

# Losing My Religion

Words and music by Bill Berry, Peter Buck, Mike Mills, and Michael Stipe, from the R.E.M. recording *Out of Time*



"Before 'Losing My Religion,' R.E.M. was a large cult band touring ten months a year. Afterward, we were one of the biggest bands in the world," wrote Peter Buck in the liner notes for *In Time: The Best of R.E.M. 1993-2003*. Songs that have such an impact often write themselves. The music for "Losing My Religion" was written in five minutes, and Michael Stipe produced lyrics within the hour. "To me, 'Losing My Religion' feels like some kind of archetype

floating around in space that we managed to lasso. If only all songwriting was this easy," Buck wrote.

In this version, the guitar part is shown in chord diagrams above the notation. The riffs and lead lines played by the mandolin have been adapted for guitar. Play the parts as written and the notes will sound an octave lower than on the recording. To more closely emulate the mandolin, pick up a guitar with a cutaway, strap a capo on the 12th fret, and the lead lines will be in the same range as the mandolin parts on the recording. The added open E string helps emulate the double-stops played by stereo mandolin parts, occasionally mimicking the double-course sound of a mandolin with unison double-stops played at the fifth fret of the B string and the open E string.

—ANDREW DUBROCK

## Chords

Chord diagrams for F, G, Am, Em, and Dm.

### Intro

♩ = 126

Intro musical notation with chords F, G, Am, G and guitar tablature.

### Verse

Verse musical notation with chords Am, Em, Am, Em, Dm and lyrics: "is big-ger it's big-ger than you and you are not me The lengths that I will go to the dis-tance in your eyes Oh no I've said too much"

### Chorus

Chorus musical notation with chords G, Am, Em, Am, Em and lyrics: "I set it up That's me in the cor-ner That's me in the spot light los-ing my re-li-gion Trying to keep up with you And I don't know if I can do it Oh no I've"

© 1991 NIGHT GARDEN MUSIC (BMI). ALL RIGHTS FOR NIGHT GARDEN MUSIC ADMINISTERED BY WARNER-TAMERLANE PUBLISHING CORP. (BMI). REPRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER AND ALFRED PUBLISHING CO., INC.

Dm

G

F

34 said too much I have-n't said e-nough I thought that I heard you laugh-ing I

G

A<sub>m</sub>

F

G

To Coda ⊕

A<sub>m</sub>

G

40 thought that I heard you sing I think I thought I saw you try 2.Ev-er-y whis-

A<sub>m</sub>

G

F

G

47

C

D<sub>m</sub>

C

D<sub>m</sub>

D.S. al Coda

51 That was just a dream that was just a dream That's me in the cor-

⊕ Coda

F

G

A<sub>m</sub>

55 But that was just a dream try cry why try

F

G

A<sub>m</sub>

G

60 That was just a dream just a dream just a dream dream

A<sub>m</sub>

play three times

64

© 1991 NIGHT GARDEN MUSIC (BMI). ALL RIGHTS FOR NIGHT GARDEN MUSIC ADMINISTERED BY WARNER-TAMERLANE PUBLISHING CORP. (BMI). REPRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER AND ALFRED PUBLISHING CO., INC.