

Send in the Clowns

By Ted Greene, from his *Solo Guitar* album
Transcription by Mark Thornbury

I remember seeing Ted play “Send in the Clowns” at the Smoke House in Toluca Lake in Burbank, and its sheer beauty made me almost “lose my sh*t.” His use of the add 9 chord/5 was one of the prettiest things I ever heard. That same night he played “The Girl with the Flaxen Hair.” After that, I hauled my reel-to-reel on to Ted’s house for our next lesson, and made him play it for me...

I remember talking to Ted at The Smoke House about “Send in the Clowns” after the set, and Ted expressed his deep love for the use of the IV chord (both major and minor) – he really loved the 4th degree of the scale. I remember him excitedly grabbing his Tele and playing the Db minor add 9 over Ab and resolving it to Ab add 9 with a twinkle in his eye!

As I remember, he played on Sunday nights, and my weekly lesson was on Thursdays at 4:30. On my next lesson, Ted handed me his lesson sheet for “Send in the Clowns” that he had prepared on 4-12-76 (this same one is posted on the TedGreene.com website in the “Arrangements” section.) As for the recording portion, I had Ted go through “The Girl with the Flaxen Hair,” but I’ll be darned if I can find it! ☹

I hope this grids transcription helps you to play this beautiful song similar to the way Ted played it. Enjoy.

~ Mark

TUNE GUIT. DOWN 1/2 STEP

- = 1
- X = 2
- = 3
- ◇ = 4

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

ARR. BY TED GREENE
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The chord diagrams are arranged in a grid as follows:

- Row 1: F#, F#MA7, Bma7, A#m7, D#m7, G#13, G#9+, G#m7, C#11, C#11(C9), F#(C2)
- Row 2: F#/B, E/B, E(2)/B, Bsus, HARM. B/E, A, Esus, E, A/9, E/9, B
- Row 3: E, C#m7, B, E, Ema7, A/9, A6, E, B/E, A/9, A-/9
- Row 4: Ema7, A/9, E/9, C#m7, B, E, C#m7-B, E, HARM Ema7, A/9, A6
- Row 5: E, B, A/9, B11, E, A, E, D#m7/11, G#m, D#m7/11, G#m/9
- Row 6: D#m7, G#m/9, G#m9, E/9+11, C#m, G#, C#m7, D#m7, F#m/9, G#sus, Amb
- Row 7: B6, B11, E, A/E, E, Dbm/9, Abma7, Db/9, Ab/9, Eb, Ab
- Row 8: Fm7-Eb, A/9, Abma7, Db/9, Db6, Abma7, Db/9, Eb11, Ab, Ab
- Row 9: Gm7/11, Cm, Gm7/11, Cm/9, Gm7, Cm/9, Cm9, Ab/9

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Chord diagrams for "Sand In The Clowns":

Row 1: Fm(7), C, Fm7, Bb, Bbm/9, Csus, C#M6, Eb6, Eb11, Ab7, Db/9

Row 2: Ab7, Cm/9, Gma7, C/9, G/9, D, G, Em7-D6, G/9, Gma7, C/9

Row 3: C6, Gma7, C/9, D11, F, D11, F13, C9, Bb6, Eb9, Db6

Row 4: Ab9(11), F, Bb/9, Bm7b5, Dm/9, A/9, D/9, A/9, C, D, E-A

Row 5: F#m7-E(6), A/9, A7, D/9, D6, Ama7, E11, open A, HARM 12th FRET Am7, Bm7, C#m7

Row 6: D, E, D, C#m, Bm, A, open E11(9), A7, D, G#m7, C#m

Row 7: F#m7, Bm7, E7, A7, Dm7, Bm6, C#7, F#m, G#dim, F#m, C#7

Row 8: F#m-Bm/6, F#9, F#m9, w/ 1st finger of R.H., C#7, F#m7