



## Legend: reading a chord chart

Unless otherwise indicated, chords start at the beginning of the measure.

- |- indicates a new measure with the previous chord continuing.
- just like with written music, the bar at the end of a line is the same bar as the beginning of the next line. These are not 2 measures but the end of one measure and the beginning of the next.
- \- indicates individual beats of a measure when needed. So if a chord lasts for less than a full measure, the slash mark (\) will indicate the different beats of the measure and the written chord name will also take up one of those beats. Thus |A \ E | would mean to play an A for 3 beats and an E for the 4<sup>th</sup> beat. Note: normally, in jazz and pop notation, beat slashes face forward (/). We're reversing the direction to separate this from the forward slash (/) used for indicating a changing bass note (see below)
- <- indicates the chord comes in  $\frac{1}{2}$  beat earlier than written. Thus  $|A \setminus E|$  would mean to play an A for 2 and a half beats and E would start on the 'and' of beat 3.
- >- indicates the chord comes in  $\frac{1}{2}$  beat later than written. Thus  $|A \setminus E > |$  would mean to play an A for 3 and a half beats and E would start on the 'and' of beat 4.
- /X indicates a specific bass note, rather than a chord type, usually while the previous chord is playing; i.e., E /F# /G# A would mean play the E chord, then F# and G# as single bass notes during the E chord (in the right hand of a piano or bass strings of the guitar or on the bass, for example).
- Chords and measures bars are almost exactly over the words where they occur, so you should be able to follow the words and thus know where the chords change.

## Single notes

Harmony BGV Attention Lyric changed