

Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard

Words and Music by Paul Simon



"Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard" appears on Paul Simon's self-titled 1972 release, his first album after splitting with Art Garfunkel. Simon's prodigious songwriting talents made the musical transition seamless; he began constructing tunes and styles better suited to his own voice than Garfunkel's angelic tenor.

Simon starts the song with a syncopated A-Bm-A-E chord progression up the neck (shown below), and it quickly morphs into an A-D-A-E

progression down at the nut. To re-create the driving feel on the record, make sure to keep your picking hand strumming constantly to keep you in the groove. For the X's in tab and notation (often called *scratch rhythms*), lift your fretting-hand fingers just enough that they're damping the strings, and keep that constant strumming going. A second guitar (David Spinozza) enters near the beginning of the song and strums small chord shapes up the neck throughout (similar to the shapes in the intro riff). After the second chorus, Simon repeats the A-D-A-E progression and fades out.

—ANDREW DUBROCK

Chords

A x01230	D xx0132	E 023100	B7 x21304
G 320004	A⁽²⁾ xxx211 5 fr.	Bm xxx111 7 fr.	E⁽²⁾ xxx132

Intro Riff

A⁽²⁾ Bm A⁽²⁾ E⁽²⁾ A

Strum Pattern

A

*♩ = down; ♪ = up

<h3>Intro</h3> <p>A⁽²⁾ Bm A⁽²⁾ E⁽²⁾ A⁽²⁾ Bm A⁽²⁾ E⁽²⁾ A⁽²⁾ Bm A⁽²⁾ E⁽²⁾ A⁽²⁾ Bm A⁽²⁾ E⁽²⁾ A D A E A D A E A D A E</p>	<h3>Chorus</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">D A</p> <p>Well I'm on my way, I don't know where I'm going</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D A B7 E</p> <p>I'm on my way, I'm taking my time but I don't know where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D G A</p> <p>Goodbye to Rosie, the queen of Corona</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A G D E A D A E</p> <p>See me and Julio down by the schoolyard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A G D E A D A E</p> <p>See me and Julio down by the schoolyard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>3. Whoa, in a couple of days they come and take me away</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>But the press let the story leak</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>Now when the radical priest come to get me released</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>We was all on the cover of Newsweek</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Repeat Chorus</p> <p>(And I'm on my way...)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A G D E A D A E</p> <p>See me and Julio down by the schoolyard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Repeat last four chords and fade</p>
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1. The mama pajama rolled out of bed
 And she ran to the police station
 When the papa found out he began to shout
 And he started the investigation
 It's against the law, it was against the law
 What the mama saw, it was against the law
2. The mama looked down and spit on the ground
 Every time my name gets mentioned
 The papa said, "Oy, if I get that boy
 I'm gonna stick him in the house of detention"

3. Whoa, in a couple of days they come and take me away
 But the press let the story leak
 Now when the radical priest come to get me released
 We was all on the cover of Newsweek
- Repeat Chorus
 (And I'm on my way...)
- See me and Julio down by the schoolyard
- Repeat last four chords and fade