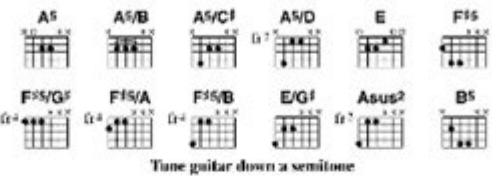


# Hero Of The Day Chords

**Hero Of The Day**

Words & Music by  
James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich & Kirk Hammett



Tune guitar down a semitone

**Intro**

riff A

||: A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D | E | E :||

**Verse 1**

riff A

The window burns to light the way back home,

riff A

A light that warms no matter where they've gone.

riff A

They're off to find the hero of the day,

riff A

Mm, but what if they should fall by someone's wicked way?

riff A

Still the window burns, time so slowly turns,

Someone there is sighing,

riff A

Keepers of the flames, do ya feel your name?

Can't you hear your babies cryin'?

riff A E

Mama, they try and break me,

riff A

Still they try and break me.

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Hero of the Day chords play a significant role in the musical landscape of the 1990s, particularly within the heavy metal and alternative rock genres. This song, performed by the iconic band Metallica, has become an anthem for many, resonating deeply with listeners due to its poignant lyrics and powerful composition. In this article, we will explore the song's background, its musical structure, a detailed chord breakdown, and tips for playing it, along with insights into its cultural impact.

## Background of "Hero of the Day"

"Hero of the Day" is featured on Metallica's 1996 album, *Load*. This album marked a significant shift in the band's musical style, moving away from their thrash metal roots to

incorporate more varied influences, including blues and southern rock. The song was released as a single in 1996 and quickly gained popularity, showcasing a softer side of Metallica that many fans had not seen before.

## Songwriting and Themes

The lyrics of "Hero of the Day" reflect themes of desperation, longing, and the search for salvation. The song narrates the feelings of someone who seeks help during moments of vulnerability. James Hetfield, the band's lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, has mentioned that the song was inspired by personal experiences and the feelings of helplessness that can arise in challenging situations.

## Musical Composition

Musically, "Hero of the Day" features a blend of melodic lines and heavy riffs, typical of Metallica's style, yet it also includes softer, more introspective moments. The song is structured as follows:

1. Intro - A clean guitar intro sets a contemplative mood.
2. Verse - The verses are characterized by a mellow yet haunting melody.
3. Chorus - The chorus explodes with powerful guitar riffs and vocal intensity, contrasting with the verses.
4. Bridge - A softer bridge leads back into the chorus, creating a dynamic ebb and flow.
5. Outro - The song concludes with a repetition of the main themes, leaving a lasting impression.

## Hero of the Day Chords Breakdown

Understanding the Hero of the Day chords is essential for anyone looking to play this song. The song is played in standard tuning (E A D G B e) and primarily revolves around a few key chords.

## Main Chords Used in the Song

The primary chords used in "Hero of the Day" include:

- A
- B
- Cm
- D
- E

These chords create a rich harmonic foundation that supports the song's emotional weight.

# Chord Progressions

Here is a simplified breakdown of the chord progressions used throughout the song:

1. Intro:

- A - B - Cm - D

2. Verse:

- A - B - Cm - D

3. Chorus:

- E - D - Cm - A

4. Bridge:

- B - Cm - A

5. Outro:

- A - B - Cm - D - E

By repeating these progressions, "Hero of the Day" maintains a familiar structure while allowing for expressive variations.

## Playing Techniques and Tips

To effectively perform "Hero of the Day," it's essential to grasp the nuances of Metallica's playing style. Here are some tips to enhance your performance:

### 1. Dynamics

- Emphasize contrast: The song's dynamics play a crucial role in conveying emotion. Strive for a soft touch during the verses, building intensity as you transition to the chorus.
- Use palm muting: During the verses, try palm muting the chords slightly to create a subdued sound, which can enhance the impact of the chorus.

### 2. Finger Positioning

- Practice chord transitions: Ensure smooth transitions between the chords. This may require focused practice on switching from A to B and from Cm to D.
- Use barre chords for Cm: If you find the Cm chord challenging, consider using a barre chord position to make it easier to move between chords.

### 3. Strumming Patterns

- Experiment with strumming: A straightforward down-up strumming pattern works well, but feel free to experiment with more complex patterns to match your style.
- Add accents: Accentuating certain beats can add a unique flair to your performance, making it more engaging.

## Cultural Impact of "Hero of the Day"

"Hero of the Day" has had a lasting impact on music and pop culture, serving as a bridge between Metallica's earlier work and their evolving sound.

### 1. Reception and Reviews

Upon its release, the song received positive reviews from critics and fans alike. Many praised its emotional depth and musical complexity, noting that it showcased Metallica's ability to evolve while still delivering powerful rock anthems.

### 2. Live Performances

"Hero of the Day" has been a staple in Metallica's live performances. Fans often sing along passionately, highlighting the song's connection to their experiences and emotions. The dynamic shifts in the song translate well to a live setting, allowing for powerful moments of audience engagement.

### 3. Influence on Other Artists

The song's blend of heavy riffs and melodic elements has influenced countless bands and musicians across various genres. Its introspective lyrics and memorable melodies have inspired artists to explore similar themes, contributing to the evolution of rock music in the years following its release.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the Hero of the Day chords encapsulate the essence of Metallica's ability to merge heavy metal with emotional depth. The song stands as a testament to the band's evolution and their impact on the music industry. Whether you are a seasoned guitarist or a beginner, learning to play "Hero of the Day" offers an opportunity to connect with its powerful themes and experience the rich musical tapestry that Metallica has woven. Through its poignant lyrics, dynamic composition, and cultural significance, "Hero of the

Day" continues to resonate with audiences around the world, ensuring its place in the annals of rock history.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the basic chords for 'Hero of the Day' by Metallica?**

The basic chords for 'Hero of the Day' are Em, G, D, and A. These chords form the foundation for playing the song.

### **Are there any specific strumming patterns for 'Hero of the Day'?**

A common strumming pattern for 'Hero of the Day' is DDUUDU (Down, Down, Up, Up, Down, Up), but feel free to adjust it to match your playing style.

### **Is 'Hero of the Day' suitable for beginners to learn on guitar?**

Yes, 'Hero of the Day' is suitable for beginners, as it features simple chords and a moderate tempo that makes it easier to practice.

### **What tuning is used for 'Hero of the Day'?**

'Hero of the Day' is played in standard tuning (E A D G B e), which is the most common tuning for guitar songs.

### **Can I find a tablature for 'Hero of the Day' online?**

Yes, you can find guitar tablature for 'Hero of the Day' on various music websites and forums, which can help you learn the song more easily.

### **What is the key signature of 'Hero of the Day'?**

The key signature of 'Hero of the Day' is E minor, which contributes to the song's emotional tone.

### **Are there any online tutorials for playing 'Hero of the Day'?**

Yes, there are numerous online tutorials available on platforms like YouTube that provide step-by-step instructions for playing 'Hero of the Day' on guitar.

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