



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

# Help Me

Author: John V. Verkuilen

EADGBE, 'Joni' Tuning: x55545

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This is one of my favorites. Larry Carleton is the guitarist on this song, and he plays some really interesting chordal/arpeggiated stuff (which I'm still trying to pick out, since they're pretty low in the mix). This song has a bunch of really subtle changes in it, so I advise anyone who wants to play it to listen very carefully. I have notated the difficult bits with an asterisk (\*) and indicated why each part is tricky. I sincerely doubt Carleton had any trouble with it, but for us lesser mortals.... In any event, you need to listen to the song closely to pick up the vocal, which has lots of jazz rhythms to it. If you can play this with a female vocalist, I envy you greatly!

So anyway, here goes:

Chords you will use:

A sus2 open: x-0-2-2-0-0

A major: x-0-2-2-2-0

e minor 7: 0-2-2-0-3-0

G major: 3-2-0-0-3-3

G major 7: 3-x-5-4-3-2 (this chord is kind of hard if you don't use your thumb, so you might want to omit the low g on 6, or use another fingering like 3-x-4-4-3-x, 3-x-0-0-0-2, or x-10-12-11-12-x) F major 7: x-x-3-2-1-0 (I like this so that I can embellish easily using open strings, and because it's an easy slide down from G major 7, but you may want to use 1x221x if you're using a different G major 7) F major 7 variant 2: x-8-10-9-10-x (use this one in another part, notated F major 7 barre)

C major 7: x-3-2-0-0-x (this chord will cause no shortage of headaches since it is used as a transition and you often are on it for no more than a beat. I don't recommend re-fingering it for that reason.)

Bb major 7: x-1-3-2-3-x

D major 7: x-5-7-6-7-x

Intro:

|A sus 2| A sus 2| straight into:

Verse:

A maj e min 7  
Help me, I think I'm falling

G maj 7  
In love again.

When I get that crazy feeling,

F maj 7  
I know I'm in trouble again,

I'm in trouble,

'Cause you're a ramblin' and a gamblin' and a sweet-talking ladies man,

C maj 7 G maj 7  
And you love your lovin',

[no lyrics while the horns play one of the song's signature licks]

C maj 7-A maj-C maj 7  
Not like you love your freedom.

\*note that the time signature changes here from 4 to 3 for a measure and then changes back. The best advice I can give you is to listen to the recording carefully here, and maybe to skip the last C maj 7, since A feeds quite nicely into the next chord as well

[No vocals here: transition between verses where Larry C. does his stuff]

|D maj 7|Bb maj 7|F maj 7 barre|F maj 7 barre|G maj|A maj \*|G maj|A maj \*|

|G maj|A maj|A maj|... back into verse 2

\* indicates that the horn players have a riff that is, as far as I can tell, unplayable by one guitar, so go nuts on an A major or A blues scale for a bit! I often play the G maj to A maj progression with 10th and 12th position barre chords if I want to play high stuff, but it really depends on mood.

Verse 2:

Help me, I think I'm falling,  
In love too fast.  
It's got me hoping for the future,  
And worrying about the past,  
'Cause I've seen some hot, hot blazes  
come down in smoking ash.  
We love our lovin',  
Not like we love our freedom.

[back into the Larry C. transition part and then go to the Bridge]

Bridge:

G maj 7  
Didn't it feel good, just sitting there talking,

Or lying there not talking, didn't it feel good?  
F maj 7

You danced with the lady with a hole in her stocking.

Didn't it feel good?

Didn't it feel good?

[some vocal gymnastics with call and response "Didn't it feel good"'s]

D maj 7  
Didn't it feel good?

G maj 7  
Didn't it feel good?

D maj 7  
Didn't it feel good?

G maj 7  
Didn't it feel good?

|G maj|A maj \*|G maj|A maj \*|G maj|A maj|A maj| ... back into last verse:

Help me, I think I'm falling in love with you,  
Are you going to make me go there by myself?  
That's such a lonely thing to do.  
Both of us flirting around, flirting, and flirting, hurting, too.  
Not like we love our freedom.

[end verse but skip the G maj - A maj part and go straight into...]

Outro to fade:

[lots more Larry C. stuff]

|D maj 7|F maj 7| ...