

Can We Still Be Friends?

Words & Music:
Todd Rundgren

This was first covered by Robert Palmer, then Paolo Santos and there are a slew of chord variations out there as a result. So, I went to the Todd Rundgren source (trconnection.com) to find the originals. Both Palmer & Santos rely on the add9 versions of the chord (Fadd9 to Am for Palmer and Cadd9 to Em for Santos), but here is what was originally recorded for Rundgren's "Hermit" album. Even he changes it to E and re-harmonizes it for its "On With A Twist" re-recording. Playing notes are from L. Sprague, keeper of all things Todd Rundgren at trconnection.com.

(*1)

D/C G/C D/C G/C Em7 D/E Em7
We can't play this game anymore, but can we still be friends?
D/C G/C D/C C/C Em7 D/E Em7
Things just can't go on like before, but can we still be friends?
 C Bm7 Am7 D Gm7
We had something to learn, now it's time for the wheel to turn.
 C Bm7 A7sus4 A7 C/D D
Grains of sand, one by one, before you know-- it, all gone.

Let's admit we made a mistake, but can we still be friends?
Heartbreak's never easy to take, but can we still be friends?
It's a strange, sad affair; sometimes, seems like we just don't care.
Don't waste time feeling hurt, we've been through hell together.

INTERLUDE: (*2)

G/E D/E G/E D/E G/E D/E | D/B A/B D/B A/B D/B A/B
La la la la la la la la la | La la la la la la la la la

C/A G/A C/A G/A C/A G/A | G/D D G/D D G/C D/C
La la la la la la la la la | La la la la la la La la

[repeat INTERLUDE, except 4th section is as follows:]

G/D G/D D D
La la la la

INSTRUMENTAL HALF-VERSE:

[vocal fill after 1st line: "Can we still get together, sometime?"]
[vocal fill after 2nd line: "You know life will still go on & on & on"]
We awoke from our dream, things are not always what they seem.
Memories linger on, it's like a sweet, sad old song.

Playing Notes by L. Sprague:

(*1: Todd plays this on piano harmonizing the melody by alternating D and G triads with his right hand, while playing the C and E bass notes with his left. It's difficult to mimic this on guitar; my compromise is to not worry about keeping the melody note in the top of the triad, but just alternate the chords. Here is a line of tab showing the rhythm I use:)

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E--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
B--|7-8-87-7|-7-87-8-|8-7-7-87|----87--|
G--|7-7-77-7|-7-77-7-|7-7-7-77|----77--|
D--|7-9-97-7|-7-97-9-|9-7-7-97|----97--|
A--|-----|-----|7-7-7-77|----77--|
E--|8-8-88-8|-8-88-8-|-----|-----|
  
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We can't play this game anymore, but can we still be friends

D/C	G/C	Em7(G/E)	D/E
x	x		
7 1111	7 1111	7 11111	7 11111
2 1111	2 113	3 1111	3 1111
1111	4111	4 1111	4 1111
1111	1111	1111	1111

...something to	learn...	time for the wheel to	turn			
C	D/C	Bm7	Am7	D	Gmaj7	Em7
x		x x		x	x	ox o
3 11111	7 1111	72 333	52 333	5 1111	1 1111	1 1111
1111	2 1111	1111	1111	1111	1111	1111
333	1111	1111	1111	333	1 12	1111
1111	1111	1111	1111	1111	34	21
						31

...sand,	one by	one	... you know	it,	all	gone
C	D/C	Bm7	A7sus4	A7	C/D	D7
x		x x			x	x
3 11111	7 1111	72 333	5111111	5111111	5 11111	5 11111
1111	2 1111	1111	1111	1111	1111	1111
333	1111	1111	34	21	1111	34
1111	1111	1111	1111	1111	1111	1111

(*2 - this section changes meters in a clever way. The pattern is 2 bars of 3/4 time followed by one bar of 2/4 - very balletic!)

La la	la	
G/E	D/E	
x	x	
7 11111	7 11111	This pattern is moved to 2nd fret for D/B - A/B
1111	1111	then to the nut position for C/A - G/A
3111	1111	
1111	1111	

G/D	D	G/C	D/C
x xx	x xx	x	x x
1 1111	1 1111	7 222	7 222
1111	1111	2 113	2 1111
1111	1111	4111	1111
2111	2111	1111	1111
5 3411	5 3111		

This section is played twice; on repeat, the last line lapses back into 4/4 time and consists of 2 beats of G/D and 2 of D.)