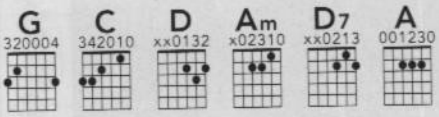
Ripple

Words and music by Jerome Garcia and Robert Hunter, from *American Beauty*

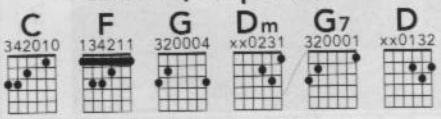
"Ripple" appeared on the Grateful Dead's sixth release *American Beauty*. Penned by Jerry Garcia and Robert Hunter, the song pairs Hunter's philosophical musings with Garcia's laid-back, rootsy grooves.

On the recording, one guitar kicks things off with a riff in the left channel; this part is played in the key of G in root position. Throughout the course of the song, another guitar plays in the right channel, with a capo on the seventh fret. Both parts play embellishments for each chord shape, but we've represented the basic shapes for each one below, so you can play the song in two places. This comes in handy at jams: When everyone else plays the song in G down at the nut, try playing along in C with a capo on the seventh fret, and you'll add something different to the mix. Over the lyrics, the bottom set of chords refers to shapes played in root position. The chords above (in parentheses) refer to chords played with a capo on the seventh fret. Try the alternate-bass strumming pattern below for either part.

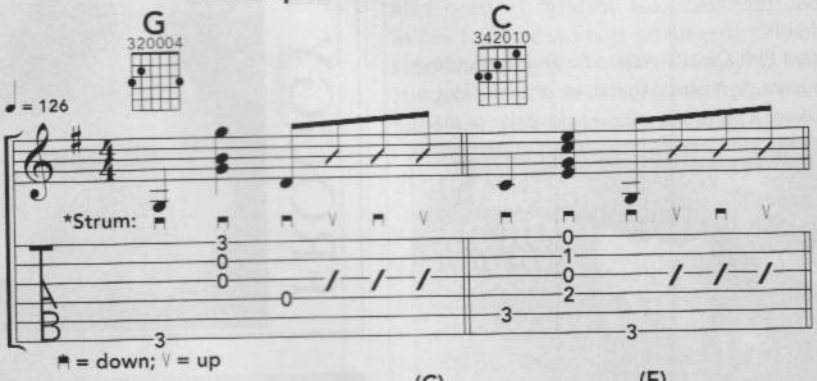
Chords, No Capo



Chords, Capo VII



Strumming Pattern



(C) (F)
G C
1. If my words did glow with the gold of sunshine
(C)
G
And my tunes were played on the harp unstrung
(F)
C
Would you hear my voice come through the music?
(C) (G) (F) (C)
G D C G
Would you hold it near as it were your own?

(C) (F)
G C
2. It's a hand-me-down, the thoughts are broken
(C)
G
Perhaps they're better left unsung
(F)
C
I don't know, don't really care
(C) (G) (F) (C)
G D C G
Let there be songs to fill the air

Chorus
(Dm) (G7)
Am D7
Ripple in still water
(C) (F) (D) (G)
G C A D
When there is no pebble tossed, nor wind to blow

(C) (F)
G C
3. Reach out your hand, if your cup be empty
(C)
G
If your cup is full, may it be again
(F)
C
Let it be known there is a fountain
(C) (G) (F) (C)
G D C G
That was not made by the hands of man

(C) (F)
G C
4. There is a road, no simple highway
(C)
G
Between the dawn and the dark of night
(F)
C
And if you go, no one may follow
(C) (G) (F) (C)
G D C G
That path is for your steps alone

Repeat Chorus

(C) (F)
G C
4. You who choose to lead must follow
(C)
G
But if you fall, you fall alone
(F)
C
If you should stand, then who's to guide you?
(C) (G) (F) (C)
G D C G
If I knew the way, I would take you home