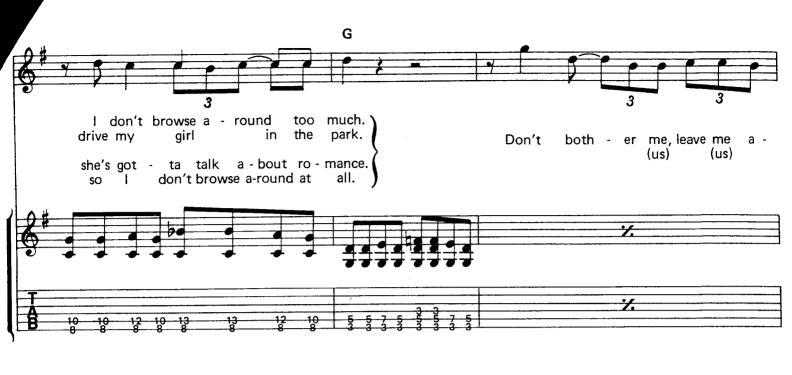
ALMOST GROWN

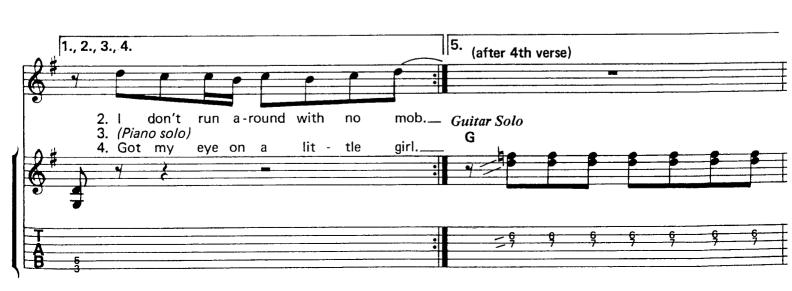
Note the "descending double-stop" lick halfway through the solo (as mentioned in the Introduction).

