

Cortez The Killer – Neil Young (represented musically is Warren Haynes/Dave Matthews version)

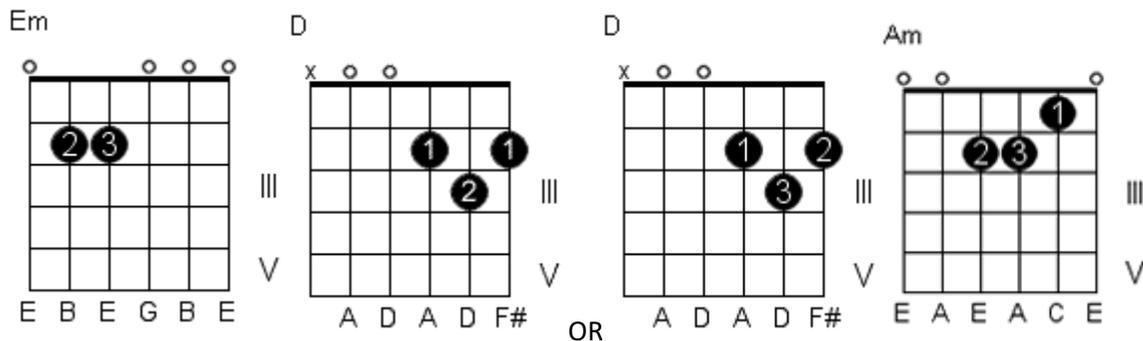
Tuning: Standard (original composition is tuned to DADGBD = or double drop d, but there is NO REASON to play this song that way unless you are simply matching Young’s version. The arrangement of chords do change to Em7 – D – Am7sus4, which would require you to completely change the chords to fit the tuning. I got sick of tuning back and forth, so I said to heck with it. This song has been done so many times by various bands the tuning shouldn’t be an issue.)

Strumming Pattern: This is a GREAT jam session song because the options are limitless and there are only THREE chords! To strum the song you can play it like: D, D, DU, DDD, DU over and over.

Also feel free to use the barred versions if you would like for maybe the Am, which is: 577555. If you were involved in my “Experience Hendrix” collection or song study program you can easily add some of the Hendrix flourishes that he played to really jam this song out. To be honest you could play the whole song using barre/power chords but it may drown the beauty of this song out with too much distortion. Keep it simple and sparse until it’s jam time. Just keep in mind that the Am holds a full count because there are only three chords.

Tempo: 63 bpm (ish)

Chords Used:



Intro: Em – D – Am (as long as desired)

Em D
He came dancing across the water, with his galleons and guns...
Am
Looking for a new world and a palace in the sun.
Em D
And on the shore lay Montezuma, with its cocoa leaves and pearls...
Am
In its halls he often wandered with the secrets of the world.
Em D
And his subjects gather 'round him, like the leaves around the trees...
Am
clothed in many colors for the angry gods to see.

Em D
And the women all were beautiful, and the men stood straight and strong...

Am
He offered life and sacrifice so that others might go on

(Em – D – Am jam session repeated as often as desired)

Em D
Now hate was just a legend, and war was never known....

Am
The people worked together and they lifted many stones.

Em D
And they carried them 'cross the flatlands, but they died along the way...

Am
built up with their bare hands what we still can't do today

Em D
And I know she's living there, and loves me to this day...

Am
Can't remember when, or how I lost my way.

Em D
Oh, just dancin' across the water, Cortez.....Cortez.

Am
He came dancin' across the water, dancin' across the water.

Em D
He came dancin' across the water, Cortez.....Cortez.

Am
He came dancin' across the water, dancin' across the water.

(Em – D – Am jam session repeated as often as desired)

Em D
Oh, dancin' across the water, Cortez.....Cortez.

Am
He came dancin' across the water, dancin' across the water.

{ *****note: did you catch me turn off the metronome here? ☺ ***** }

Em D
Dancin' across the water, Cortez.....Cortez.

Am (end on Em)
He came dancin' across the water, dancin' across the water.