

# Takin It To The Streets Chords

**Takin' It to the Streets**  
Words and Music by Michael McDonald

Moderately fast (♩ = 144)

Piano

*mf*

You don't know me, but I'm your

broth-er. I was raised

here in this liv-ing hell.

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**Takin It to the Streets chords** is a phrase that resonates deeply within the hearts of music enthusiasts, especially those who appreciate the timeless sound of The Doobie Brothers. Released in 1976 as part of their album of the same name, "Takin' It to the Streets" features a blend of rock, soul, and rhythm and blues influences. The song, characterized by its powerful lyrics and catchy melody, has become an anthem for those seeking social change and personal empowerment. This article delves deep into the chords of this iconic song, providing musicians with insights and guidance on how to play it effectively.

# Understanding the Song's Background

"Takin' It to the Streets" was written by Michael McDonald, who joined The Doobie Brothers during a transformative period for the band. This track marked a departure from their earlier, more rock-centric sound, embracing a more soulful and socially conscious approach. The song's lyrics urge listeners to take action and get involved in their communities, making it not just a musical piece but a call to action.

## The Song's Structure

The structure of "Takin' It to the Streets" is relatively straightforward, making it accessible for both beginner and experienced musicians. The song is typically divided into the following sections:

1. Verse: Introduces the main theme and sets the tone.
2. Chorus: The catchy hook that reinforces the song's message.
3. Bridge: Provides a contrast to the verses and chorus, often elevating the emotional intensity.
4. Instrumental: Features solos or musical interludes that enhance the overall feel of the song.

Understanding this structure is crucial for musicians as it lays the foundation for effective practice and performance.

## Chords Breakdown

Now, let's dive into the specific chords used in "Takin' It to the Streets." The song is typically played in the key of E major, which is a great key for both guitarists and keyboardists. Below is a breakdown of the chords used throughout the song:

### Chords Used

- E
- B
- A
- Cm
- Fm

These chords create a rich harmonic backdrop that enhances the lyrical content and melodic lines.

# Chord Progression

The primary chord progression for the verses is:

- E - B - A - E

For the chorus, the progression shifts slightly to:

- A - B - E - Cm - Fm

These progressions create a harmonious flow that complements the song's message.

## How to Play the Chords

### Fretting the Chords

For those unfamiliar with some of these chords, here's a brief guide on how to position your fingers on the guitar fretboard:

- E Major:
  - 0 (open) on the 6th string
  - 2 on the 5th string
  - 2 on the 4th string
  - 1 on the 3rd string
  - 0 on the 2nd string
  - 0 (open) on the 1st string
- B Major:
  - 2 on the 5th string
  - 4 on the 4th string
  - 4 on the 3rd string
  - 4 on the 2nd string
  - 2 on the 1st string
- A Major:
  - 0 (open) on the 5th string
  - 2 on the 4th string
  - 2 on the 3rd string
  - 2 on the 2nd string
  - 0 (open) on the 1st string
- Cm (C minor):
  - 4 on the 5th string
  - 6 on the 4th string
  - 6 on the 3rd string

- 5 on the 2nd string
- 4 on the 1st string
- Fm (F minor):
- 2 on the 6th string
- 4 on the 5th string
- 4 on the 4th string
- 2 on the 3rd string
- 2 on the 2nd string
- 2 on the 1st string

## Strumming Patterns

The strumming pattern plays a significant role in giving the song its distinctive feel. Here are a couple of common strumming patterns to try:

1. Down, Down-Up, Up-Down-Up: This is a standard pattern that works well for many songs and gives a lively feel.
2. Down, Down, Down-Up, Up-Down-Up: This pattern adds more emphasis to the downstrokes and creates a driving rhythm.

Experiment with these patterns to find the one that resonates best with your playing style.

## Tips for Practicing

To master "Takin' It to the Streets," consider the following practice tips:

1. Break it Down: Focus on one section of the song at a time, whether it's the verse or chorus. This will make it less overwhelming.
2. Use a Metronome: Start slow to ensure you're playing the chords cleanly and accurately. Gradually increase the speed as you become more comfortable.
3. Play Along with the Recording: This will help you get a feel for the timing and dynamics of the song.
4. Record Yourself: Listening to your progress can help you identify areas for improvement.

## Exploring Variations

Once you've mastered the basic chords and progressions, you might want to explore some variations:

- Add Suspended Chords: Incorporate sus2 or sus4 chords for a more textured sound.
- Fingerpicking: Try fingerpicking instead of strumming to create a softer

and more intimate feel.

- Capo: Use a capo to change the key of the song, allowing you to experiment with different voicings.

## Conclusion

Playing 'Takin' It to the Streets' chords is not just about hitting the right notes; it's about conveying the song's powerful message. Whether you're performing it solo or with a group, the song has the potential to inspire and energize both the player and the audience. Remember, practice is key, so take your time, enjoy the process, and let the music move you. With these chords and tips in hand, you'll be well on your way to delivering a compelling rendition of this classic tune. Happy playing!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the basic chords for 'Takin' It to the Streets'?

The basic chords for 'Takin' It to the Streets' are C, G, Am, and F.

### Is 'Takin' It to the Streets' suitable for beginner guitar players?

Yes, 'Takin' It to the Streets' features simple chord progressions that are great for beginner guitar players.

### Where can I find a tab for 'Takin' It to the Streets'?

You can find tabs for 'Takin' It to the Streets' on various guitar tab websites like Ultimate Guitar or Songsterr.

### What is the key signature of 'Takin' It to the Streets'?

The song is primarily in the key of C major.

### Are there any common strumming patterns for 'Takin' It to the Streets'?

A common strumming pattern for the song is D-DU-UDU (down, down-up, up-down-up).

# Can I play 'Takin' It to the Streets' on piano as well?

Yes, 'Takin' It to the Streets' can be played on piano using the same chords: C, G, Am, and F.

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