Words and Music by Chuck Be

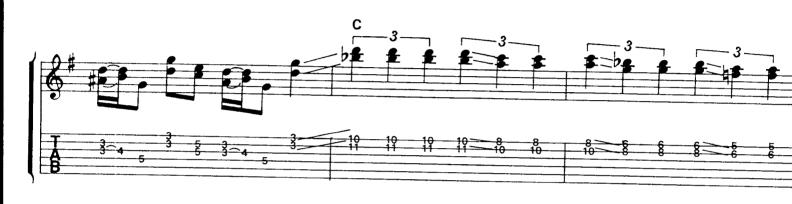






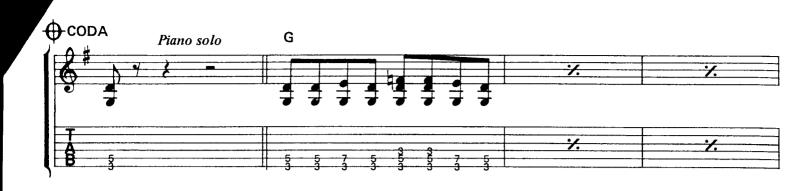


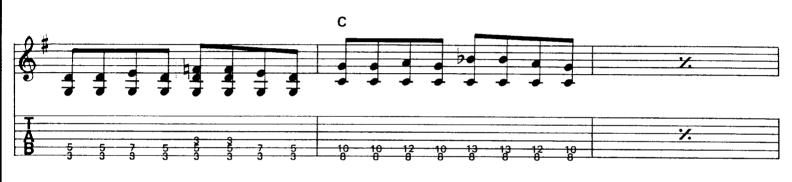




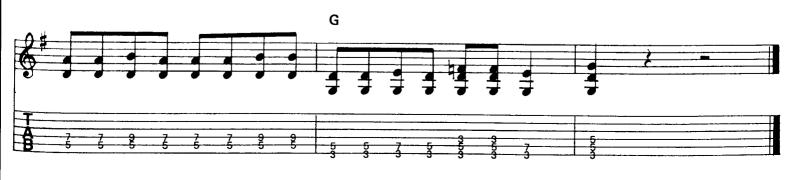








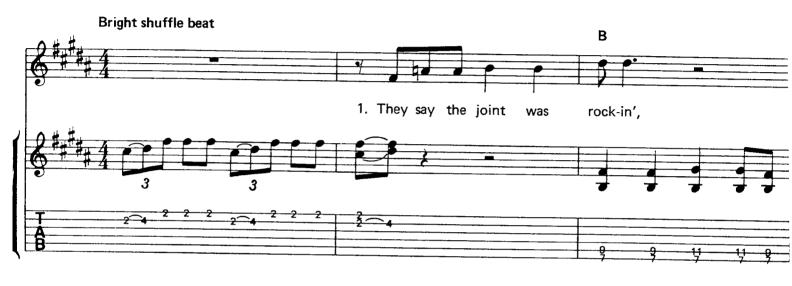




AROUND AND AROUND

The backup lick during the second verse, and the second solo, are derived from the "sliding ninth chord" idea described in the *Introduction*.

Words and Music by Chuck Bern





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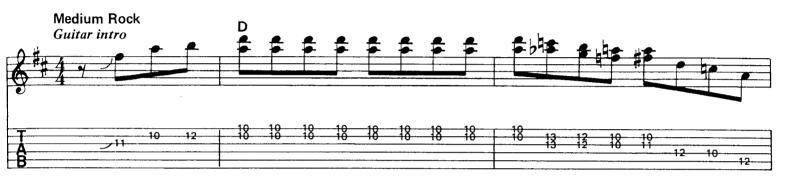




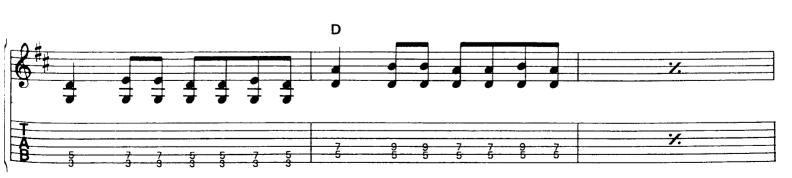
BACK IN THE U.S.A.

Berry wrote the song after a trip to Australia. The list of U.S. cities sounds like a patriotic litany: "Detroit, Chicago, Chattanooga, Baton Rouge." He developed the idea further a few years later in THE PROMISED LAND. And the Beatles used this song for inspiration when they wrote BACK IN THE USSR.

Words and Music by Chuck Berry

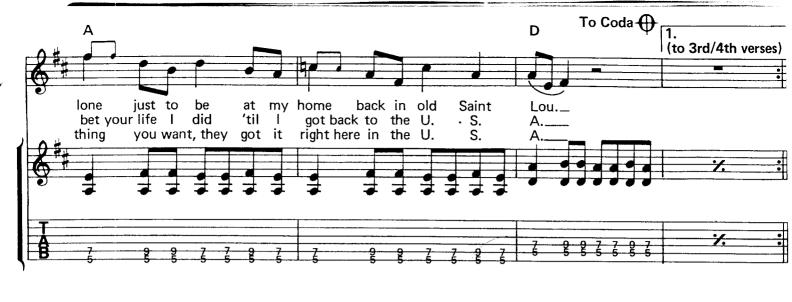






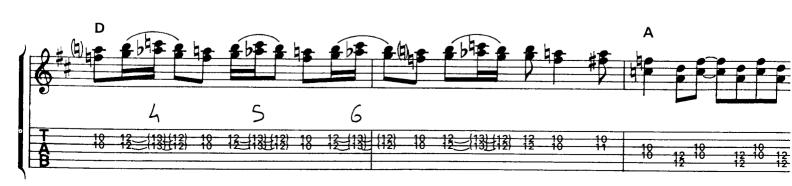














BEAUTIFUL DELILAH

The countryish cut-time rhythm pattern is similar to that of MABELLENE.

