SOFTWARE & TECH

Here Comes The Sun Mandolin Tab

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Discovering the Sunshine Melody: An Introduction to Here Comes The Sun on Mandolin

There are few songs that evoke a sense of warmth, hope, and renewal quite like George Harrison's masterpiece, "Here Comes The Sun." Written during a period of personal and professional difficulty for the band, this track from **The Beatles**' iconic 1969 album Abbey Road has become a timeless anthem of optimism. While the original recording features a rich tapestry of acoustic and electric guitars, Mellotron, and percussion, the song's melodic structure lends itself beautifully to the bright, resonant voice of the mandolin. For musicians looking to capture its essence on a new instrument, finding the right version of the **Here Comes The Sun mandolin tab** is the first step toward unlocking a delightful playing experience. This article will explore the nuances of translating this classic tune to the mandolin, offering guidance on technique, interpretation, and the joy of playing one of the most beloved songs in popular music.

The Enduring Appeal of a Classic

Before diving into the technical aspects of the **mandolin tab** for "Here Comes The Sun," it is important to understand why this song has become such a staple for mandolin players. The melody is built around a simple yet powerful progression that moves from a dark, minor feel into a bright, major resolution. This mirrors the lyrical theme of emerging from a long, cold winter into the warmth of the sun. The mandolin, with its high-pitched, clear tone, is the perfect instrument to convey this transition. It cuts through the mix with a cheerful brightness that feels almost synonymous with the song's message. Whether you are a beginner looking for your first fingerpicking challenge or an experienced player seeking to add a classic to your repertoire, this tune offers a rewarding blend of simplicity and depth.

Understanding the Mandolin Tablature

For those new to reading **mandolin tablature**, it is a straightforward system that indicates which strings to play and where to place your fingers. Unlike standard musical notation, which shows pitch and rhythm on a staff, tablature uses lines to represent the instrument's strings. For a mandolin, which is tuned in fifths (G-D-A-E from low to high), the tablature consists of four lines. The top line represents the highest-pitched E string, while the bottom line represents the lowest-pitched G string. Numbers on these lines indicate the fret to press down on that string. A zero means playing the string open.

When searching for a **Here Comes The Sun mandolin tab**, you will typically find arrangements in the key of A major, the original key of the song. This key is comfortable for the mandolin, allowing for open strings and a ringing, resonant sound that is difficult to achieve in other keys. Most tabs will break the song down into distinct sections: the intro, the verse, the chorus, the bridge, and the instrumental solo.

The Intro: That Iconic Riff

The most recognizable part of the song is undoubtedly the descending guitar riff that opens the track. On the mandolin, this riff is both challenging and immensely satisfying to play. A typical **mandolin tab** for this section will highlight a walkdown pattern that moves from the A note down to the E, incorporating chromatic passing tones. To

capture the feel of the original, players should focus on using a combination of downstrokes and upstrokes with a light, bouncy attack. The rhythm is crucial here; it should feel relaxed and slightly swung, not rigid. An effective practice tip is to play the riff at a slow tempo with a metronome, gradually increasing speed while maintaining the clean separation of each note. Many tabs also suggest using hammer-ons and pull-offs to create a smoother, more legato sound, mimicking the fluid guitar work of George Harrison.

Mastering the Chord Progressions

While the single-note melody lines are important, the heart of the **Here Comes The Sun mandolin tab** lies in its chord structure. The song primarily uses three chords: A major, D major, and E major, with a notable shift to G major and A major in the bridge section. However, Harrison added subtle variations and slash chords (like A/C#) that give the song its unique harmonic color.

For the mandolin, these chords are quite accessible. An A major chord is played at the second fret, a D major uses the second and third frets on the higher strings, and an E major is played with open strings and a finger on the seventh fret of the G string. The real nuance comes in the strumming pattern. A simple down-down-up-up-down-up pattern works well, but to capture the song's gentle, walking feel, many players recommend a fingerstyle approach. You can pluck the bass notes (the lower strings) with your thumb while brushing the higher strings with your index and middle fingers. This hybrid picking technique is a staple of folk and bluegrass mandolin playing and brings a new dimension to this pop classic.

Step-by-Step Guide to Playing the Song

Let us break down the main sections of the song as they appear in a standard **mandolin tab**. Remember to focus on the feel first and the speed second.

The Verse: A Gentle Stroll

The verses of "Here Comes The Sun" are built around a repeating melodic phrase that outlines the A and D chords. In most **mandolin tabs**, the verse is played using a combination of arpeggiated chords and single-note runs. Start by placing your fingers for the A major chord and pluck the strings one at a time from the root note (A on the G string) upward to the high E. Then, move to the D major chord and repeat the pattern. The vocal melody can be echoed on the mandolin by playing the notes on the top two strings (A and E) while keeping the lower strings ringing. This creates a beautiful, harp-like effect. A common mistake is to play too loudly or too quickly; the verse should feel like a gentle conversation, not a race.

