

Father and Son – Cat Stevens

Strumming Pattern: DD, DU, D, DD, DU (down down, down up, down, down down, down up – repeat)

Chords Used:

**G**  
 G B D G D G

**C/G**  
 G C E G C E

**D/F#**  
 F# A D F#

**C**  
 E C E G C E

**Am7**  
 A E G C E

**D**  
 A D A D F#

**D** OR **D**  
 A D A D F#

**Em**  
 E B E G B E

**Bm**  
 B F# B D F#

Note: This song is rather challenging, but I did my best to give you the easiest possible version. The key to this song is timing. If you follow closely and disregard any moment when it feels 'weird' you should be able to make it through it. The weirdest part is the quick changes from D to G and then the added measure of "I know I have to go" using the D – C – G progression. I played along with this over and over and while it totally felt out of place, I was able to keep up using the format I have offered below.

I would watch the strum pattern from G – to C/G because it stumped me frequently prior to the recording. The first strum of the G needs to be held for just a bit and then QUICK strummed to the C/G chord. This may take some practice.

Example:

Stevens ends on a G in the phrase “but your (D) dreams may (G) not...”

The G is actually the BEGINNING of the intro riff, so instead of holding the G for a longer duration you really just strike it once for the end of the verse phrase and then a quick strum to the C/G. Immediately after you strum the C/G chord you will attach the riff on the B and High E string (1-3 | 1-5) and then start the G – C/G riff back over again. I have noted the number of times this is to be played between each section. Again, this will take some practice. This one took me longer than Little Wing by Hendrix. I tried to change the vocal performance to help better reflect the singer (father or son) as Stevens did in his recording. I tend to sound much better with a higher voice – TEND to ;) so this is something you might want to consider if you are struggling with the dual voices. To practice you can stick to your more natural voice. As always I try to get close to the original but not so much that it takes away from the creativity that can be applied in making a song more “your own.”

**Intro:** G – C/G (riff) {repeat 3 times and then play G – C/G and hold – so there’s no fourth riff basically}

riff: (e-----3-----5--)  
(B--1-----1-----)

**Verse (father):**

**G D/F# C Am7**  
It's not time to make a change, just relax and take it easy

**G Em Am7 D**  
You're still young that's your fault, there's so much you have to know

**G D/F# C Am7**  
Find a girl, settle down, if you want, you can marry

**G Em Am7 D**  
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.

**G D/F# C Am7**  
I was once like you are now, and I know that it's not easy

**G Em Am7 D**  
To be calm, when you've found something going on

**G D/F# C Am7**  
But take your time, think a lot, why think of everything you've got

**G Em D G**  
For you will still be here tomorrow, but your dreams may not.

(G) – C/G (riff) | G – C/G(riff then sing below – it’s tricky!)

**Verse (son):**

**G Bm C Am7**  
How can I try to explain, when I do he turns away again

**G**                    **Em**                    **Am7 D**  
 It's always been the same, same old story  
**G**                    **Bm**                    **C**                    **Am7**  
 From the moment I could talk I was ordered to listen  
**G**                    **Em**                    **D**                    **G**  
 Now there's a way and I know I have to go away  
**D**                    **C**                    **G**  
 I know I have to go.

(G) – C/G (riff) | G – C/G(riff) x2 | G – C/G (hold)

**Verse (father – with son in background):**

**G**                    **D/F#**                    **C**                    **Am7**  
 It's not time to make a change, just sit down and take it slowly  
 (I) (know) (I have)  
**G**                    **Em**                    **Am7**  
 You're still young, that's your fault, there's so much you have  
 (to make this)  
**D**  
 to go through  
 (decision) (alone)  
**G**                    **D/F#**                    **C**                    **Am7**  
 Find a girl, settle down , if you want to you can marry  
 (no)  
**G**                    **Em**                    **Am7 D**  
 Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.  
 (stay) (stay, stay)

**Verse (son):**

**G**                    **Bm**                    **C**                    **Am7**  
 All the times that I cried, keeping all the things I knew inside  
 (why?) (must) (you go and make this de-  
**G**                    **Em**                    **Am7 D**  
 It's hard, but it's harder to ignore it  
 cision) (alone)  
**G**                    **Bm**                    **C**                    **Am7**  
 If they were right, I'd agree, but it's them they know, not me  
**G**                    **Em**                    **D**                    **G**  
 Now there's a way and I know I have to go away  
**D**                    **C**                    **G**  
 I know I have to go.