

RIVER

Words and Music by
JONI MITCHELL

Medium Folk Tempo

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords: F major, C major, F major, C major, F major, and C major. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line.

F/C *C* *F* (C bass) *C* *F* (C bass) *C*

It's com- in' on— Christ-mas, they're cut-tin' down— trees. They're put-tin' up rein-deer— and sing-in'

This system contains the first line of the song. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Handwritten guitar chord diagrams are placed above the vocal line: F/C, C, F (C bass), C, F (C bass), and C.

F (C bass) *C* *Am*

songs of joy—and peace, Oh, I wish I had a riv - er, I could skate— a -

To Coda

This system contains the second line of the song. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Handwritten guitar chord diagrams are placed above the vocal line: F (C bass), C, and Am. The system ends with a Coda symbol.

G *F* (C bass) *C* *F* (C bass) *C*

way on, But it don't snow— here; stays pret- ty green.— I'm gon-na

This system contains the third line of the song. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Handwritten guitar chord diagrams are placed above the vocal line: G, F (C bass), C, F (C bass), and C.

make a lot of mon-ey, then I'm gon-na quit — this cra - zy scene, I wish I had a riv - er

I could skate — a - way — on. I wish I had a riv-er — so long-

I would teach my feet to fly

Oh, I wish I had a riv - er I could skate a-way — on.

I made my ba - by cry.

He tried hard — to help — me, you know, he

put me at ease — and he loved me so naugh-ty, made me weak in — the knees, Oh, I wish I had a

riv - er I could skate — a-way — on.








I'm so hard to han-dle, I'm self-ish and I'm sad, Now I've gone and lost the best ba - by that I—








— ev-er had. — Oh, I wish I had a riv - er — I could skate a - way — on —







I wish I had a riv - er so — long — I would











teach my feet — to fly. —



Oh — I wish I had a riv - er I could — skate a-way —

on... I made my ba - by say good-bye,

D. S. al ♦ Coda

It's

Coda

way

on.

The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a whole note chord and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. The piano part has a steady eighth-note rhythm in both hands. The treble part has a whole note chord with a fermata above it. The word "on." is written below the treble staff.

G F (C Bass) F

The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The treble staff has a whole note chord with a fermata. Above the treble staff are guitar chord diagrams for G, F (C Bass), and F.

The third system shows the continuation of the piano accompaniment and the treble part. The piano part maintains the eighth-note pattern, while the treble part has a whole note chord with a fermata.

D (1 bass) Am Dm D7 (omit 1st)

rit. molto rit. P

The fourth system concludes the piece. The piano accompaniment ends with a final eighth-note chord. The treble part has a whole note chord with a fermata. Above the treble staff are guitar chord diagrams for D, Am, Dm, and D7 (omit 1st). Performance markings include "rit.", "molto rit.", and "P" (piano).