

The Onion Song Marvin Gaye

...THE ONION SONG... by Marvin Gaye & Tammy Terrell

from Easy (1970)

N.B (Although the song is credited to Tammy Terrell,
The singer was so sick during the recording, due to a brain tumour,
That Valerie Simpson sang the lead instead).

CAPO 1st FRET

(Original Key: G#)

Chorus 1:

G G7 C C/B Am
The world is just a great big onion.

(Marvin):

G Em Am D
And pain and fear, are the spices that make you cry.
Gmaj7 G7 C C/B Am
Oh, and the only way to get rid, of this great big onion;

(Valerie):

Bm7 Em Am F C
Is to plant love seeds, until it dies, uh huh.

Verse 1:

(Marvin):

G F C G
Hey world! We got a great big job to do.
F C G F C G G7
Yeah, we need you and every-body pull us through.

Bridge 1:

C
Don t you know we ve got to clean up this place,
Cdim Em
And reach for a higher goal, yeah.

A7

(Valerie): Yes, we do now.

G

Em

We gotta be headstrong, about rightin the wrong,

F

D

And make a mountain of happy souls, oh,

D7

(Marvin): Oh...

Chorus 2:

G

G7

C

C/B Am

The world is just a great big onion,

(Marvin):

G

Em

Am

And I don t care; it s the face people like to wear.

D

(Valerie): Yes it is now.

Gmaj7

G7

C

C/B Am

Oh, and the only way to get rid, of this great big onion;

(Valerie):

Bm7

Em

Am

F

C

Every single soul s, got to do their share, uh huh.

Verse 2:

(Marvin):

G

F

C

G

So come on, let s knock on every door.

F

C

G

Tell them; love is the answer;

F

C

G

G7

Whether they re rich or poor, oh yeah.

Bridge 2:

C

Cdim

For we don t care, what you do, how you look,

Em

Or your status claim, baby.

A7

(Valerie): No no.

G

Em

Because brothers and sisters, from now on,

F

D

D#

Is gonna be everybody s name, oh, oh.

KEY CHANGE

Chorus 3:

G# G#7 C# C#/C C#m
The world is just a great big onion.

(Marvin):

G# Fm A#m D#
And pain and fear, are the spices that make you cry.
G#maj7 G#7 C# C#/C A#m
Oh, and the only way to get rid, of this great big onion;

Coda:

(Valerie):

Cm Fm A#m
Is to plant love seeds,
Cm Fm A#m
(Marvin): Now everybody, got to plant love seeds.
Cm Fm A#m
(Valerie): Come on and plant love seeds,
F# C#
(Marvin): Until it dies.

Outro:

G# G#7 C# C#/C G#
The world is just, a great big onion.

CHORD DIAGRAMS:

G	G7	C	C/B	Am	Em	D	Gmaj7
EADGBE 320003	EADGBE 323000	EADGBE x32010	EADGBE x20010	EADGBE x02210	EADGBE 022000	EADGBE xx0232	EADGBE 3x443x
Bm7	F	Cdim	A7	D7	D#	G#	G#7
EADGBE x24232	EADGBE 133211	EADGBE xx1212	EADGBE x02223	EADGBE xx0212	EADGBE x68886	EADGBE 466544	EADGBE 464544
C#	C#/C	Fm	A#m	Cm	F#		
EADGBE x46664	EADGBE x3666x	EADGBE 133111	EADGBE x13321	EADGBE x35543	EADGBE 244322		

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