Words and Music by Chuck Be







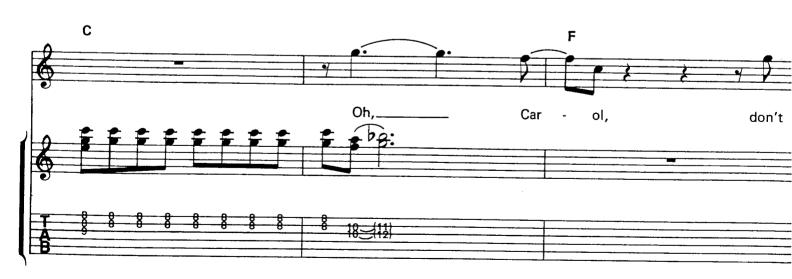


CAROL

The guitar "answers back" repeating the rhythm (but not the melody) of the vocal line during the verses. Note the "sliding ninth chord" lick during the Chorus.

Words and Music by Chuck Ber





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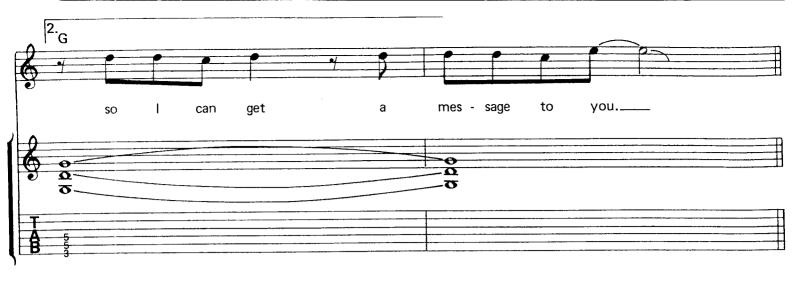
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU

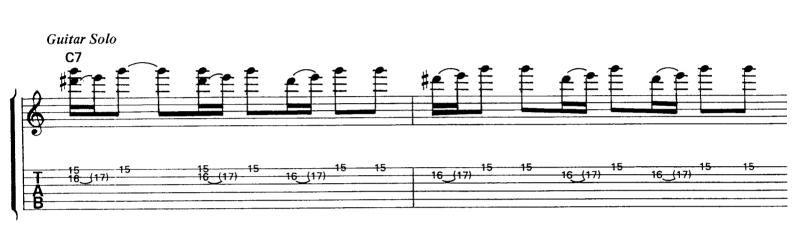
The straight-four rhythm pattern is unusual for Berry. His solo starts with the "imitation bottleneck lick" mentioned in LET IT ROCK; it also includes a taste of Berry's "descending double-stops."

Words and Music by Chuck Berry



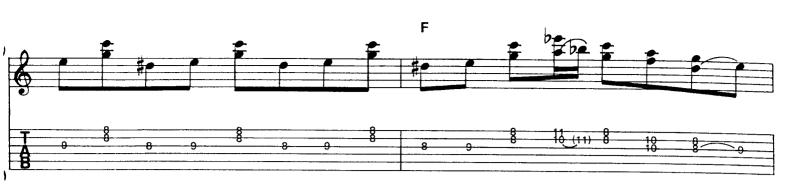


















JOHNNY B. GOODE

This is one of the most popular rock songs of all time. NASA put a recording of it in a space capsule as THE example of American pop music. Biographers take note: Berry grew up on Goode Street in St. Louis; and he originally wrote "where lived a colored boy," not "country boy."

