



# DUST IN THE WIND

## SONG LESSON

### “Dust in the Wind” Introduction

Kerry Livgren and Rich Williams from the 70s Rock group Kansas recorded the iconic guitars on this song on a hot summer day in March of 1977 at Woodland Studios in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kerry Livgren had recently been trying to learn fingerstyle guitar and had improvised an exercise to help learn finger picking. His wife encouraged him to turn his fingerpicking exercise into a song by adding lyrics.

Within a few months of recording it was #6 on the Billboard charts and eventually gave Kansas their only certified gold single.

The two acoustic guitar parts were recorded on a Martin D-28 with one guitar part in standard tuning and the other part played on guitar tuned in Nashville High-Tuning. Both guitars played the identical parts, so the effect was as if it was played on a 12-string guitar.

### Finger Picking Pattern & Chord Voicings

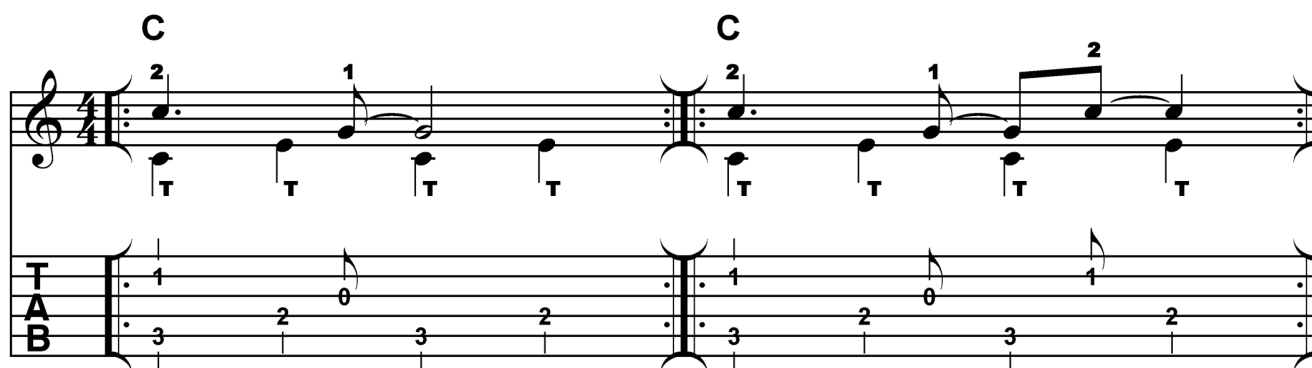
The finger picking pattern used in the intro stays consistent for the entire song.

The chord voicings stay from 6<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> string and never uses the 1<sup>st</sup> string except for the Dm7th chord.

Let's first learn the finger picking pattern. It uses only the thumb (notated as a T), index (1), and middle (2) finger.

Begin by playing quarter notes with the thumb using an alternating string pattern. Then step by step add the other fingers to the pattern.

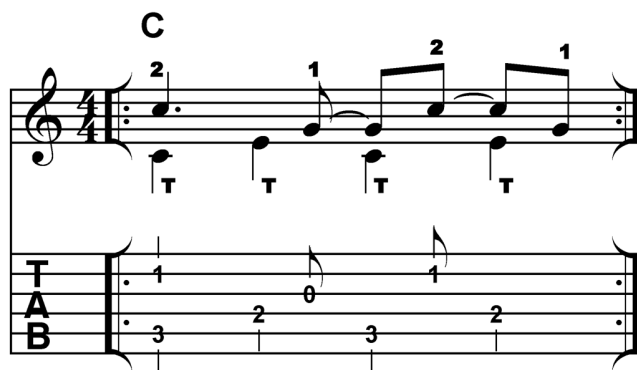
The musical notation illustrates the finger picking pattern and chord voicings for the introduction of "Dust in the Wind". The top staff shows a C chord voicing (C4, E4, G4, B4) and a sequence of quarter notes. The bottom staff shows the finger picking pattern (T, 1, 2) and a sequence of quarter notes. The notation includes a C chord diagram, a C chord symbol, and a C chord symbol with a 2 indicating the second string.



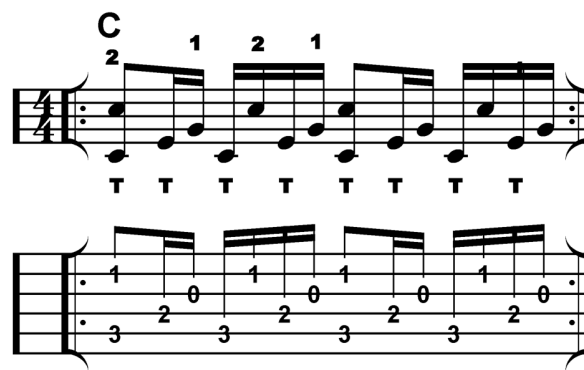
Finally, here is the complete pattern written out in quarters and eighths then in eighths and sixteenths.

