

the only exception lyrics and chords

the only exception lyrics and chords offer an insightful glimpse into one of the most beloved songs by Paramore. This article delves deeply into the lyrical content and guitar chords of "The Only Exception," providing an authoritative resource for musicians, fans, and music enthusiasts alike. Understanding the lyrics and chords not only aids in performing the song but also enhances appreciation of its emotional depth and musical structure. The song's heartfelt lyrics combined with its relatively simple chord progression make it accessible for guitar players at various skill levels. This comprehensive guide covers the song's background, detailed chord diagrams, lyric interpretation, and tips for mastering the performance. Readers will gain a thorough understanding of how to play "The Only Exception" and the meaning behind its words, making this an essential reference for any Paramore aficionado.

- Background of "The Only Exception"
- Lyrics Breakdown and Meaning
- Chords Used in "The Only Exception"
- How to Play "The Only Exception" on Guitar
- Tips for Singing and Playing Simultaneously

Background of "The Only Exception"

"The Only Exception" is a song by the American rock band Paramore, featured on their third studio album, "Brand New Eyes," released in 2009. This track stands out as a softer, more acoustic-driven ballad compared to the band's typically energetic rock sound. The song explores themes of love, vulnerability, and the struggle to trust again after heartbreak. It quickly became one of Paramore's most popular songs due to its relatable lyrics and melodic composition. The emotional sincerity conveyed through the lyrics and Hayley Williams' heartfelt vocal delivery has resonated with a wide audience, making it a staple in acoustic and live performances.

Lyrics Breakdown and Meaning

The lyrics of "The Only Exception" depict the journey of someone who has been hurt in previous relationships but finds a reason to believe in love again. The song opens with a confession of skepticism about love, followed by the acknowledgment of a unique person who challenges that belief.

Verse Analysis

The verses set the tone by expressing the narrator's past experiences with failed relationships and the resulting emotional walls. The lyrics suggest a protective stance, avoiding vulnerability to prevent further pain.

Chorus Interpretation

The chorus highlights the shift in perspective, with the phrase "You are the only exception" serving as the emotional centerpiece. This line emphasizes that despite past disappointments, this one person breaks through the narrator's defenses.

Overall Theme

The song's overarching theme revolves around trust, hope, and the transformative power of genuine love. Its narrative arc moves from guarded skepticism to emotional openness, which many listeners find deeply relatable.

Chords Used in "The Only Exception"

The chord progression in "The Only Exception" is known for its simplicity and effectiveness, making it accessible to beginner and intermediate guitarists. The song primarily uses open chords that create a warm, intimate sound complementing the lyrical content.

List of Main Chords

- C Major (C)
- G Major (G)
- A Minor (Am)
- F Major (F)
- E Minor (Em)

These chords form the foundation for both the verses and chorus, with subtle variations that add emotional depth to the performance.

Chord Diagrams and Finger Positions

Understanding the finger placement for each chord is crucial for smooth transitions. For example, the C Major chord requires the ring finger on the 3rd fret of the 5th string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of

the 4th string, and index finger on the 1st fret of the 2nd string. The F Major chord, often considered challenging for beginners, can be played as a simplified version to maintain flow.

How to Play "The Only Exception" on Guitar

Playing "The Only Exception" involves mastering the chord changes and rhythm pattern that reflect the song's intimate mood. The strumming pattern is relatively straightforward, focusing on a gentle, consistent rhythm that supports the vocal line.

Strumming Pattern

A common strumming pattern used in this song is a mix of downstrokes and upstrokes, such as:

- Down, down, up, up, down, up

This pattern helps maintain the song's flow and emotional tone while providing rhythmic interest.

Practice Tips for Chord Transitions

Smooth chord transitions are key to replicating the song's gentle feel. Practicing the changes between C, G, Am, F, and Em in slow tempo before speeding up is recommended. Using a metronome can assist in building timing consistency. Additionally, focusing on finger positioning to minimize movement can improve fluidity.

Tips for Singing and Playing Simultaneously

Performing "The Only Exception" while singing requires coordination but is manageable with practice due to the song's moderate tempo and repetitive chord progression.

Breath Control and Timing

Maintaining breath control is essential for delivering the song's emotional lyrics without strain. Practicing the vocal parts separately before combining with guitar helps build confidence.

Breaking Down Sections

Dividing the song into smaller sections for practice can aid in mastering the dual task of playing and singing. Starting with the verse, then moving to the chorus, and finally practicing the transitions ensures better control.