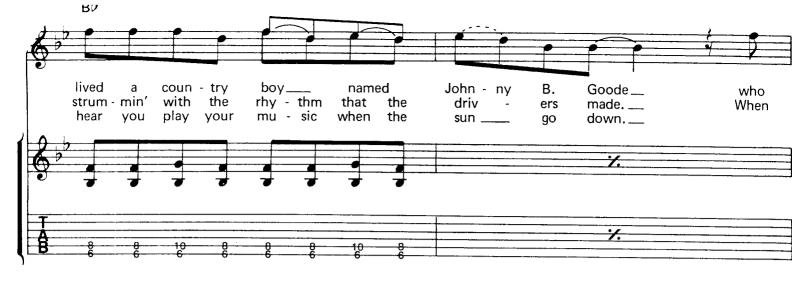
Words and Music by Chuck Berry

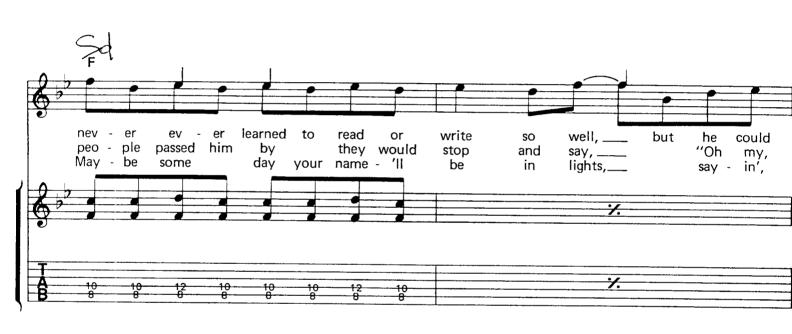




















LET IT ROCK

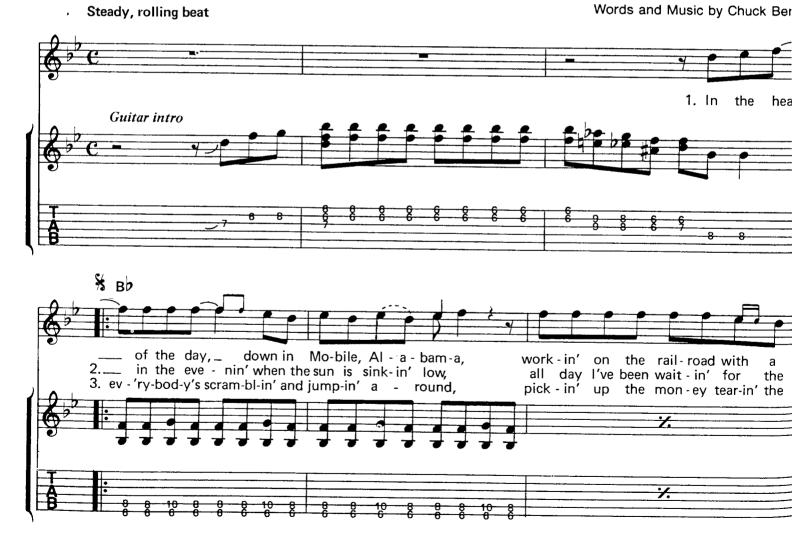
This workingman's tune features a rare bottleneck guitar solo. Berry wears a slide on his ring finger or pinkie so that he can solo as usual when he's not sliding up to the 18th fret for that one bottleneck lick. You can simulate the slide guitar sound (if you don't like bottlenecks) with this lick:



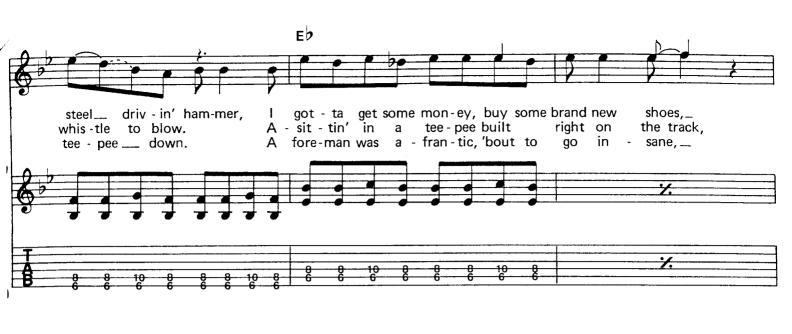
If this reminds you of the bluesy lick in SWEET LITTLE ROCK AND ROLLER, it should; the SWEET LITTLE ROCK AND ROLLER lick (as well as a similar lick in I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU) are imitations of the LET IT ROCK bottleneck lick — a classic slide guitar bluesy sound.

