

She's Not There

Words and Music by Rod Argent



The Zombies are one of the great what-ifs of pop music. Not exactly a one-hit wonder, the British Invasion band went to No. 2 in the US with "She's Not There" in 1964 and followed up in 1965 with "Tell Her No." They subsequently issued a string of failed singles and broke up in 1967, but two years later "Time of the Season," from their last album, became a huge hit. By then, various members were already involved in other bands and declined to reunite.

I included my own arrangement of "She's Not There" on my recent solo instrumental CD, *David Hamburger Plays Blues, Ballads and a Pop Song*. After my first attempts in A minor, I tried using open-G tuning (D G D G B D) to arrange the song in the key of G minor, using the open G on the fifth string as a pedal throughout most of the verse and prechorus. While A minor wasn't a bad choice, I liked the way the C/G and Cm/G (in the prechorus) sounded in open G, the way certain notes in the melody could ring out against each other during the verse, and the fact that I could use hammer-ons and pull-offs to and from the root in the melody.

To convey the straight-eighth note rock feel of the original tune, I arranged "She's Not There" using the steady-thumb or "dead-thumb" style more commonly found in the country-blues playing of guitarists like Mance Lipscomb and Lightnin' Hopkins.

You might try attacking this arrangement from two angles at once. First, look at things "horizontally," in terms of the melody: Leave out the thumb notes and play through whatever's left, paying attention to how your picking fingers sometimes grab two or three notes simultaneously and at other times roll through, or arpeggiate, the notes of a chord. At the same time, try to notice where you need to hammer on or pull off with your fretting hand (in measure 9, for instance, you need to hammer on two notes at once, on the fourth and third strings).

Second, look at things "vertically," noticing how the various finger moves line up with the constant quarter notes of the thumb bass. Take just one measure at a time and map things out beat by beat. You'll find that as the thumb ticks away the beats "1, 2, 3, 4," everything your fingers do is either with the thumb (on the beat) or not with the thumb (off the beat, on the "and" of 1, 2, 3, or 4).

Switching back and forth between these two approaches while concentrating on just one section of the song at a time should really help you get some of the more syncopated parts of this arrangement under your fingers as quickly as possible.

—DAVID HAMBURGER

Tuning: D G D G B D

Intro Gm7 C7/G Gm7

C7/G

Gm7 C7/G Gm7

C7/G

Gm7 C7/G

Verse

Gm7 C7/G

Gm7 C7/G Gm7

Gm7 C7/G

Gm7 C7/G

Gm7 Eb

Gm7 C7/G

Gm7 C7/G

Gm7 C9/G

Gm7 Eb

Gm7

G7#9/B

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Pre Chorus

C/G C^m/G G^m7 D^m G^m7 G⁷#9/B C/G C^m/G G^m7 D

1. 2. Chorus G^m/D C/E G^m/D E^b

G^m/D C/E G^m/D C^m/E^b G^m/D C/E G/D G^m7 C⁷/G G^m7

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34 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7

40 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C9/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7

46 C9/G Gm7 C7/G Gm7

⊕ Coda Gm/D C/E

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Chords:

Verse

Pre Chorus

Chorus

1. Well no one told me about her, the way she lied
 Her voice was soft and cool

Well no one told me about her, how many people cried
 Her eyes were clear and bright but she's not there

But it's too late to say you're sorry
 How would I know, why should I care?

Please don't bother trying to find her, she's not there

2. Well no one told me about her, what could I do?
 Well no one told me about her, though they all knew
 But it's too late to say you're sorry

Chorus

Well let me tell you 'bout the way she looked
 The way she acted and the color of her hair

How would I know, why should I care?
 Please don't bother trying to find her, she's not there

Repeat Chorus, Keyboard Solo, Repeat Pre Chorus and Chorus