me. [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D/E**   **D/A**  
Still, all I know is when I let her go, it did not set me free. [/tab]  
[tab]                               **Bm**  
That s when I said, "You sound like what s-his-name." [/tab]  
[tab]               **F**  
He said, "That s who I am. [/tab]  
[tab]                               **Am**  
But you can t wrap a name around you boy, [/tab]  
[tab]                               **Em**  
cause it really don t mean a damn. [/tab]  
[tab]                               **F**   **Em**  
You see, a song don t have no meanin , when it don t have nothin to say. [/tab]  
[tab]               **G**   **A**               **A**       **A7**   **A6**   **A**  
What she could do was magic, son. All I can do is play. [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D**  
He started singin again, that s when I drifted off, [/tab]  
[tab]               **D/G**  
and maybe I d dreamed what I d heard, [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D/E**  
about the stranger with the melodies, [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D/A**  
who d gone and lost the words. [/tab]

CHORUS:

[tab]                               **D**  
Hold that "D" chord on the old guitar, [/tab]  
[tab]               **D/G**  
till I find the "G." [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D/E**  
Drop it down to old "E" minor, [/tab]  
[tab]                               **D/A**   **D**               **D(final)**  
till the "A" chord rolls back home around to "D." [/tab]

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----- There is a fine difference between insight and insanity. -----

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