

Christmas Time Is Here

Words and music by Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi

From the album *A Charlie Brown Christmas*



A wistful melody and a progression built mainly on extended chords—major sevenths and altered dominants in particular—gives “Christmas Time Is Here” the flavor of a contemporary jazz ballad. The tune begins with a melodic fragment played over a Dmaj7 chord shape (measure 1) that moves up three frets to an Fmaj7 in measure 2. The melody often uses thirds that support it. For example, the F[♯], A, C[♯] motif in bar 5 means that, for the most part, there is little movement requiring the left hand; once you form a chord, your right hand picks out the melody, occasionally playing a simple arpeggio under a sustained note.

The flow of this piece should be as unrushed as snow falling on a still night. Changing chords smoothly will ensure the continuity and flow of the melody. It's also important to sustain the melody notes in the chords as long as possible. To get the right reflective, nostalgic feel, linger slightly on the sustained notes that end the phrases, taking a breath before moving onto the next phrase.

If you have trouble with some of these chords, isolate each one and practice it slowly. Then practice them in context, approaching each different chord from the one that precedes it until the change becomes second nature. The coda uses natural harmonics in groups and with fretted notes. Try to balance the harmonics with the fretted notes.

—RON FORBES-ROBERTS

Intro

$\text{♩} = 50$

$D_{\text{maj7/A}}$ $F_{\text{maj7/A}}$ $D_{\text{maj7/A}}$ $F_{\text{maj7/A}}$ $\text{To Coda } \oplus$ Verse D_{maj7} $C7\#11$ $B\text{ VII}$

Bridge

$B_{\flat}\text{maj7}$ $E_{\flat}9\#11$ $B_{\flat}\text{maj7}$ $E_{\flat}9\#11$ D_{maj7} $F\#_{\text{dim}}$ $E_{\flat}\text{dim}$

Verse

Em Em(maj7) E9#5 A6(9) Dmaj7 C7#11 B VII Dmaj7 C7#11 B VII G#m7:5 Gm

20 rit.

3 0 0 2 2 9 5 5 9 5 5 2
0 0 1 2 10 7 7 10 7 7 3 3 3 2
0 0 1 4 3 11 6 6 11 6 6 4 4 4 3
2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 7 6 5 4 3

D.C. al Coda (last time) D.S.

F#m7 Fm Em9 A11 Dmaj7

27

0 2 2 2 1 0 3 0 3 0 2 2
2 2 2 1 0 0 0 4 5 0 2 2
2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Coda

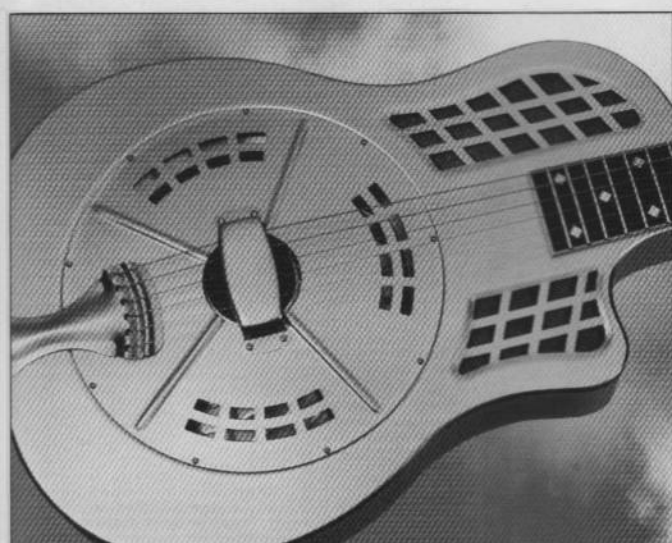
Em7 A7sus4 Dmaj13

30 rit.

*Harmonics

12⁺ 12⁺ 12⁺ 12⁺
12⁺ 7⁺ 12⁺ 7⁺
12⁺ 12⁺ 5 11 11
0 0 10


*Diamond headed notes only



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Verse

Chord diagrams for Verse:

- Dmaj7 (xx0321) 9 fr.
- C7#11 (21311x) 7 fr.
- Dmaj7 (xx0321) 9 fr.
- C7#11 (21311x) 7 fr.
- G#m7b5 (3xx421)
- Gm (2xx34x)

33 1.Christ-mas time is here Hap-pi-ness and cheer Fun for all that
2-3. See additional lyrics.

Bridge

Chord diagrams for Bridge:

- F#m7 (2xx340)
- Fm (2xx34x)
- Em9 (0x2010)
- A11 (x0321x)
- Dmaj13 (x21400)
- Bbmaj7 (2xx431) 5 fr.
- Eb9#11 (x21341) 5 fr.
- Bbmaj7 (2xx431) 5 fr.

38 chil-dren call Their fa-vorite time of year Sleigh bells in the air Beau-ty ev-ery-

Chord diagrams for Verse continuation:

- Eb9#11 (x21341) 5 fr.
- Dmaj7 (xx0111)
- F#dim (xx1324)
- Ebdim (xx1324)
- Em7 (xx1003)
- Em(maj7) (xx1000)
- E9#5 (xx0112)
- A6(9) (x0x311)

44 where Yule-tide by the fire-side And joy-ful mem-ories there (to Verse)

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1. Dmaj7 C7:11
Christmas time is here
- Dmaj7 C7:11
Happiness and cheer
- G#m7:5 Gm F#m7 Fm
Fun for all that children call
- Em9 A11 Dmaj13
Their favorite time of year

2. Dmaj7 C7:11
Snowflakes in the air
- Dmaj7 C7:11
Carols everywhere
- G#m7:5 Gm F#m7 Fm
Olden times and ancient rhymes
- Em9 A11 Dmaj13
Of love and dreams to share

Bridge

Bbmaj7 Eb9:11
Sleigh bells in the air

Bbmaj7 Eb9:11
Beauty everywhere

Dmaj7 Fdim Ebdim
Yuletide by the fireside

Em7 Em(maj7) E9:5 A6(9)
And joyful memories there

3. Dmaj7 C7:11
Christmas time is here
- Dmaj7 C7:11
We'll be drawing near
- G#m7:5 Gm F#m7 Fm
Oh, that we could always see
- Em9 A11 Dmaj13
Such spirit through the year

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