

Hallelujah

Words & Music:
Leonard Cohen

This is transcribed in its original key of G, although most people know the John Cale version in C. (You can capo 5 to get there.) There is a terrific transcription of the Jeff Buckley version in the December 2007 issue of Acoustic Guitar. Another is in the July/August 2009 issue of Guitar Edge. It is worth learning.

Em7 G Em7 G Em7
Well, I heard there was a secret chord that David played, and it pleased the Lord.
C D G
But you don't really care for music, do you?
G C D Em C
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth, the minor fall, the major lift
D B7 Em
The baffled king composing "Hallelujah".

CHORUS:

D C Em C G D G
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelu----jah.

Your faith was strong but you needed proof; you saw her bathing on the roof.
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you.
She tied you to a kitchen chair, she broke your throne, and she cut your hair.
And from your lips she drew the "Hallelujah".

CHORUS:

Well, baby, I've been here before; I've seen this room and I've walked this floor.
You know, I used to live alone before I knew you.
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch but Love is not a victory march.
It's a cold and it's a broken "Hallelujah".

CHORUS:

Well, there was a time when you let me know what's really going on below.
But, now you never show that to me do you?
But remember when I moved in you and the holy dove was moving, too.
And every breath we drew was "Hallelujah".

CHORUS:

Well, maybe there's a God above; but all I've ever learned from love
Was how to shoot somebody who outdrew you.
And it's not a cry that you hear at night; it's not somebody who's seen the light.
It's a cold and it's a broken "Hallelujah".

CHORUS:

You say I took the name in vain; I don't even know the name.
But if I did, well, really, what's it to you?
There's a blaze of light in every word; it doesn't matter which you heard:
The holy or the broken "Hallelujah".

CHORUS:

I did my best, it wasn't much; I couldn't feel, so, I tried to touch.
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you.
And even though it all went wrong, I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue but "Hallelujah".

CHORUS: [2x]