Maintaining Emotional Expression

Despite focusing on technical aspects, preserving the emotional expression conveyed in the lyrics is vital. Paying attention to dynamics—such as softer strumming during verses and slightly stronger emphasis in the chorus—can enhance the overall performance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main chords used in 'The Only Exception' by Paramore?

The main chords used in 'The Only Exception' are G, Cadd9, Em7, and D.

How do I play the intro chords for 'The Only Exception'?

The intro uses a fingerpicking pattern with the chords G, Cadd9, and Em7 played softly and slowly to set the mood.

Where can I find accurate lyrics and chords for 'The Only Exception'?

Accurate lyrics and chords can be found on reputable guitar tab websites like Ultimate Guitar, AZChords, or official Paramore songbooks.

What is the chord progression for the chorus of 'The Only Exception'?

The chorus chord progression typically follows G - Cadd9 - Em7 - D, repeating throughout the section.

Are there any capo recommendations for playing 'The Only Exception'?

Yes, the song is often played with a capo on the 3rd fret to match the original recording key.

Can beginners play 'The Only Exception' easily using these chords?

Yes, the chords are relatively simple open chords, making it a good song for beginners to practice chord transitions and fingerpicking.

How does the chord progression in 'The Only Exception' contribute to the song's emotional tone?

The chord progression uses gentle, open chords like G, Cadd9, and Em7, which create a soft and

introspective mood that complements the heartfelt lyrics.

Additional Resources

1. *Mastering Acoustic Guitar: Techniques for Emotional Ballads*

This book delves into the nuances of playing acoustic guitar, focusing on emotional ballads like "The Only Exception" by Paramore. It covers fingerpicking patterns, chord transitions, and strumming techniques that bring out the heartfelt essence of such songs. Suitable for intermediate players, it also provides exercises to improve timing and expression.

2. *Chord Progressions and Their Emotional Impact*

Explore the theory behind chord progressions used in popular songs, including "The Only Exception." This book explains how certain chords evoke specific feelings and how to use them effectively in songwriting and performance. It includes detailed analyses and examples to help musicians create compelling and emotionally resonant music.

3. *Paramore: The Story Behind the Music*

A comprehensive biography and analysis of Paramore, this book offers insights into the band's creative process, including the making of "The Only Exception." Fans and musicians alike will appreciate the background stories, lyrical themes, and musical evolution presented. The book also contains interviews and rare photos.

4. *Fingerstyle Guitar Essentials: From Basics to Beautiful Ballads*

This instructional guide focuses on fingerstyle guitar techniques that suit songs like "The Only Exception." It provides step-by-step tutorials, chord charts, and practice routines designed to develop precision and musicality. Ideal for guitarists looking to expand their repertoire with delicate, melodic pieces.

5. *Writing Lyrics That Connect: A Songwriter's Guide*

Learn the art of crafting lyrics that resonate emotionally, inspired by the heartfelt storytelling in "The Only Exception." This book covers themes, rhyme schemes, and narrative techniques to help songwriters develop authentic and touching lyrics. It includes exercises and examples from well-known songs.

6. *Essential Pop Rock Songs: Chords and Tabs for Guitarists*

Featuring a collection of popular pop rock songs with chords and tabs, this book includes "The Only Exception" among its selections. It offers detailed chord diagrams, strumming patterns, and tips for performance. Perfect for guitarists wanting to build a versatile songbook.

7. *Emotional Expression Through Music: Techniques for Guitarists*

This book explores how guitarists can convey deep emotion through their playing, using examples like "The Only Exception." It discusses dynamics, tone control, and phrasing to evoke feelings effectively. Readers will find practical advice for enhancing their musical expression.

8. *Acoustic Guitar Songbook: Hits of the 2000s*

A curated collection of acoustic guitar arrangements from the 2000s, including Paramore's "The Only Exception." Each song is presented with chords, lyrics, and suggested fingerpicking patterns. This book is ideal for musicians who want to capture the sound of a memorable decade.

9. *From Band to Solo: Transitioning Your Guitar Skills*

This guide helps guitarists adapt their playing from full band settings to solo acoustic performances, focusing on songs like "The Only Exception." It teaches how to fill out the sound with chord voicings and rhythmic techniques suitable for solo gigs. The book also includes tips on stage presence and arrangement.

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