SOFTWARE & TECH

All The Right Moves Chords

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Mastering "All The Right Moves": A Complete Chord and Performance Guide

Music has an incredible ability to capture a moment in time, and few songs from the late 2000s have aged as gracefully as OneRepublic's powerhouse anthem, "All The Right Moves." Released on their 2009 album *Waking Up*, the track is a masterclass in building tension and releasing it with explosive energy. For guitarists, piano players, and vocalists alike, understanding the **All The Right Moves chords** is more than just memorizing a progression; it is about unlocking the emotional architecture of the song. Whether you are a bedroom player preparing for an open mic night or a seasoned musician looking to dissect the nuances of modern pop-rock, this guide will provide everything you need to perform the song with confidence and flair.

The song's appeal lies in its deceptive simplicity. On the surface, the chord structure seems straightforward, but the magic happens in the rhythmic delivery, the dynamic shifts, and the way the harmony supports the lyrical narrative of deception and desire. In this comprehensive article, we will break down the core **All The Right Moves chords**, explore alternative voicings, discuss strumming patterns, and offer tips for making your cover stand out. We will also touch on the song's key, its place in OneRepublic's discography, and why it remains a favorite for musicians of all skill levels.

The Core Chord Progression Breakdown

Before diving into the tabs or sheet music, it is essential to understand the foundational harmony of the song. "All The Right Moves" is written in the key of C# minor, but the most common and accessible way to play it on guitar is by using a capo on the fourth fret of a standard-tuned guitar. This allows you to play familiar open chord shapes that move beautifully across the fretboard. Without a capo, the song becomes significantly more difficult barre-chord intensive, which is why the capo method is preferred by most live performers and tutorial creators.

Verse Progression: Building the Atmosphere

The verse of "All The Right Moves" relies on a repeating four-chord pattern that creates a sense of longing and tension. When you play the **All The Right Moves chords** with a capo on the fourth fret, the verse shapes are as follows:

- Em (022000) - This is the tonic chord that grounds the progression.
- Cmaj7 (032000) - Adds a lush, slightly dissonant texture that resolves beautifully.
- G (320033) - The dominant chord that drives the progression forward.
- D/F# (200232) - A bass-note variation that creates a smooth walk-up effect.

These four chords cycle throughout the verse, giving the singer a solid foundation to deliver the narrative of someone who knows they are being played. The Em and Cmaj7 pairing is particularly effective because the Cmaj7 introduces a hint of hope or longing before the G and D/F# pull the ear back to a more grounded place. For beginners, practicing the clean transition between Em and Cmaj7 is the first major hurdle. Keep your fingers relaxed and focus on lifting only the necessary fingers off the fretboard.

Pre-Chorus and Chorus: The Explosive Lift

One of the most satisfying aspects of playing this song is moving from the verse into the pre-chorus. The energy

shifts palpably, and the chords reflect this change. In the pre-chorus, the progression moves to a pattern that climbs the neck, creating urgency:

- C (x32010) - Shifts the tonal center briefly to the relative major.
- D (xx0232) - Builds anticipation.
- Em (022000) - Returns to the minor feel.
- Bm (x24432) - A darker chord that signals the climax is near.

When you arrive at the chorus, the **All The Right Moves chords** open up into a triumphant, anthemic sequence. The chorus usually features a staccato strumming pattern that mimics the snare drum hits. The primary chords for the chorus are:

- Em (022000)
- C (x32010)
- G (320033)
- D (xx0232)

This classic I-V-vi-IV progression in the key of G major (with the capo) is a tried-and-true formula for pop hits. The trick here is not the chords themselves, but the rhythm. Ryan Tedder, the band's frontman and a prolific songwriter, often uses syncopation to make familiar progressions sound fresh. When practicing the chorus, try muting the strings with your palm between strums to create a percussive "chuck" sound that mimics the recorded track.

Strumming Patterns and Rhythmic Nuance

Knowing the shapes is only half the battle. The true identity of this song lives in its rhythm. The verses are delivered over a half-time feel, which means the chord changes feel slower and more deliberate. A standard down-up-down-up pattern at a slow tempo works well, but you should accent the downbeat on the first beat of each measure to give the verse a "loping" feel.

The chorus, by contrast, shifts into a driving eighth-note pattern. If you listen closely to the recording, the guitar part is often doubled by a synth pad or a second guitar playing arpeggios. To replicate this fullness as a solo performer, you have a few options:

1. Fingerpicking: Pluck the bass note of each chord with your thumb and then strum the higher strings gently. This works beautifully for the verses.
2. Hybrid Strumming: Use a pick to strike the lower strings while using your middle and ring fingers to pluck the high strings.
3. Full Barre Strumming: For the chorus, use a heavy strumming hand and let the chords ring out. Add a slight pause between the first and second beat of the measure to create a "stop-start" dynamic.

