

Sunny

Words and music by Bobby Hebb



"Sunny," an enormous hit in 1966 for its composer, guitarist/vocalist Bobby Hebb, is one of the most recorded pop tunes in history. The song's spare but striking melody, jazzy chord progression, and heartfelt, upbeat lyrics have inspired hundreds of interpreters, ranging from disco/funk band Boney M. to Frank Sinatra and the Duke Ellington Orchestra. It is also effective as a solo guitar arrangement and can be played using basic chords mainly in first position.

Nothing says "the 1960s" like the main riff from the James Bond theme, which appears between the first and second verses in the original version of "Sunny." In this arrangement, I've used this riff to bridge all the verses as well as for the intro and outro. Originally, "Sunny" had several key modulations; here, the piece modu-

lates once, from Em to Am at bar 23. While the Em section uses mostly standard first-position chords, the Am section is slightly more challenging. Between bars 31 and 35, I've replaced the original chords with an arpeggio played over a descending bass line. This is an example of cross-string playing in which the right hand picks out the melody from a static chord form that combines open and fretted notes. Accent where indicated to bring out the melody, and follow the suggested fingering, particularly where the pinky frets notes in the bass line.

In bar 40, a fragment of the melody jumps an octave. Practice this jump and the following bar slowly until the jump is smooth. To give the tune a real '60s pop feel, repeat bars 41-42 several times while fading into silence. Or, if you prefer, end on the Am at bar 43.

—RON FORBES-ROBERTS

Intro
N.C. (no chord)

Verse
Em G7

Cmaj7 F#m7 B7 Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m7 B7

Em G Cmaj7 Cm F#m7

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1. **B7** **Em** **N.C. (no chord)** 2. **Em** **E7**

Verse
Am **C7** **Fmaj7** **Bm7** **E** **Am** **C7**

Fmaj7 **Bm7** **E** **Am** **Am/G#** **Am/G**

Am/F# **Fmaj7** **E7#5** **Am** **N.C. (no chord)** **Am** **N.C. (no chord)**

Am $\frac{1}{2} B V$ **Am** $\frac{1}{2} B V$ **Am** $\frac{1}{2} B V$

Verse

Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m7 B7 Em G7

46 Sun - ny yes - ter - day my life was filled with rain Sun - ny you smiled at me and

Cmaj7 F#m7 B7 Em G Cmaj7

52 real - ly eased the pain Now the dark days are gone and the bright days are here My sun - ny one shines

Cm F#m7 B7 Em

57 so sin - cere Sun - ny one so true I love you

Chords:

Em 023000	G7 320001	Cmaj7 x32000	F#m7 2x3333	B7 x21304	G 320004	Cm x13421
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1. Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, yesterday my life was filled with rain

Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, you smiled at me and really eased the pain

Em G
Now the dark days are done and the bright days are here

Cmaj7 Cm
My sunny one shines so sincere

F#m B7 Em
Sunny one so true, I love you

2. Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, thank you for the sunshine bouquet

Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, thank you for the love you brought my way

Em G
You gave to me your all and all

Cmaj7 Cm
And now I feel ten feet tall

F#m B7 Em
Sunny one so true, I love you

3. Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, thank you for the truth you let me see

Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, thank you for the facts from A to Z

Em G
My life was torn like wind-blown sand

Cmaj7 Cm
Then a rock was formed when we held hands

F#m B7 Em
Sunny one so true, I love you

4. Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, thank you for that smile upon your face

Em G7 Cmaj7 F#m B7
Sunny, thank you for that gleam that flows with grace

Em G
You're my spark of nature's fire

Cmaj7 Cm
You're my sweet complete desire

F#m B7 Em
Sunny one so true, yes, I love you