

## "Owner of a Lonely Heart"

# Yes

The British progressive rock band Yes was formed in 1968, and though they had a string of AOR hits like "Roundabout" and "Long Distance Runaround," it wasn't until 1983, with the release of "Owner of a Lonely Heart" (from *90125*), that Yes finally reached the top of the charts. The band's most recent member at the time, guitarist Trevor Rabin, was the song's primary architect; he wrote everything from the aggressive riffs to the warped guitar solo—all transcribed here for your benefit.

### THE TONALITY AND RHYTHM WORK

"Owner of a Lonely Heart" contains several different key centers. The intro, verses, and choruses are all in A Dorian—which can be seen as the same as A minor, but with a raised sixth (F#). (Since *Guitar Edge* eschews modal key signatures, the transcription is written in A minor.) For more on the Dorian mode, see this month's Riff Notes for Opeth's "Windowpane," on page 68. The bridges, meanwhile, modulate to the parallel (sharing the same root note) key of A major, and in the outro the song modulates again, to the key of F major.

One of the song's main parts, Rhy. Fig. 1 is simple enough—just power chords, all fingered, lowest note to highest, 1–3–4 or 1–3–3. Where you see rests, be sure to silence the strings with either your pick hand or fret hand. In bar 12, Rhy. Fig. 1 is joined by a cool arpeggiated figure, Riff A (Gtr. 2), based on the chord shapes diagrammed in **Fig. 1**. (Note that in the transcription, the chord symbols above Riff A refer to Gtr. 1's part.) In the sixth page's interlude, Riff A is complemented by a slightly different, open-position version of itself using the grips shown in **Fig. 1A**. (The symbols in the transcription represent the harmony implied by both guitars.) Play through both sets of chords and compare the contrasting timbres between the two A7sus4 chords.

FIG. 1

FIG. 1A

### THE SOLO

The harmonized solo kicks off in the A minor pentatonic scale, shown in 5th position in **Fig. 2**. To play the scale in a higher position, as Rabin does later in the solo, simply move each note up 12 frets. In bars 7–8 of the solo, the sets of three slanted lines in notation and tab call for tremolo picking. Where you see this indication, pick rapidly and evenly in alternating strokes. In the eighth bar, a separate guitar plays unison bends—a lower note is bent up to match the pitch of a higher note on an adjacent string. In these bends, fret each higher note with your first finger, and each lower note with either your third or fourth finger reinforced by your other fingers.

FIG. 2

### DIAL TONE

**What He Used:** At the time "Owner of a Lonely Heart" was recorded, Rabin's main axe was a heavily modified 1960s Fender Stratocaster that featured stacked humbucking pickups and Schaller tuners. He used the Ampeg VT-120 amplifier in conjunction with a Boss distortion pedal and an MXR Pitch Transposer. For the chorusing in the clean parts, Rabin used either an MXR or a Boss chorus pedal.

**How to Get the Sound:** For starters, you'll want to use a Fender Strat or similar guitar, loaded with humbucking pickups, plugged into a clean tube amp. For the clean parts, set your bass, middle, and treble to around 5, 8, and 7, and use a medium amount of chorus effect. If you want to convincingly recreate the solo, you'll need an electronic harmonizer that can produce two different harmony notes (octave below and 5th above), along with a fair amount of gain, probably around 6, from either your amp or a distortion pedal such as the Boss DS-1. (For more in-depth discussion on getting the sound, see this month's Dial Tone column on page 30.)



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- Get more Yes guitar tabs at [guitarinstructor.com](http://guitarinstructor.com)
- Get the *Yes Guitar Anthology* guitar tab book from [musicdispatch.com](http://musicdispatch.com)
- Get Trevor Rabin's instructional DVD from [musicdispatch.com](http://musicdispatch.com)
- Download "Owner of a Lonely Heart" from iTunes
- Learn more about the humbucker-equipped Fender HSS Strat at [fender.com](http://fender.com)
- Check out the Digitech HarmonyMan pitch transposer at [digitech.com](http://digitech.com)



# Owner of a Lonely Heart

Words and Music by Trevor Horn, Jon Anderson, Trevor Rabin and Chris Squire  
from Yes - 90125

Guitar - Trevor Rabin

Intro

Moderately ♩ = 125

(Drums) Gtr. 1 (dist.)

