

# RIVER



Words and Music by  
JONI MITCHELL

**Medium Folk Tempo**

*mf*

F (C bass) 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'

F (C bass) C Am

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

*To Coda*

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

F (C bass) C F (C bass) C Am

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

G F

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

G Gb9#5 C F Am (F bass) Dm

I would teach my — feet to fly —

C F (C bass) G Fmaj7

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

F (C bass) C Am

I made my ba - by cry. —

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'I made my ba - by cry. —'. Above the staff are three guitar chord diagrams: F (C bass), C, and Am. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with a treble clef staff containing chords and a bass clef staff containing a steady eighth-note bass line.

G F G F (C bass) C

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

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'He tried hard — to help — me, you know, he'. Above the staff are five guitar chord diagrams: G, F, G, F (C bass), and C. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with a treble clef staff containing chords and a bass clef staff containing a steady eighth-note bass line.

F (C bass) C F (C bass) C F (C bass) C

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

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'put me at ease — and he loved me so naugh-ty, made me weak in — the knees, Oh, I wish I had a'. Above the staff are six guitar chord diagrams: F (C bass), C, F (C bass), C, F (C bass), and C. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with a treble clef staff containing chords and a bass clef staff containing a steady eighth-note bass line.

Am G

riv - er I could skate — a-way — on. —

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'riv - er I could skate — a-way — on. —'. Above the staff are two guitar chord diagrams: Am and G. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with a treble clef staff containing chords and a bass clef staff containing a steady eighth-note bass line. There are triplets marked with a '3' above the notes in both the vocal and piano parts.

 (C bass)    
     
  (C bass)    
     
  (C bass)    
 



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—

 (C bass)    
     
  Am    
  G











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

 F    
  G    
  (C Bass)



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

 C    
  F    
  Am (F bass)    
  Dm    
  Em (D Bass)    
  Dm    
  Em (D Bass)



teach my feet — to fly.

Em (1 bass)      Dm7      C      G

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

Fmaj7 (c ba)      F6 (c bass)      F (c bass)      C

Oh, — I made my ba - by say good-bye. —

C      Am      G

Dm7      G7      D. S. al      Coda

It's

⊕ Coda      Bb

way —

Guitar chord diagrams for G are shown above the first staff. The piano accompaniment features a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass clef with a continuous eighth-note pattern. The word "on," is written below the first staff.

Guitar chord diagrams for G and F are shown above the first staff. The F chord diagram is labeled "(G Bass)". The piano accompaniment continues with similar melodic and harmonic patterns.

The piano accompaniment continues in the third system, maintaining the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment in the treble clef.

Guitar chord diagrams for D, Am, Dm, and D7 are shown above the first staff. The D7 diagram is labeled "(omit F#)". The piano accompaniment includes performance markings: "rit.", "molto rit.", and "p". The system concludes with a double bar line.