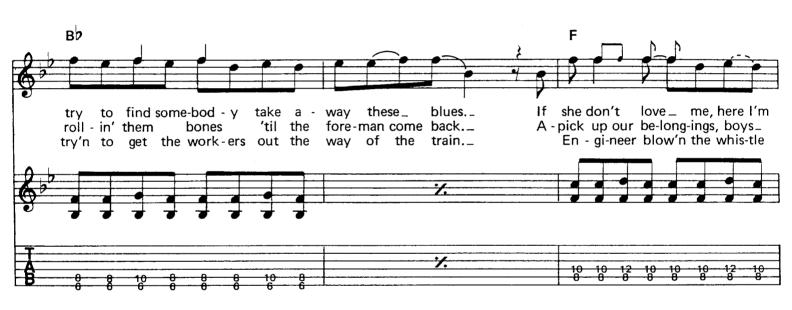
During the piano solo, Berry plays two "sliding ninth chord licks," one for each ninth chord formation:

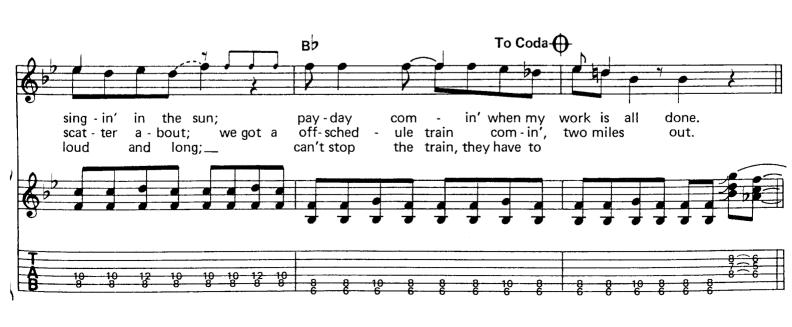




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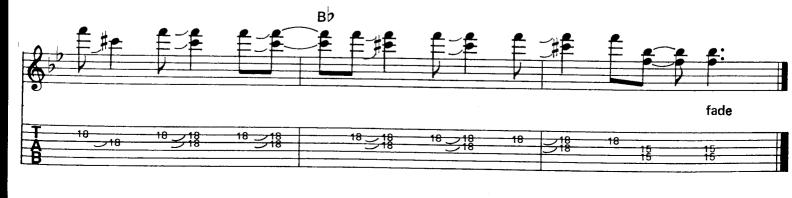












LITTLE QUEENIE

This is one of many Berry songs that was *covered* by the Rolling Stones. During the solo, Berry relentlessly churns out the same one-measure lick over and over throughout the chord changes; while playing the IV chord he switches from an F formation to a ninth chord formation, but few notes are changed. Notice the rhythmic variation of the standard backup lick during the chorus.