**Both of these examples are the same pattern – sounding identical.** (They are just notated differently.)

#### Written in Quarters/Eighths



#### Written in Eighths/Sixteenths



## “Dust in the Wind”

Play fingerstyle – plucking only with the Thumb, index, and middle fingers. Finger notations on the fretting hand are notated as circled numbers.

Note, the chord voicings do not use the 1<sup>st</sup> string, except for the Dm7.

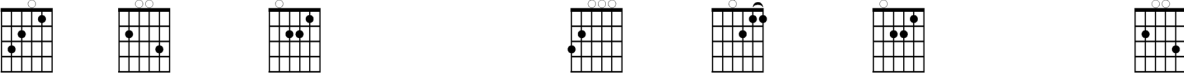
[illegible]

Am A2 Asus Am G/B


The image displays a musical score for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It includes a guitar part and a bass part. The guitar part is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bass part is written on a single staff with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The guitar part features a melodic line with various chords indicated above the staff: Am, A2, Asus, Am, and G/B. The bass part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with a consistent pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score is presented in a clear, black-and-white format, suitable for a music book or a digital sheet music application.

# **VERSE** (Continue Intro Finger Pattern)


**C** **G/B** **Am** **G** **Dm7** **Am** **G/B**




9 I close my eyes...



**C** **G/B** **Am** **G** **Dm7** **Am**




13




## **CHORUS**

**D/F#** **G** **Am** **Am/G** **D/F#** **G**




1. To Verse

**Am** **G/B**

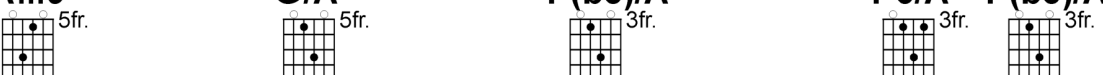


17 Dust in the wind...




## **INTERLUDE**


**2. Am9** **G/A** **F(b5)/A** **F6/A** **F(b5)/A**




21 (Continue Intro Finger Pattern) Play 3x



**C** **Cmaj7** **C2** **C** **A2** **Asus** **Am** **A2**

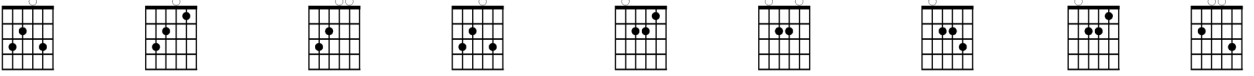



25 (Like Intro)



29

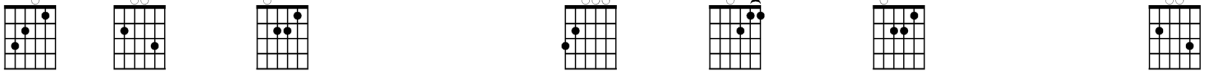

**C2** **C** **Cmaj7** **C2** **Am** **A2** **Asus** **Am** **G/B**

**VERSE**

33


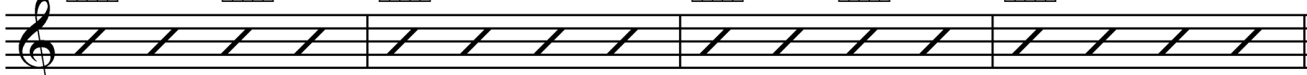
**C** **G/B** **Am** **G** **Dm7** **Am** **G/B**

Don't hang on...

37


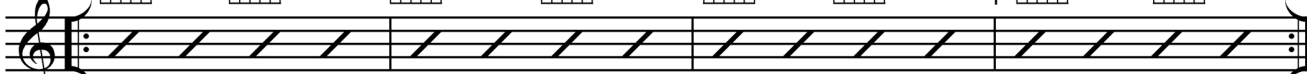
**C** **G/B** **Am** **G** **Dm7** **Am**

**CHORUS**

41

**D/F#** **G** **Am** **Am/G** **D/F#** **G**


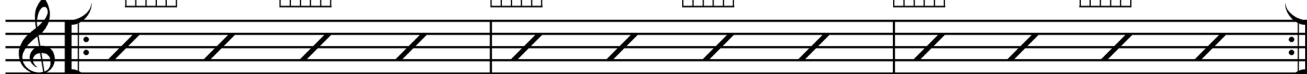



Dust in the wind...

**OUTRO**

45

**Am** **A2** **Asus** **Am** **A2** **Asus**

(Repeat till End)