A5 B5/F# C5/G D5 A5 B5/F# C5/G D5 G5

mf w/ EQ filter P.M. P.M. ---

A5 B5/F# C5/G D5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Rhy. Fig. 1 End Rhy. Fig. 1

w/ chorus EQ filter off P.M.

A5 B5 C5 D5 D7(no3rd) G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1

Riff A End Riff A

Gtr. 2 (clean) mf \*\*w/ octaver & chorus P.M. ---

\*Synth. cue \*\*Octaver set for 1 octave above.

Verse

Gtr. 2: w/ Riff A (7 1/2 times)

\*\*\*A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

1. Move your-self, you al-ways live your life, nev-er think-ing of the fu-ture.

\*\*\*Chord symbols implied by bass, next 24 meas.

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5

Prove your-self, you are the move you make. Take your chanc-es, win or los-

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# OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5

Gtr. 3 tacet

- er. See your - self, you are the steps you take. You and you, and that's the on -

Gtr. 3 (clean)

*mf*  
\*w/ delay

7 7 5 5 7

\*Set for eighth-note regeneration w/ 1 repeat.

G5 A5 D7(no3rd) B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5

ly way. Shake, shake your-self, you're ev - 'ry move you make, so the sto - ry goes, -

## Chorus

G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. Own - er of a lone - ly heart. (Oo, -

Gtr. 2: w/ Riff B (2 times)  
Gtr. 4: w/ Riff B1 (3 times)

Gtr. 3

Riff C

w/ chorus  
Harm. ----- 4

12 7 12 7 12

End Riff C

Gtr. 4 (clean)

Riff B1

End Riff B1

*mf*  
w/ chorus & reverb

1 0 3

Fill 1 End Fill 1 Riff B End Riff B

Gtr. 2

P.M. ----- 4

let ring ----- 4

7 7 10 7 7 0 3 0 3 0 0

10 10 10



# OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

Gtr. 3: w/ Riff C (1 1/2 times)

G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

much bet - ter than a... Own - er of a bro - ken heart.

A5

B5 C5

D5

G5

Gtr. 3 tacet

D7(no3rd)

Own - er of a lone - ly heart.

Gtr. 3

8va - - - - -

Harm. - - - - -

dim.

(12)

7

5

Pitch: B

## Verse

Gtr. 2: w/ Riff A (7 1/2 times)

A5

B5

C5

D5

G5

A5

B5

C5

D5

\*G5

2. Say you don't want to chance it, you've been hurt so be - fore.

Gtr. 1 Rhy. Fig. 2

End Rhy. Fig. 2

P.M.

\*Chord implied by bass.

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2 (2 times)

A5

B5

C5

D5

G5

A5

B5

C5

D5

Watch it, now, the ea - gle in the sky, how he danc - in' one and on - ly.

A5

D7(no3rd)

B5

C5

D5

G5

A5

B5

C5

D5

You lose your-self, no, not for pit - y's sake. There's no real rea - son to be lone - ly.

A5

B5

C5

D5

G5

A5

B5

C5

D5

Gtr. 2: w/ Fill 1 G5

Be your - self, give your free will a chance. You've got to want to suc - ceed.

Gtr. 1

P.M. P.M.



# OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

## Chorus

Gtrs. 2 & 4: w/ Riffs B & B1 (3 times)

Gtr. 3: w/ Riff C (2 1/2 times)

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_

G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

\_\_\_ much bet - ter than a...)