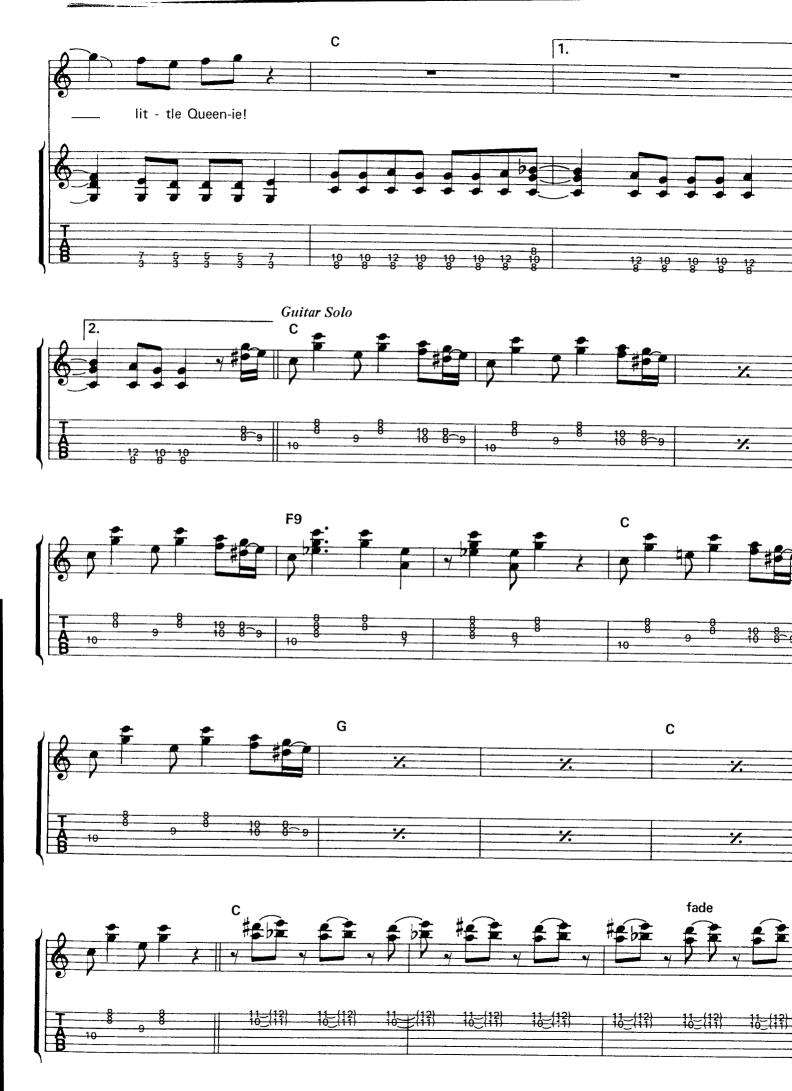
Words and Music by Chuck Berr











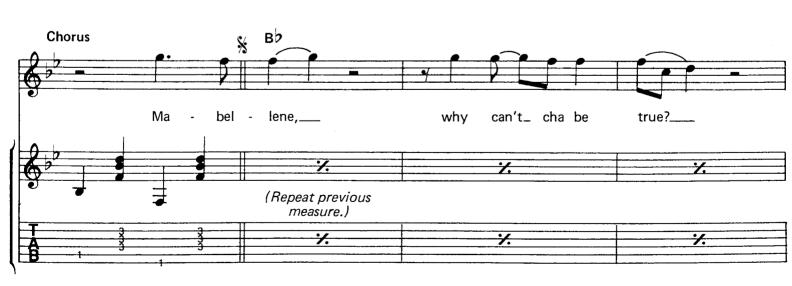
MABELLENE

MABELLENE was Berry's first Chess record and first hit. Berry presented it to Leonard Chess as IDA RED, his variant of a hillbilly tune, with a rockabilly beat. Chess suggested a "bigger beat" and (according to pianist Johnny Johnson) chose the name MABELLENE from a popular hair cream (prior to recording Berry had been a hairstylist).

Notice the distorted guitar sound; Berry was playing a fat hollow-body Gibson ES-350T. Later records featured a clearer sound with reverb added. The country-style backup — root in the bass/chord — fifth in the bass/chord — is also atypical. The opening guitar riff is based on the barred triad pattern mentioned in the *Introduction*.

Words and Music by Chuck Berry, Russ Fratto and Alan Freed















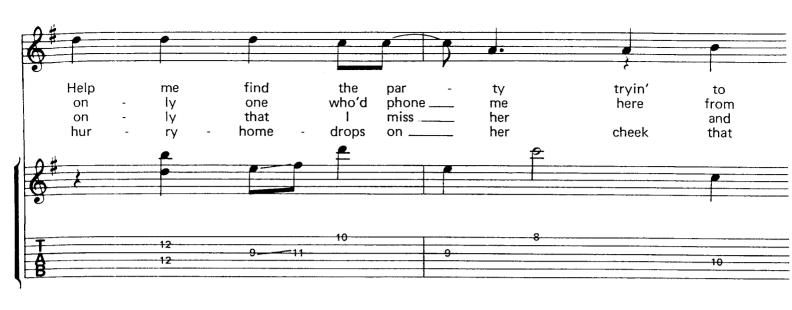


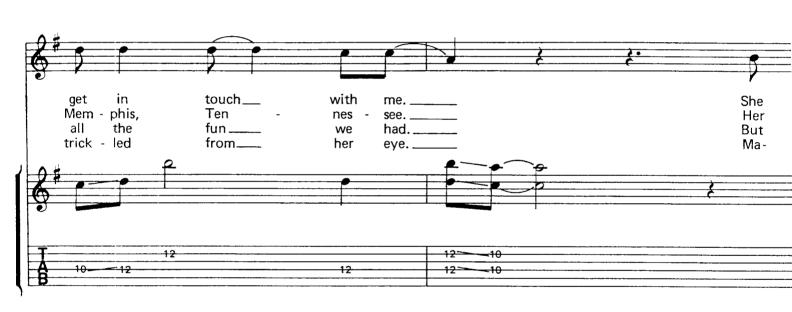
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

