

technique: acoustic

4+20

CROSBY, STILLS & NASH

RICHARD BARRETT plays and transcribes this unaccompanied fingerstyle piece, and discovers some of the merits of the open E5 tuning.

THE LYRICS

Four and twenty years ago
I come into this life
The son of a woman
and a man who lived in strife
He was tired of being poor
And he wasn't into
sellin' door to door
And he worked like the devil
to be more

A different kind of poverty
now upsets me so
Night after sleepless night
I walk the floor and want to know
Why am I so alone?
Where is my woman,
can I bring her home?
Have I driven her away, is she gone?

Morning comes the sunrise
And I'm driven to my bed
I see that it is empty
and there's devils in my head
I embrace the many coloured beast
I grow weary of the torment, can
there be no peace
And I find myself just wishing that
my life would simply cease

CROSBY, Stills and Nash were – and are – a damn fine band, but then again they deserved to be. They all came from '60s bands with a pedigree (The Byrds, Buffalo Springfield and the Hollies respectively). The three broad influences of jangly psychedelia, vintage hippy-rock and lush vocal arrangements showed up in almost all of their material.

However, this subtle, sparse tune has few of their trademarks. It's sung by Stephen Stills alone, accompanied only by the fingerstyle riffs shown here. Due to simultaneous notes played on non-adjacent strings, the best option is to use standard fingerstyle technique – the thumb should pick the three bass strings and your index, middle, and ring fingers should cover the rest.

TUNING

The piece is in open E5 tuning (EBEEBE). If you are using heavier strings, you might not want to tune the fourth and fifth string up a tone. In this case, try tuning a tone lower; (DADDAD) then simply use a capo at the second fret. **TGC**

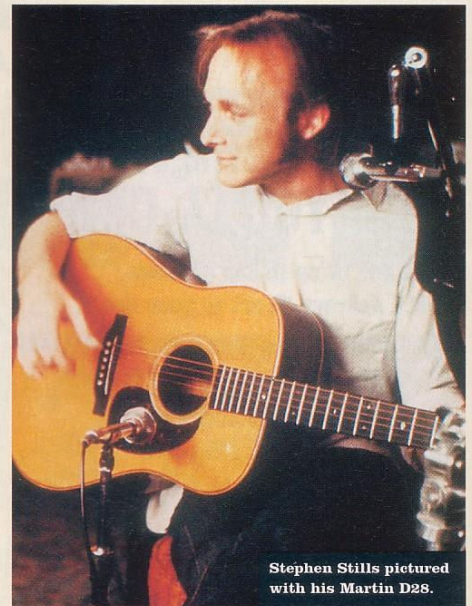


On the CD

TRACK 35

4+20 played as one verse and one chorus only. The piece is constructed entirely from two alternating sections, each played three times. The guitar used was a Norman small-bodied acoustic, miked up

Guitar: Richard Barrett



Stephen Stills pictured with his Martin D28.

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CROSBY, STILLS & NASH - 4 + 20 (verse - intro and first section)

CD TRACK 35

Musical notation for the first section of '4 + 20'. The notation is in 4/4 time and E5 tuning (EBEEBE). It shows a melody line and a guitar accompaniment line. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and a quarter rest. The guitar accompaniment consists of chords: G2 (7), B2 (9), D3 (5), F#3 (7), G2 (4), B2 (5), D3 (0), and G2 (2). The piece ends with a repeat sign and a 'x3' multiplier.

This part is always played three times – once as an intro to each verse, and once as an accompaniment to the first two vocal lines.

CROSBY, STILLS & NASH - 4 + 20 (verse - second section)

CD TRACK 35

Musical notation for the second section of '4 + 20'. The notation is in 4/4 time and E5 tuning (EBEEBE). It shows a melody line and a guitar accompaniment line. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and a quarter rest. The guitar accompaniment consists of chords: G2 (3), B2 (3), D3 (5), F#3 (5), G2 (10), B2 (12), D3 (10), and G2 (10). The piece ends with a repeat sign and a 'x3' multiplier.

Use the second and third finger on the sixth and third strings respectively, and use the last three notes of bar 2 to move up to the 10th fret position.

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