Pay close attention to the bridge section. Musically, the bridge often strips back to just vocals and a minimal instrumental bed. If you are playing solo, this is your chance to drop your strumming volume dramatically or switch to a gentle arpeggio. The **All The Right Moves chords** in the bridge typically revisit the verse progression but with a softer touch, allowing the lyrics to take center stage before the final explosive chorus.

Alternative Voicings and Capo Placement

While the capo-on-fourth-fret method is popular, it is not the only way to play this song. Some guitarists prefer to play it in the original key of C# minor without a capo. This requires extensive use of barre chords, specifically F#m (244222), C#m (x46654), and B (x24442). Playing without a capo gives the song a heavier, more rock-oriented

sound because the barre chords have a tighter, more compressed tone. However, this approach is significantly more taxing on the fretting hand and is not recommended for beginners.

A intermediate compromise is to place the capo on the second fret and play the chords in the key of B minor. The shapes would shift to become:

- Bm (x24432)
- Amaj7 (x02120)
- G (320033)
- D/F# (200232)

This places the song in a sweet spot where the chords are open and resonant, but the vocal key is slightly lower than the original recording. If you are a singer struggling to hit the high notes in the chorus, this capo placement might be your saving grace. Experiment with different capo positions to find the voicing that best suits your vocal range and playing style. The **All The Right Moves chords** are remarkably flexible, and a small adjustment in capo placement can drastically alter the mood of your performance.

Lyrics and Chord Alignment

Understanding where the chord changes land relative to the lyrics is crucial for a seamless performance. In the first verse, the lyrics "All the right moves, all the right moves" fall squarely on the Em and Cmaj7 changes. Note how the word "moves" lands on the Cmaj7 chord, creating a pleasing tension that resolves back to Em on the next phrase. This attention to detail is what separates a good cover from a great one.

The pre-chorus lyrics, "Do you know what you're doing?" sync with the ascending chord progression of C-D-Em. Each chord change corresponds to a new syllable, giving the line a stair-step melodic quality. When you perform this section, be careful not to rush. Allow each chord to breathe slightly before moving to the next. The song's emotional peak occurs in the final chorus, where Ryan Tedder’s vocal gymnastics are supported by the full band hitting the Em and C chords with maximum force.

Performance Tips for Solo Artists and Bands

If you are performing "All The Right Moves" as a solo acoustic act, you will need to compensate for the lack of a rhythm section. Use your guitar as both a harmonic and percussive instrument. The **All The Right Moves chords** should be played with a strong attack on the lower strings to mimic the kick drum. You can also use a looper pedal to record a basic strumming pattern and then play the melody or solo over the top.

For full bands, the guitar arrangement can be split into two parts. One guitarist plays the open chords with a capo, focusing on the strumming pattern, while the other guitarist plays a single-note motif or an arpeggio part higher up the neck. This dual-guitar approach was used in the original recording and creates a rich, layered sound. The bass player should follow the root notes of the chords, locking in with the kick drum on the downbeats. The drummer should pay particular attention to the contrast between the half-time verse feel and the driving eighth-note chorus.

The Song’s Legacy and Why It Endures

"All The Right Moves" was a pivotal track for OneRepublic. Following the massive success of "Apologize," the band needed to prove they were not a one-hit wonder. The song showcased their ability to blend pop melodies with rock instrumentation, a formula they would perfect on later albums. For musicians, the song remains a staple because it is both accessible and challenging. The basic **All The Right Moves chords** are easy enough for a beginner to

learn in an afternoon, but mastering the dynamics and rhythmic feel requires patience and practice.

In recent years, the song has seen a resurgence on platforms like TikTok and YouTube, where creators use it for covers, reaction videos, and guitar tutorials. This renewed interest has introduced the track to a new generation of players who are discovering the joy of playing music that is both emotionally resonant and technically rewarding. Understanding the chord progression is the first step toward connecting with the song's deeper themes of manipulation, desire, and the games people play in relationships.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

When learning this song, players often fall into a few specific traps. The most common mistake is rushing the verse. The half-time feel can be tricky to maintain, especially if you are playing alone without a metronome. Use a metronome set to a slow tempo (around 60-70 BPM) and practice the chord changes strictly on the beat before adding any strumming flair.

Another frequent error is neglecting the dynamics. Many beginners play the entire song with the same strumming intensity, which flattens the emotional arc. Remember that the verses are introspective and the choruses are explosive. Use your volume knob, your picking hand, and your vocal intensity to create contrast. If you are playing with a band, let the drums and bass carry the energy so that your guitar part can ebb and flow more freely. The **All The Right Moves chords** are a vehicle for emotion; do not be afraid to be dramatic with your pauses and accents.

Finally, some players struggle with the Cmaj7 chord shape. The open Cmaj7 (032000) requires you to mute the fifth string with your fingertip. If the chord sounds muddy, double-check that your third finger is not accidentally touching the A string. A clean Cmaj7 is essential for the song's

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