

The Ghost of Tom Joad – Bruce Springsteen

Guitar Key: Bm

Harmonica Key: D

Strumming Pattern: DDD, DU, DUDD, DU

Chords Used:

Note: I highly recommend the A using your 1st finger as a barre. It's much easier to play than the standard A. Just be sure not to strike the High E string. I also recommend using the G barre chord as well, but this is up to you.

Bm
x
1 1
2
3 4
B F# B D F#

D
x o o
1 2
3
A D A D F# OR

D
x o o
1 1
2
A D A D F#

A
o
2 3 4
E A E A C# E

A
o
1 1 1
OR E A E A C# E

G
3 1
2
3 4
G D G B D G

Intro: Bm – D – Bm – A | Bm – A – Bm (same as opening verse)

(Bm)

Man walkin' long the railroad tracks

D Bm A

Goin' someplace there's no goin' back

Highway patrol choppers comin' up over the ridge

Bm A Bm

Hot soup on a campfire under the bridge

Shelter line stretchin' 'round the corner

D Bm A

Welcome to the new world order

Families sleepin' in their cars in the Southwest

Bm A Bm

No home no job no peace no rest

Chorus:

G
The highway is alive tonight
D A Bm
But nobody's kiddin' nobody about where it goes
A
I'm sittin' down here in the campfire light
Bm A Bm
Searchin' for the ghost of Tom Joad

(Instrumental over Verse theme)

(Bm)
He pulls a prayer book out of his sleeping bag
D Bm A
Preacher lights up a butt and takes a drag
Waitin' for when the last shall be first and the first shall be last
Bm A Bm
In a cardboard box 'neath the underpass
Got a one-way ticket to the Promised Land
D Bm A
You got a hole in your belly and a gun in your hand
Sleeping on a pillow of solid rock
Bm A Bm
Bathin' in the city aqueduct

Chorus:

G
The highway is alive tonight
D A Bm
Where it's headed, everybody knows.
A
I'm sittin' down here in the campfire light
Bm A Bm
Waitin' on the ghost of Tom Joad

(Instrumental over Chorus Theme x2)

(Bm)
Now Tom said, "Mom, wherever there's a cop beatin' a guy
D Bm A
Wherever a hungry newborn baby cries
Where there's a fight against the blood and hatred in the air
Bm A Bm
Look for me Mom I'll be there
Where there's somebody fightin' for a place to stand
D Bm A
Or a decent job or a helpin' hand
Wherever somebody's strugglin' to be free
Bm A Bm
Look in their eyes Mom you'll see me."

Chorus:

 G
The highway is alive tonight
 D A Bm
But nobody's kiddin' nobody about where it goes
 A
I'm sittin' down here in the campfire light
Bm A Bm
With the ghost of ol' Tom Joad

(Instrumental over Chorus theme x2 or as desired, ending on Bm)