

In the Moonlight - Pearl Jam

Oh man, In the Moonlight! This song is my favourite one to listen to when I’m sat on the beach at midnight after a long, warm summer day. That is the mood this song awakens in me. It also happens to be my best performing busking song, and by ‘best performing’ I mean ‘the one that makes the most people stop and listen’.

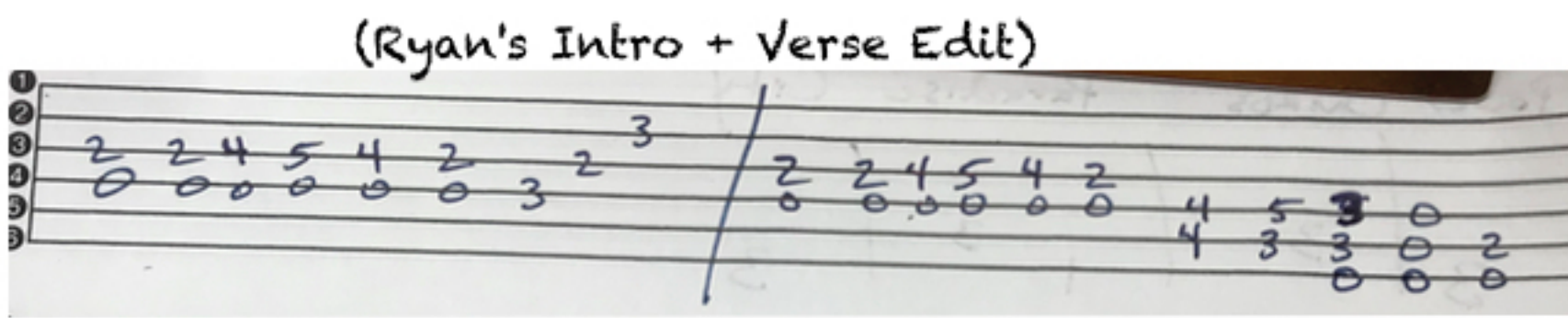
This song came from the intricate mind of Matt F Cameron.

Tuning

Matt wrote In the Moonlight using the same DGDGBE tuning that he used on Fresh Tendrils for Soundgarden. This is open G6 tuning, otherwise known as that-one-drop-D-tuning-where-you-also-drop-the-A-string.

- High E string stays on E.
- B string stays on B.
- G string stays on G.
- D string stays on D.
- A string goes **down** 2 half steps to G.
- Low E string goes **down** 2 half steps to D.

You’ll recognise the highest 4 strings (DGBE) from standard tuning, but also the lowest 5 strings (DGDGB) from open G tuning. I believe thinking of the strings in this way will help you get comfortable with open G6, should you like to explore this tuning further.



Intro + verse

The intro and the verse are both the same thing. For the intro, play both variations once. For the verse, play the first variation a bunch of times and then play the second variation on the last repetition.

E|-----|-----  
B|-----3-|-----  
G|--2---2-4---5-4-2---2---|2---2-4---5-4-2---4-----  
D|--0---0-0---0-0-0-5-3-----|0---0-0---0-0-0-4-4---3(h)5-3-2-  
G|-----0-----|-----4-----3-----3-2-  
D|-----|-----

The first variation becomes a whole lot easier to play if you just anchor your indigenous (index) finger on the G string 2nd fret throughout the whole thing. Once you get comfortable reaching the 5th fret with your tinky-winky (pinky) finger, you’ll be playing this song in your sleep.

Pre-chorus (the “it’s a love drawn nearer”-part)

Congratulations, because you already know how to play the pre-chorus! It is exactly the same as the second variation of the intro/verse repeated a bunch of times.

E|-----  
B|-----  
G|--2---2-4---5-4-2---4-----  
D|--0---0-0---0-0-0-4-4---3(h)5-3-2--  
G|-----4-----3-----3-2--  
D|-----

Neat.

Chorus (the “a night bird is following you”-part)

~~~ Denotes light whammy bar vibrato.

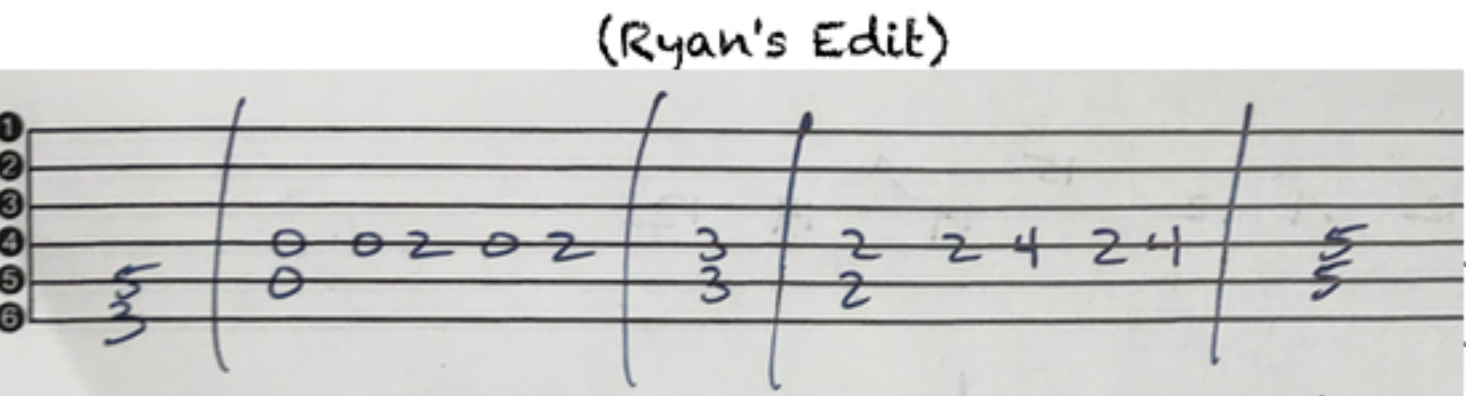
E|-----3~~~~5~~~~3~~~~  
B|-----3~~~~5~~~~3~~~~  
G|--2---2-4---5-4-2-3~~~~5~~~~3~~~~  
D|--0---0-0---0-0-0-5~~~~7~~~~5~~~~3(h)5-3-2-  
G|-----3-----3-2-  
D|-----

If you’re not sure what I mean by light whammy bar vibrato, here’s a video of them playing it live. Keep an eye on Stone’s right hand at 4:03 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOUzbXvETi0>

Bridge-thingy while Mike solos (from 1:37 to 1:47 on the recording)

I’ve tried to illustrate the strumming pattern with the spacing, but you’ll probably want to listen for it on the recording.

E|-----  
B|-----  
G|--2---2-4---5-4-2-  
D|--0---0-0---0-0-0- continues below  
G|-----  
D|-----



-----0---0-2---2-2-2-3-3-3-2---2-4---4-4-4-5-5-5-5  
-5-5-5-5-0---0-0---0-0-0-3-3-3-2---2-2---2-2-2-5-5-5-5  
-3-3-3-3-----

The above is how I think they play it. Below is how I like to play it. It is only a slight difference.

E|-----  
B|-----  
G|--2---2-4---5-4-2-  
D|--0---0-0---0-0-0- continues below  
G|-----  
D|-----

-----0---0-2---0-0-0-3-3-3-2---2-4---2-2-2-5-5-5-5  
-5-5-5-5-0---0-0---0-0-0-3-3-3-2---2-2---2-2-2-5-5-5-5  
-3-3-3-3-----