Own - er of a bro - ken heart. \_\_\_

A5 B5 C5 D5 A Bridge C/A G/A

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_

Gtr. 3 Rhy. Fig. 3 End Rhy. Fig. 3

Gtr. 4 Rhy. Fig. 4 End Rhy. Fig. 4

Gtr. 4: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4 (5 times) A C/A G/A

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_

Gtr. 3 Rhy. Fig. 5 End Rhy. Fig. 5

Gtr. 3: w/ Rhy. Fig. 5 (3 1/2 times) A C/A G/A A C/A G/A

Af - ter my own in - de - ci - sion they con - fused me so. My love said, \_\_\_

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_



## OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

A C/A G/A A  
 "Nev - er ques - tion your will at all." In the end you've got to go, look  
 Own -  
 C/A G/A Am7add4 G#13  
 be - fore you leap, and don't you hes - i - tate at all, no, no.  
 - er of a lone - ly heart.  
 Gtr. 3 \*Gtr. 5  
 dim. Gtr. 3 divisi  
 8 10 X X 7 X X 7 X X 7  
 10 X X 9 X X 9 X X 9

Breakdown  
N.C.

**Breakdown**

N.C. G#13 N.C. G#13 N.C. G#13 E13 F13 F#13 G13 G#13

Yow! Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,

Gtr. 5

4 unch 4 4 unch 4 0-1-2-3 1-2-3-4 2-3-4-5 3-4-5-6 4-5-6-7

### Guitar Solo

**Guitar Solo**

Gtr. 5 tacet

A13    \*\*B5 C5 D5    G5    A5    B5 C5 D5    G5

yow!

Gtr. 6 (dist.)

*f*    \*\*\*w/ harmonizer    let ring -----

Gtr. 5    \*\*\*Set to harmonize one octave below and a fifth above.

The image shows a musical score for a guitar solo. It consists of three staves. The top staff is for Gtr. 5, which is tacet. The middle staff is for Gtr. 6 (dist.), which plays a series of notes and chords, including a full bar rest. The bottom staff is for Gtr. 5, which plays a series of notes and chords, including a full bar rest. The score includes various musical notations such as chords, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.



# OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

A5 B5 C5 D5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 F#5 G5

Gtr. 6

8va

loco

grad. release

1 (10) 8 10 22 22 22 22 (22) 2 3

Gtr. 7 (dist.)

mf

12 15 8 11 7 10 5 8

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Gtr. 7 tacet

1/2 (4) (4) 2 6 7 10 8 X 10 (10) 8 10 8 10 9 (9) 0 (0) +1

\*Depress string behind nut.

(0) (0)

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Gtr. 6

8va

P.M.

(0) (0) 14 12 14 12 (12) (12) 20 (20) 17 20 17 20 19 20 19 17 20 17 20 17 17 19 17 19 17 (17)

## Interlude

Gtr. 2: w/ Riff A (3 1/2 times)  
Gtr. 6 tacet

\*\*A7sus4 Dsus4 D5 A7sus4 Dsus4 D5

Gtr. 4

let ring

3 0 3 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 0 3 0 3 2 0 3 2 0

\*\*Chord symbols reflect implied harmony.



# OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

A7sus4 Dsus4 D5 A7sus4 Gtr. 2: w/ Fill 1 Dsus4 D5

let ring - - - - - let ring - - - - - let ring - - - - - let ring - - - - -

## Chorus

Gtrs. 2 & 4: w/ Riffs B & B1 (7 1/2 times) Gtr. 3: w/ Riff C (6 1/2 times)

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_\_ Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_\_  
(Oo, \_\_\_\_ much bet - ter than a...)

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Own - er of a bro - ken heart. \_\_\_\_ Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_\_

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 A5 B5 C5 D5 G5

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_\_ Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_\_\_\_  
(Oo, \_\_\_\_ much bet - ter than a...) \_

A5 B5 C5 D5 G5 Gtr. 3: w/ Rhy. Fig. 3 A5 B5 C5 D5 A

Own - er of a bro - ken heart. \_\_\_\_ Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_

## Outro-Bridge

Gtr. 4: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4 (6 times) A C/A G/A Gtr. 3: w/ Rhy. Fig. 5 (5 times) A C/A G/A

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_

A C/A G/A A C/A G/A

Soon - er or lat - er each con - clu - sion will de - cide the lone - ly heart.

Own - er of a lone - ly heart. \_