If I Only Had A Brain
(Scarecrow verse)

Words & Music:
E.Y. Harburg & Harold Arlen (1939)

There is a transcription of the Laurence Juber arrangement of this classic tune. He uses open D tuning (D A D G A D), but I have given the basic chords here, courtesy of Jumbo Jim.

D7      G      Am7      Bm7      C
I could while away the hours conferrin' with the flowers,
   G      Am7      Bm    Bbm7
Consulting with the rain.

C  C/B    Am7      Am7/G    D
D/C    D/B
And my head I'd be a scratchin' while my thoughts were busy hatchin'
D7    G      Am7      Bm7    D9    D7
If I only had a brain.

I'd unravel ev'ry riddle for any individdle
In trouble or in pain.
With the thoughts that I'd be thinkin', I could be another Lincoln
If I only had a brain.

BRIDGE:
C  Cdim     Bm7-5 E7    Am7    Dm7  D7    G    G/F#    Em
Oh, I----- could tell you why----- the ocean's near the shore.
F#m7     B7    Em    B+
I could think of things I'd never thunk before.
A7    D    D7
And then I'd sit and think some more.

I would not be just a nuffin', my head all full of stuffin',
My heart all full of pain.

C  C/B    Am7    Am7/G    D    D/C    D/B
And perhaps I'd deserve you and be even worthy erv you ["of you"]
D7    G      Am7    Bm7    Am7    G
If I only had a brain.
"If I Only Had A Heart" (Tin Man) verse:
When a man's an empty kettle, he should be on his mettle
And yet I'm torn apart
Just because I'm presumin' that I could be kinda human
If I only had a heart.

I'd be tender, I'd be gentle and awful sentimental
Regarding love and art
I'd be friends with the sparrows and the boy who shoots the arrows,
If I only had a heart.

Picture me..., a balcony..., above a voice sings low:
"Wherefore art thou, Romeo?: I hear a beat. How sweet!

Just to register emotion: "jealousy," "devotion"
And really feel the part.
I could stay young and chipper and I'd lock it with a zipper
If I only had a heart.

"If I Only Had The Nerve" (Cowardly Lion) verse:
Yeah, it's sad, believe me missy, when you're born to be a sissy,
Without the vim and verve.
But I could show my prowess, be a lion not a mowess,
If I only had the nerve

I'm afraid there's no denyin' I'm just a dandelion
A fate I don't deserve.
I'd be brave as a blizzard...
TIN MAN: I'd be gentle as a lizard...
SCARECROW: I'd be clever as a gizzard...
DOROTHY: If the Wizard is a wizard who will serve.
SCARECROW: Then I'm sure to get a brain...
TIN MAN: ... a heart
DOROTHY: a home
LION: the nerve!

[segues to "We're Off To See The Wizard"]