

Little Wing

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Jimi's protean imagination is evident in his unique chordal style, particularly in a ballad like "Little Wing." In this context, his approach to the guitar is more like that of a pianist: Jimi breaks away from the confines of the dogmatic "rhythm or lead" method. His thumb frets the bass notes, functioning in almost the same manner as a keyboardist's left hand, and the fingers of his fretting hand can be likened to a pianist's right hand. Let's examine a few excerpts that demonstrate this piano style format and rediscover what Adrian Belew has called a "lost art."

On the first beat of measure 2, Jimi frets the root of the G major chord with his thumb, allowing it to be sustained as he follows up with the chord melody. Although the melody is within the third position form of G major, the complete chord is not fingered at any one time. Jimi usually plays dyads (double stops) and movement within these partial chords is oblique; that is one pitch is stationary. If you examine measure 6 you'll find extensive use of oblique motion.

Going to the second verse, an example of parallel motion can be found in measure 2, as the interval of a fourth is slid back and forth over a distance of a whole tone. This idea based on the major pentatonic scale also appears in the coda to "The Wind Cries Mary."

The unusual tonal quality of Jimi's guitar is characteristic of the pickup combination known as the "out-of-phase" mode (see text for "One Rainy Wish"). The ethereal effect beginning with measure 6 is the result of playing through a unit associated with organists, the rotating speaker cabinet or "Leslie." Actually, it's the speaker baffle that moves, creating slow or fast vibration on the principle of the Doppler effect.

Gtrs. 1 & 2; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

- ① = E $\flat$ ④ = D $\flat$
② = B $\flat$ ⑤ = A $\flat$
③ = G $\flat$ ⑥ = E $\flat$

Bass; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

- ① = G $\flat$ ③ = A $\flat$
② = D $\flat$ ④ = E $\flat$

Intro

Slow Rock $\text{♩} = 67$

Score for "Little Wing" (Intro section, measures 1-3).

Vocal: N.C.(Em) (G) (Am)

Glockenspiel: *mf*

Guitar 1: *mf* *T w/ slight dist. let ring - - let ring - - T let ring - - - - - T T let ring - - let ring - - let ring - -

Bass: (Empty staff)

Drums: (Empty staff)

Guitar 1 Fingering: T 12 12 12 12 0 2 5 7 (7) 0 3 5 3 3 3 3 3 4 5 5 4 5 5 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7

*T=Thumb on ⑥

Verse
N.C.(Em) (G)

Vocal: 1. Well, she's walk-in' through the clouds, _____ with a

Glockenspiel

Guitar I: T P.M. - - - - - T T T

Guitar TAB: 7 0 13 12 0 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 (0 2) 0 0 2 0 3 3 3 5 2 4 2 (0 2) 3 5 5

Bass: mf w/ pick 7 7 7 7 10 10 X 12

Drums: hi-hat

(Am) (Em) (Bm) (Bb)

Vocal: cir-cus mind _ that's run-ning _ wild _ But-ter-flies _ and ze - bras _ and moon - beams _

Glockenspiel

Guitar I: T let ring - - - - - T

Guitar TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 5 7 5 5 10 8 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 9 7 10 7 7 9 7 9 8 8 6 7 8

Bass: 12 12 12 7 7 7 7 5 7 7 7 6 6 6

Drums

(Am) (G) (Fadd9) (C)

Vocal
and, uh, fair - y tales. That's all she ev-er thinks a-bout. Rid-ing with the

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1
T T T T let ring - - - - - 4

Bass
5 5 5 3 3 3 3 5 (5) 3 1 1 3 3 3 X

Drums

(D) D Verse N.C.(Em)

Vocal
wind. 2. When I'm sad she comes to me,

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1
TAB 0 2 3 2 3 0 2 0 0 12 14 12 14 0 0 14 12 0 14 12 12 14

Bass
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 7 7

Drums

(G) (Am) (Em7)

Vocal

with a thou - sand smiles - she gives to me - free -

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1

TAB

*Vib. top note only.

Bass

Drums

ride

hi-hat

(Bm) (Bb) (Am) (C)

It's al - right, she - says - it's al - right, - take an - y - thing - you want -

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1

TAB

Bass

Drums

(G) Asus2 Gsus2 Fsus2 C5 D5

Vocal: — from me, — an - y - thing, — an - y - thing.

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1

TAB

Bass

Drums

(D) Guitar Solo Em G

Vocal: Fly on — Lit - tle Wing. —

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1

TAB

Guitar 2

Bass

Drums

Am7 Em7 Bm7 Bb

Vocal

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1

full full full full hold bend full

TAB

Guitar 2

TAB

Bass

tom fill

Drums

Am C D5/A G Fadd9 C

Vocal

Glockenspiel

Guitar 1

Guitar 2

Bass

Drums

70

Outro
Begin Fade

Vocal: D, Em, N.C.
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, -

Glockenspiel: 8va

Guitar 1: Harm. grad. dive w/ bar, full, full

Guitar 2: 6, 6

Bass: tom fill

Drums: tom fill

[illegible]