

CAT'S IN THE CRADLE

Words and Music by HARRY CHAPIN
and SANDY CHAPIN

Moderate Folk style

Tacet

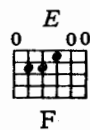
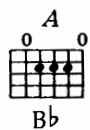
Guitar → E
(capo
1st fret)

G
x 000

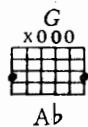
Piano → F

A^b

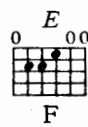
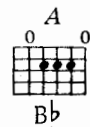
child ar - rived just the oth - er day; just the he
son turned ten just the oth - er day; he said,
came from col - lege just the oth - er day; so



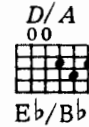
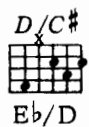
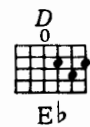
came to the world in the u - su - al way. — But there were
"Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play. — Can you
much like a man I just had to say, — "Son, I'm



planes to catch — and bills to pay; —
teach me to throw?" I said, "Not to - day, — I got a
proud of you, — can you sit for a - while?"



lot he learned to walk while I was a - way. And he was
He shook his head He said, "That's o - kay." And he,
and he said with a smile, — "What I'd



talk - in' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew he'd say,
he walked a - way, but his smile nev - er dimmed, it said,
real - ly like, Dad, is to bor - row the car keys;

G
Bm/F#
E
G
Bm/F#

Ab **Cm/G** **F** *** Ab** **Cm/G**

"I'm gon-na be like you, Dad, you know I'm gon-na be like
 "I'm gon-na be like him, yeah, you know I'm gon-na be like
 see you la-ter, can I have them please?"

E
F

you." } And the cat's in the cra-dle and the
 him." }

D
G
A

E_b **Ab** **B_b**





sil-ver spoon, lit-tle boy blue and the man in the moon,

E
D
G
Bm/F#

F **E_b** **Ab** **Cm/G**

"When you com-in' home { Dad?"
 { Dad?"
 { Son?" } "I don't know when, but we'll get to-gether then;

* Third time omit the two bars between asterisks.





 *E* *F*
 *G* *Ab*
 *Bm/F#* *Cm/G*
 *E* *F*





1. 2.

you know we'll have a good time then."

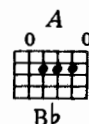
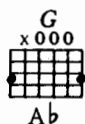
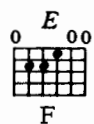
mp

My
Well, he

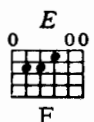
3.  *C* *Db*
 *D* *Eb*
 *Bm* *Cm*
 *E* *F*

 *C* *Db*
 *D* *Eb*
 *Bm* *Cm*
 *E* *F*

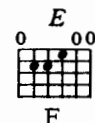
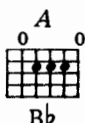
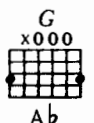
I've



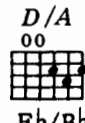
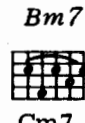
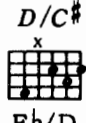
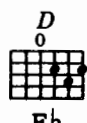
long since re-tired, my son's moved a-way; I called him up just the



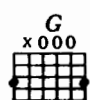
oth-er day. I said, "I'd like to see— you if



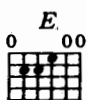
you don't mind." He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time."



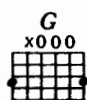
You see, my new job's a has-sle and the kids have the flu,— but it's

A \flat Bm/F \sharp 

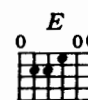
Cm/G



F

A \flat Bm/F \sharp 

Cm/G



F

sure nice talk-in' to you, Dad, it's been sure nice talk-in' to you."

D

E \flat D/C \sharp E \flat /D

Bm7



Cm7

D/A

E \flat /B \flat

And as I hung up the phone, it oc - curred to me, — he'd

mpA \flat Bm/F \sharp 

Cm/G



F

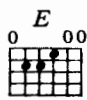
A \flat Bm/F \sharp 

Cm/G

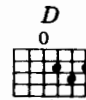


F

grown up just like me; my boy was just like me.

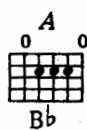
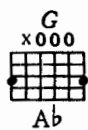
mf

F

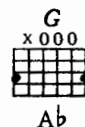
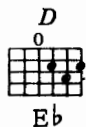
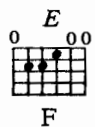
E \flat

And the cat's in the cra-dle and the sil - ver spoon, —

*cresc.**f*

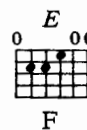
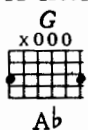
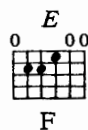


lit - tle boy blue and the man _____ in the moon. _



"When you com - in' home, Son?" "I don't know when, but we'll get to - geth - er then, _

A little slower



_____ Dad, _ we're gon - na have a good time then. "

mf

dim.