

The River – Bruce Springsteen

This is the way it is played on "The River" album. During the intro + 1st verse you should play with basic arpeggio pattern :

bass (6,5,4 depending on the chord) - **3 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 2 - 3** / Choruses, other verses + bridge, you should be strumming with:
d/x d/u x/u d/u

INTRO Em | G | D | Cadd9 C/B | Am | G | Cadd9 | Cadd9

VERSE 1

Em G D Cadd9
I come from down in the valley, where mister when you're young
Em G C G
They bring you up to do like your daddy done
C G G/F# Em
Me and Mary we met in high school, when she was just seven - teen
Am G C
We'd ride out of this valley down to where the fields were green

CHORUS

Em C D G
We'd go down to the river, And into the river we'd dive
Em C D Cadd9
Oh down to the river we'd ride

VERSE 2 (you can keep strumming, or go back to arpeggios)

Em G D Cadd9
Then I got Mary pregnant, And man that was all she wrote
Em G C G
And for my nineteenth birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat
C G G/F# Em
We went down to the courthouse, And the judge put it all to rest
Am G C
No wedding day smiles no walk down in the aisle, No flowers no wedding dress

CHORUS

Em C D G
That night we went down to the river, And into the river we'd dive
Em C D Cadd9
On down to the river we did ride

HARMONICA SOLO (repeat verse structure)

VERSE 3

Em G D Cadd9
I got a job working construction for the Johnstown Company
Em G C G
But lately there ain't been much work on account of the economy
C
Now all them things that seemed so important
G G/F# Em
Well mister they vanished right into the air
Am G C
Now I just act like I don't remember, Mary acts like she don't care

BRIDGE

Em G
But I remember us riding in my brother's car
D C
Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir
Em G
At night on them banks I'd lie awake
C G
And pull her close just to feel each breath she'd take
C G G/F# Em
Now those memories come back to haunt me, They haunt me like a curse
Am G C
Is a dream a lie if it don't come true, Or is it something worse that sends me

CHORUS

Em C D G
Down to the river though I know the river is dry,
Em C D Cadd9
That sends me down to the river tonight - ight
Em C D G Em C D Cadd9
Down to the river, My baby and I, Oh down the river we'd ride - iide
Em C D G Em C D Cadd9
oh oh oh oh oh oh