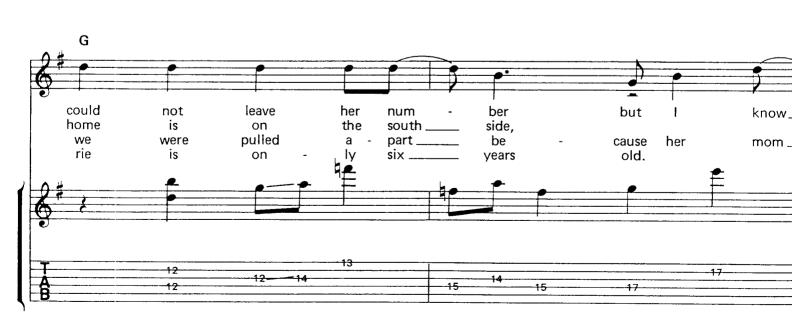
This simple, two-chord tune has some of Berry's most delightful lyrics. Nearly all the backup licks and soloing are based on the "sliding ninth chord" lick (see *Introduction*).

Words and Music by Chuck Berr











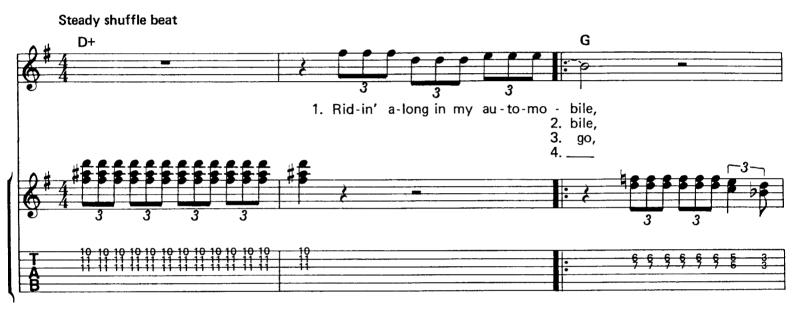


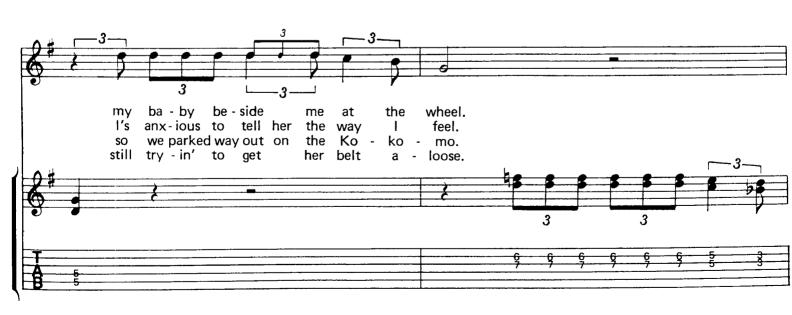
NO PARTICULAR PLACE TO GO

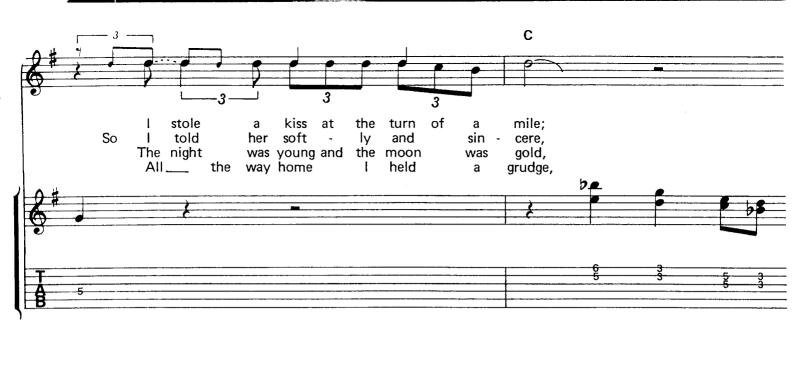
The song is very similar in structure and sound to SCHOOL DAY; it's a shuffle beat twelve-bar blues with the same "stop-and-go" pattern as SCHOOL DAY: The singer sings a measure *a cappella*, and the band comes in and "answers" him for a measure, with the lead guitar imitating the vocal line.

