

# Mrs. Robinson

Words and music by Paul Simon, from *Bookends*



Though "Mrs. Robinson" won two Grammys and was a huge hit for Simon and Garfunkel, Paul Simon initially wanted to scrap the song. It was only at director Mike Nichols's insistence that the song initially came to life in the soundtrack to the movie *The Graduate*. In its initial form, "Mrs. Robinson" was spare on lyrics. It wasn't until its inclusion on *Bookends*

in March 1968 that Simon filled out the lyrics and the song turned into the familiar version most people know.

Simon strummed huge chords on a 12-string guitar with a capo on the second fret. If you have trouble grabbing the D/F<sup>♯</sup>, D7/F<sup>♯</sup>, or C/G chords, just play standard D, D7, and C chords, respectively. At the beginning of each verse, Simon strums

only the open E string (labeled as an E chord in the chart below). Because 12-string guitars have octave pairs on the lowest four strings, you hear E octaves here, instead of just one note. He punctuates the end of each verse's first line with a big E7 chord before moving on to A7. Notice how he also jumps to those E octaves after the Am chord in the second-to-last line of each verse. When you're singing solo, you may want to keep strumming an Am chord here, depending on how this sounds to you. If you're playing with other guitarists, one person can try the opening riff below, while the other plays rhythm.

—ANDREW DUBROCK

## Chords, Capo II

<b>G</b> 320004	<b>Em</b> 023000	<b>C/G</b> 342010	<b>D/F<sup>♯</sup></b> T00132	<b>Am</b> x02310
<b>E</b> 0xxxxx	<b>E7</b> 020100	<b>A7</b> x01030	<b>D7/F<sup>♯</sup></b> T00213	<b>C/B</b> x20010

**G** **Strum Pattern** **E** **Riff**

320004      0xxxxx

♩ = 176