

# Your Cheatin' Heart

Words and music by Hank Williams



Hank Williams was barely 29 years old when he recorded "Your Cheatin' Heart" in September 1952, but he wouldn't live to see the song become a hit. Though there is much disagreement about the details, Williams had hired a driver to bring him through wintry weather to a New Year's engagement in Canton, Ohio. In the early morning hours of January 1, 1953, he was found dead in the backseat, ultimately the victim of his own spiraling abuse of drugs and alcohol. "Your Cheatin' Heart" was one of a collection of posthumous hits that included "Take These Chains from My Heart," "I Won't Be Home No More," and eerily, "I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive."

The recorded version of "Your Cheatin' Heart" places heavy emphasis on the bass guitar and Williams's vocals, both of which drown out much of the acoustic guitar, which is buried deep in the mix. Williams probably strummed full chords in a similar groove to the one transcribed here, but I've written the line to simulate the bass guitar on beats one and three. For the interlude section after the first chorus, simply cycle once more through the chorus chords. Even if you're used to playing with a pick, try strumming this tune with your picking-hand thumb—the round, fat tone really captures the spirit of Williams' original.

—DAN APCZYNSKI

## Strum Pattern

**Chords**

G7 320001    C x32010    F 134211

G 210034    D7 xx0213

**Strum Pattern**

\*Strum: ▢ ▢ ▽ ▢ ▢ ▽ ▢ ▢ ▽ ▢ ▢ ▽

0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0-0 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 3-3 3-3 3-3 3-3-3

1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 3-3 3-3 3-3 3-3-3

0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0-0 2-2 2-2 2-2 2-2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0-0

2-2 2-2 2-2 2-2-2 3-3 3-3 3-3 3-3 0 0 0 0-0-0

3 3 3 3 1 3 1 3 3 0 3

\* ▢ = down; ▽ = up

Intro: G7 C

1.  $\begin{matrix} C & & F \\ \text{Your cheatin' heart will make you weep} \\ G & & C \\ \text{You'll cry and cry and try to sleep} \\ C & & F \\ \text{But sleep won't come the whole night through} \\ G & & C \\ \text{Your cheatin' heart will tell on you} \end{matrix}$

Chorus

$\begin{matrix} F & & C \\ \text{When tears come down like fallin' rain} \\ D7 & & G \\ \text{You'll toss around and call my name} \\ C & & F \\ \text{You'll walk the floor the way I do} \\ G7 & & C \\ \text{Your cheatin' heart will tell on you} \end{matrix}$

Interlude

2.  $\begin{matrix} C & & F \\ \text{Your cheatin' heart will pine some day} \\ G & & C \\ \text{And crave the love you threw away} \\ C & & F \\ \text{The time will come when you'll be blue} \\ G & & C \\ \text{Your cheatin' heart will tell on you} \end{matrix}$

Chorus

$\begin{matrix} F & & C \\ \text{When tears come down like fallin' rain} \\ D7 & & G \\ \text{You'll toss around and call my name} \\ C & & F \\ \text{You'll walk the floor the way I do} \\ G7 & & C \\ \text{Your cheatin' heart will tell on you} \end{matrix}$