

The Swimming Song

Music by Loudon Wainwright III



Loudon Wainwright's paean to summer fun, "The Swimming Song," first appeared on *Attempted Mustache*, the follow-up to his breakthrough 1972 recording, *Album III*. "The record I made after *Album III* was different," he says.

"The record company said they wanted another single, because after 'Dead Skunk' the door was just wide open; and I had kind of an ambivalence about it. But I had written a song called 'The Swimming Song.' I made that record [*Attempted Mustache*] in five days with Bob Johnson in Nashville. We were excited by that record. It was a great song, despite the fact that it didn't have a chorus and it had two flailing five-string banjos on it." Wainwright also recorded it on the live *Career Moves*, from which this guitar-centric version is taken.

—JOE HENRY

Strum Patterns

1. **G** 320004 **C** x32010 2. **G** 320004

4/4

Strum: □ = down, ▽ = up

Verse

♩ = 98

G 320004 **C** x32010 **G** 320004 **D** xx0132 **Em** 023000

1. This sum-mer I went swim-ming This sum-mer I might-'ve drowned But I
2-6. See additional lyrics.

C x32010 **D** xx0132 **Em** 023000 **D** xx0132 **G** 320004

5 held my breath and I kicked my feet and I moved my arms a-round moved my arms a-round 2. This

1. **G** **C** **G**
This summer I went swimming
D **Em**
This summer I might've drowned
C
But I held my breath and I kicked my feet
D **Em**
And I moved my arms around
D **G**
Moved my arms around

2. **G** **C** **G**
This summer I swam in the ocean
D **Em**
Swam in a swimming pool
C
Salt my wounds, chlorine my eyes
D **Em**
I'm a self-destructive fool
D **G**
Self-destructive fool

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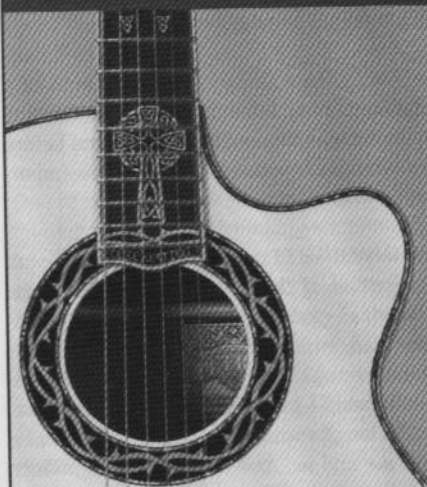
3. ^G This summer I did the backstroke
^D And you know that that's not all
^C I did the breaststroke and the butterfly
^D And the old Australian crawl
^D Old Australian crawl

4. ^G This summer I swam in a public place
^D And a reservoir to boot
^C At the latter I was informal
^D At the former I wore my suit
^D I wore my swimming suit

5. ^G This summer I did swan dives
^D And jackknives for you all
^C But once when you weren't looking
^D I did a cannonball
^D I did a cannonball

6. ^G Yeah, this summer I went swimming
^D This summer I might've drowned
^C I held my breath and I kicked my feet
^D And I moved my arms around
^D I moved my arms around


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