

Time in a Bottle

Words and music by Jim Croce



Although Jim Croce was only 30 years old when he died in a plane crash in September 1973, his music lives on. "Time in a Bottle" (written for his son, musician Adrian James Croce) first appeared on the 1972 album *You Don't Mess Around with Jim*. Released as a single in the fall of 1973, it became a posthumous hit, reaching number one on the

Billboard charts.

Croce's intricate arrangements were based in part on the interplay between his guitar and the guitar of his close friend and accompanist, Maury Muehleisen, who often capoed to a higher position to complement Croce's part. This transcription features both guitar parts, with Muehleisen's guitar capoed at the fifth fret. The standard notation staves show notes at their actual pitches, but the tab numbers for

Muehleisen's part (Guitar 2) are written relative to the capo (for example, "1" denotes a string fretted just above the capo, on the sixth fret). If you don't have an accompanist, stick to Croce's part for a great solo arrangement.

The song opens on a Dm arpeggio with a descending bass line, as seen in measures 1-5. At the verse (measure 9), Croce alters his arpeggio pattern slightly, playing the first and second strings together. At measure 27, there's a key change to the parallel major (from D minor to D major), emphasizing the bittersweet lyric of the chorus. For the song's outro, Muehleisen plays open-string harmonics in measures 44, 46, and 48. To sound the harmonics, touch the fourth and fifth strings lightly at the seventh fret and play. Croce played the same pattern (minus the harmonics) holding a Dm9 chord at the sixth fret.

—CRAIG DOBBINS

Musical score for "Time in a Bottle" featuring two guitar parts.

Guitar 1 - Jim Croce

Chords: Dm, Dm/C#, Dm/C, G7/B

Guitar 2 - Maury Muehleisen (Capo V)

Chord: Gm6/Bb

The score includes standard notation and guitar tablature for both instruments across multiple systems.

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Dm **Dm/C#** **Dm/C** **G7/B** **Gm6/Bb**

If I could save time in a bot - tle, the first thing that

The first system of the musical score consists of five measures. The top staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "If I could save time in a bot - tle, the first thing that". The second staff is the guitar melody. The third and fourth staves are bass lines with fingerings. The fifth staff shows chord diagrams for Dm, Dm/C#, Dm/C, G7/B, and Gm6/Bb.

A7 **Dm** **Dm/C** **Gm6/Bb**

I'd like to do _____ is to save ev - ery day _____ 'til e - ter - ni - ty pas -

The second system of the musical score consists of five measures. The top staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "I'd like to do _____ is to save ev - ery day _____ 'til e - ter - ni - ty pas -". The second staff is the guitar melody. The third and fourth staves are bass lines with fingerings. The fifth staff shows chord diagrams for A7, Dm, Dm/C, and Gm6/Bb.

Gm6 Dm/F Gm6 A7 (Repeat first time only)

ses a - way just to spend them with you. If But there

Chorus D D/C# D/B D/A G6 Dsus9/F# Em7 A7

Never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do once you find them. I've

D.C. (first time only)

35 looked a round e-nough to know that you're the one I want to go through time with.

Outro

43

Guitar 2 (Capo V) Harm. Harm. Harm.

Dm Dm/C# Dm/C G7/B
1. If I could save time in a bottle

Gm6/B# A7
The first thing that I'd like to do

Dm Dm/C
Is to save every day

Gm6/B# Gm6 Dm/F
'Til eternity passes away

Gm6 A7
Just to spend them with you

Dm Dm/C# Dm/C G7/B
2. If I could make days last forever

Gm6/B# A7
If words could make wishes come true

Dm Dm/C Gm6/B# Gm6
I'd save every day like a treasure and then,

Dm/F Gm6 A7
Again, I would spend them with you

Chorus

D D/C#
But there never seems to be enough time

D/B D/A G6 Dsus2/F# Em7 A7
To do the things you want to do once you find them

D D/C#
I've looked around enough to know

D/B D/A G6 Dsus2/F# Em7 A7
That you're the one I want to go through time with

Dm Dm/C# Dm/C G7/B
3. If I had a box just for wishes

Gm6/B# A7
And dreams that had never come true

Dm Dm/C Gm6/B# Gm6
The box would be empty except for the memory

Dm/F Gm6 A7
Of how they were answered by you

Repeat Chorus

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INSTRUMENTS SOUND,
THE MORE EASILY
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