Lay, Lady, Lay

Words & Music: Bob Dylan

From the wonderful (and currently shut down) "Dylanchords.com" site: "Released on Nashville Skyline (1969), Greatest Hits II (1971) and Biograph (1985), and in live versions on Before the Flood (1974) and Hard Rain (1976). Tabbed by Eyolf Østrem." There is also a transcription in the May 2002 issue of Guitar One.

"Nashville Skyline" version:

A Bm C#m D A

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The little "thing" that occurs here and there (marked with a "*)" in the song):
   Α
      D A D A
 |-5---5-5---
  |-5---7-5---7-5---
  |-6---7-6---7
A C#m G
            Bm
               Γ2x7
A(5)
           C#m G
                                             C#m G Bm
                           Bm
Lay, lady, lay; lay across my big brass bed.
           C#m G
                           Bm
                                             C#m G Bm
Lay, lady, lay; lay across my big brass bed.
Whatever colors you have in your mind,
I'll show them to you and you'll see them shine.
           C#m G
Lay, lady, lay; lay across my big brass bed.
Stay, lady, stay; stay with your man awhile.
Until the break of day, let me see you make him smile.
His clothes are dirty but his hands are clean.
And you're the best thing that he's ever seen.
Stay, lady, stay; stay with your man awhile.
C#m
                                  F#m A
Why wait any longer for the world to begin?
You can have your cake and eat it, too.
                                F#m A
                                          *)
Why wait any longer for the one you love,
When he's standing in front of you?
Lay, lady, lay; lay across my big brass bed,
Stay, lady, stay; stay while the night is still ahead.
I long to see you in the morning light.
I long to reach for you in the night.
Stay, lady, stay; stay while the night is still ahead.
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"Before The Flood" version:

The version uses the same chords, except for the bridge, which goes:

C#m E(/B) A
Why wait any longer for the world to begin?
C#m A
You can have your cake and eat it, too.

Why wait any longer for the one-- you lov

Why wait any longer for the one-- you love, C#m Bm

When he's standing in front of you?

"Hard Rain" version:

Bob's quitar seems to have a capo on the 2nd fret.

G Bm C D G C/G G
Lay, lady, lay---; lay across my big brass bed.
G Bm C D G C/G G
Lay, lady, lay---; lay across my big brass bed.
D Em G C/G-G C/G-G
Whatever colors-- you have in your mind,
D Em G C/G-G C/G-G
I'll show them to you-- and you'll see them shine.
G Bm C D G C/G G
Lay, lady, lay---; lay across my big brass bed.

Forget this dance, let's go upstairs! Let's take a chance, who really cares? Why don't you know you got nothing to prove? It's all in your eyes and the way that you move. Forget this dance, let's go upstairs!

Bm C G
Why wait any longer for no need to complain(?)?
Bm G C/G G
You can have love, but you might lose it.
Bm C G
Why run any longer when you're running in place?
Bm D
You can have the truth but you've got to choose it.

Stay lady stay; stay with your man a while.
'Til the break of day; let me see you make him smile.
I long to see you in the morning light.
I long to hold you in the night.
Stay lady stay; stay with your man a while.

INSTRUMENTAL VERSE:

Lay lady lay; lay across my big brass bed.