The Chorus: The Sun Breaks Through

When the chorus arrives, the energy lifts. The **mandolin tab** for this section usually involves fuller chords and a more definitive strumming pattern. The chord progression here moves from A to E to D and back to A. On the mandolin, this is incredibly effective because the open A and E strings ring out brightly. When you hit the D chord, you are creating a strong harmonic pull that resolves back to the tonic. To replicate the feeling of the original recording, try accenting the first beat of each measure with a strong downstroke. The words "Here comes the sun" should feel like a moment of relief and joy. If you are playing for yourself, you can sing along; if you are playing for an audience, the mandolin's clear tone will carry the melody even without vocals.

The Bridge: A Moment of Reflection

The bridge (the "Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter" section) introduces a slight change in feel. The rhythm becomes more defined, and the chords shift to include a G major. In the **mandolin tab**, this is often notated

with more syncopation. The G chord on the mandolin is played using the open G string and the D string at the second fret, which gives it a low, warm sound. This section is an excellent place to experiment with dynamics. Play the first half of the bridge slightly softer, then build intensity as the line repeats. The tab will likely indicate a return to the main riff at the end of the bridge, so be prepared to transition smoothly from strumming chords back to picking single notes.

Advanced Techniques for an Authentic Sound

Once you have mastered the basic **mandolin tab**for this song, you can begin to add your own flair. Here are a few advanced techniques to elevate your performance.

- Drones and Open Strings: One of the most beautiful aspects of playing "Here Comes The Sun" on the mandolin is the ability to use drone strings. Because the song is in A major, the open A and E strings can be allowed to ring out while you play the melody on the G and D strings. This creates a rich, resonant sound that is characteristic of Appalachian folk music, which heavily influenced the Beatles' acoustic sound. Look for a tab that highlights open strings wherever possible.
- Double Stops: A double stop is simply playing two strings at once. The song's melody occasionally suggests harmonies, and you can emulate this by adding a second note to certain phrases. For example, when playing the root note A on the G string, try adding the open A string above it. This creates a powerful, unison-like effect that thickens the sound.
- Crosspicking: This is a bluegrass technique where you use a strict pattern of down-up-down-up across the strings to create a rolling, banjo-like effect. While the original song does not use this technique, applying crosspicking to the chord sections of "Here Comes The Sun" can give your performance a unique, driving energy. It takes practice, but the result is stunning.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Every mandolin player hits roadblocks when learning a new piece. Here are a few common challenges specific to this song and how to address them.

1. The Fast Descending Riff: Many players struggle with the speed and accuracy of the opening riff. The best solution is to practice it in small chunks. Play the first three notes, then the next three, then the next three. Once you can play each chunk perfectly, gradually piece them together. Use a metronome and do not increase the speed until you can play the section without mistakes at the current tempo.
2. Smooth Chord Transitions: Moving from an A chord to a G chord can be tricky on the mandolin because the hand position changes significantly. Practice the transition slowly, focusing on moving your entire hand as a unit. Keep your fingers close to the fretboard to minimize unnecessary movement. Over time, the muscle memory will develop.
3. Keeping the Rhythm Bouncy: "Here Comes The Sun" has a subtle swing that is hard to capture. Listen to the original recording repeatedly, focusing on where George Harrison places his accents. Record yourself playing along and compare it to the track. You will likely notice moments where you are rushing or dragging. Adjust your internal metronome until it feels natural.

Why This Song is a Mandolin Repertoire Staple

Adding a solid arrangement of "Here Comes The Sun" to your setlist or practice routine offers several benefits. It is a universally recognized song that audiences love to hear. It provides an excellent workout for your picking hand and your fret hand, teaching you to combine chords, arpeggios, and single-note runs seamlessly. Furthermore, it is a fantastic song for jamming with other musicians. The chord progression is simple enough for a beginner to follow,

yet the melody offers plenty of room for improvisation and ornamentation for more advanced players. Whether you find a simple **mandolin tab**or a more complex arrangement with fingerpicking, this song will grow with you as a player.

Tips for Finding the Right Tab

Not all **mandolin tabs**are created equal. When searching for "Here Comes The Sun" tablature, consider the following:

- Look for user reviews: Other mandolinists often leave comments about the accuracy and difficulty of a tab. Look for tabs that have been rated highly by the community.
- Check for multiple sections: A good tab will include the intro, verse, chorus, bridge, and outro. It should also include the instrumental solo if you are interested in playing that part.
- Consider tab format: Some tabs include standard notation alongside the tablature, which is helpful for understanding the rhythm. If you are a beginner, look for tabs that include strumming patterns or picking directions.

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