

Melissa

Words and music by Gregg Allman and Steve Alaimo



The Allman Brothers released *Eat A Peach* in 1972, shortly after Duane Allman's tragic death in a motorcycle accident. Gregg Allman's mournful vocals on the third track, "Melissa," hint at the pain he was going through after losing his brother, and some of what he felt may be reflected within the veiled lyrics of the song.

Try strumming the first pattern below at the beginning of the song. Allman picks up the pace as the song builds momentum, often playing busier strumming patterns,

like the second one shown. Try both of these patterns, and come up with your own variations to keep the song fresh. On the Bridge, Allman bars the C[#]m chord, and you can do the same, if you like. If you like the open-E string sound that Allman plays on the C[#]m chord in the verses, keep using that one. If you're missing the bass part over those open-string chords in the first half of each verse, try substituting the chords from the fourth line of each verse—the F[#]m11 and G[#]m(11) chords—for extra bass movement.

—ANDREW DUBROCK

Chords

Strum Patterns

1. **E** **F#m11/E** **Emaj7** **F#m11/E**
 Crossroads seem to come and go

E **F#m11/E**
 The gypsy flies from coast to coast

A **Bm(add4)** **C#m** **D6(9)**
 Knowing many, loving none

E **F#m11** **G#m(11)** **Aadd9**
 Bearing sorrow, having fun

Cmaj7 **B**
 But back home he'll always run

E **F#m11/E** **Emaj7** **F#m11/E**
 To sweet Melissa

2. **E** **F#m11/E** **Emaj7** **F#m11/E**
 Freight train, each car looks the same, all the same

E **F#m11/E**
 And no one knows the gypsy's name

A **Bm(add4)** **C#m** **D6(9)**
 And no one hears his lonely sigh

E **F#m11** **G#m(11)** **Aadd9**
 There are no blankets where he lies

Cmaj7 **B**
 And only in the deepest dreams the gypsy flies

E **F#m11/E** **Emaj7** **F#m11/E**
 With sweet Melissa

Bridge

E **D**
 Again the morning's come, again he's on the run

A **B**
 Sunbeams shining through his hair, appearing not to have a care

C#m **A**
 Well, pick up your gear and, gypsy, roll on

B
 Roll on

3. **E** **F#m11/E** **Emaj7** **F#m11/E**
 Crossroads, will you ever let him go

E **F#m11/E**
 Or will you hide the dead man's ghost

A **Bm(add4)** **C#m** **D6(9)**
 Or will he lie beneath the plains

E **F#m11** **G#m(11)** **Aadd9**
 Or will his spirit fall away

Cmaj7 **B**
 But I know that he won't stay

E **F#m11/E**
 Without Melissa

Cmaj7 **B**
 Yes I know that he won't stay

E **F#m11/E** **Emaj7** **F#m11/E**
 Without Melissa