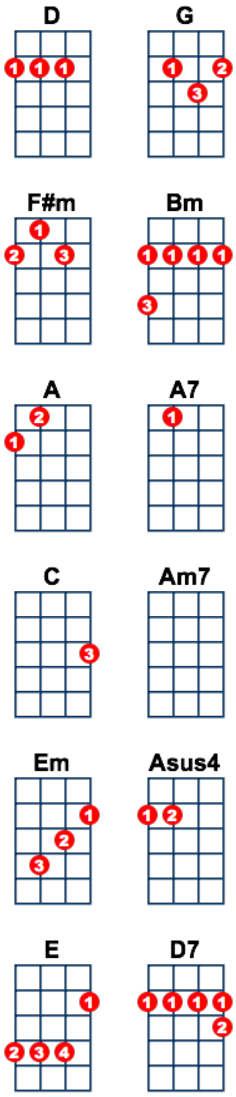
Canadian Railroad Trilogy

Gordon Lightfoot



Rhythm 1

D G D
There was a time in this fair land when the railroad did not run,
F#m Bm A A7
When the wild majestic mountains stood alone against the sun.
D G D
Long before the white man and long before the wheel
Bm A C D Am7 D Am7 D
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real. . . .
D G D
But time has no beginning and hist'ry has no bounds,
F#m Bm A A7
As to this verdant country they came from all around.
D G D
They sailed upon her waterways and they walked the forests tall and
Bm A C D Am7 D Am7 D
Built the mines, mills, and factories for the good of us all. . . .
D G D
And when the young man's fancy was turning to the spring
F#m Bm A A7
The railroad men grew restless for to hear the hammers ring.
D G D
Their minds were overflowing with the visions of their day
Bm A C D
And many a fortune won and lost and many a debt to pay.

Rhythm 2 (driving, like a train)

A Em
For they looked in the future and what did they see?
C D
They saw an iron road running from the sea to the sea.
A Em
Bringin' the goods to a young grown' land,

C D
All up from the seaports and into their hands.
C D Em D
Look away, said they, across this mighty land.
C D Em D
From the eastern shore to the western strand.
A Em
Bring in the workers and bring up the rails,
C D
We gotta lay down the tracks and tear up the trails.
A Em
Open her heart, let the lifeblood flow,
C D
Gotta get on our way 'cause we're movin' too slow,
C Asus4 A
Get on our way 'cause we're movin' too slow. .

Rhythm 3 (slower, waltz)

D G Asus4 A
Behind the blue Rockies the sun is declinin',
D G E A
The stars they come stealin' at the close of the day.
D G Asus4 A
Across the wide prairie our loved ones lie sleeping
D G A D
Beyond the dark forest in a place far away.
D7 G Asus4 A
We are the plowboys who work upon the railway,
D G E A
Swingin' our hammers in the bright blazin' sun.
D G Asus4 A
Livin' on stew and drinkin' bad whiskey,
D7 G Asus4 D
Layin' down track 'til the long days are done.
D7 G Asus4 A7 D Am7 D Am7
Yeah, bendin' our backs 'til the railroad is done. . .

Rhythm 2

A Em
So, over the mountains and over the plains,
C D
Into the Muskeg and into the rains.
A Em
A dollar a day and a place for my head,
C D
A song for the living, a prayer for the dead.
D Am7 D
Now the song of the future has been sung,
Am7 D
All the battles have been won,
Am7 D
On the mountain tops we stand,
Am7 D
All the world at our command,
Am7 D
We have opened up the soil
Am7 Asus4 A
With our teardrops and our toil.

Rhythm 1

D G D
For there was a time in this fair land when the railroad did not run,
F#m Bm A A7
When the wild majestic mountains stood alone against the sun.
D G D
Long before the white man and long before the wheel
Bm A C D
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real.
Bm A C D
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real.
Bm A C D Am7 D
And many are the dead men too silent to be real. .

Note: Standard GCEA Soprano Ukulele Tuning. | Powered by UkeGeeks' Scriptasaurus • ukegeeks.com