

Hold Back the River

James Bay

Intro

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| T | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| B | | 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | |

Verse riff

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 10 |
| B | | | | | | | | | 5 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 8 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | 10 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| B | 8 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | | | | |

Chorus

The musical score for the chorus consists of four staves. The first staff shows a guitar riff with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 10th interval. Above the staff are three guitar chord diagrams: B^b (341), F, and C. The second staff continues the riff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, featuring a series of chords and a final F chord. The third staff is labeled 'Middle verse' and features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a series of chords and a final F chord. The fourth staff is labeled 'repeat chorus x2 : end on riff' and features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a series of chords and a final B^b chord. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and repeat signs.

Having trouble getting the chords & rhythm together?

This is a great song for developing guitarists; it has an interesting progression with contrasting parts but is not too hard. James Bay plays the riff in 10ths (an interval that works well on guitars), on the 5th & 2nd strings, as the TAB shows in the verse, but in the intro it shows how you can play it on the 4th & 1st strings. The original version is a bit difficult on acoustics and not easy for younger players. The alternate suggestion is exactly the same notes as the original.

The key of *Hold Back the River* is F Major - not a great key for guitarists. The chord shapes shown here have been re-voiced for the open position. The effect is the same as the recording but makes it easier to play.

If you are unsure of the rhythm writing, or about chords strumming, check out *Modern Guitar Chord Styles, Volume 1*. It's the best rhythm guitar book you'll find and has heaps of info about all the things you need to become good enough to play the songs you want to. Includes a handy play-along CD.

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