The first guitar solo includes the "descending double-stops," and features a difficult choking lick in which two strings are stretched while the first string is fretted and held in place. In the second guitar solo the same lick is performed without stretching the strings.

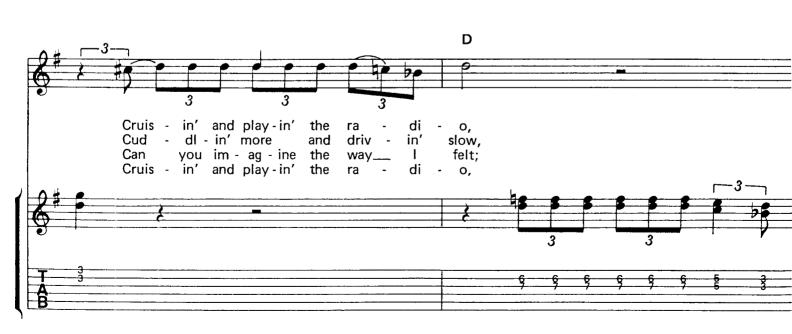
Words and Music by Chuck Berry











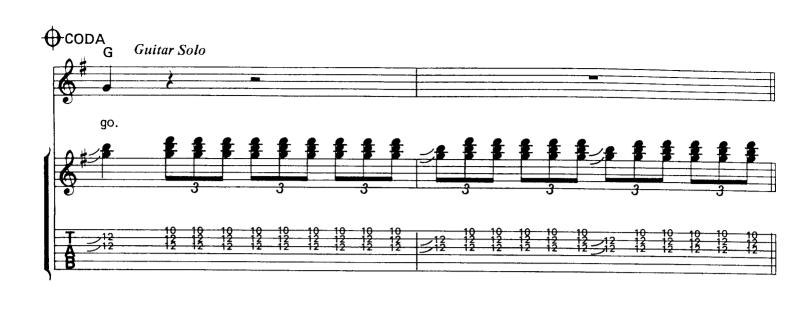
















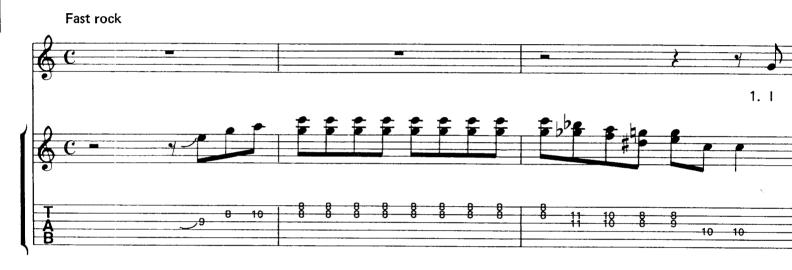


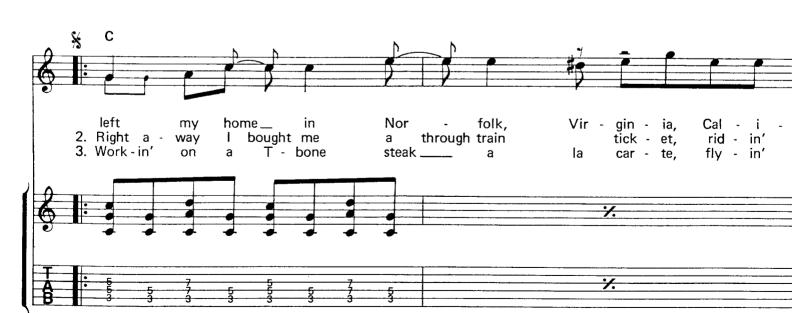
THE PROMISED LAND

The first and second solos start with the ''barred triad'' pattern mentioned in the *Introduction*, and all three solos contain Berry's ''descending double-stop'' licks.

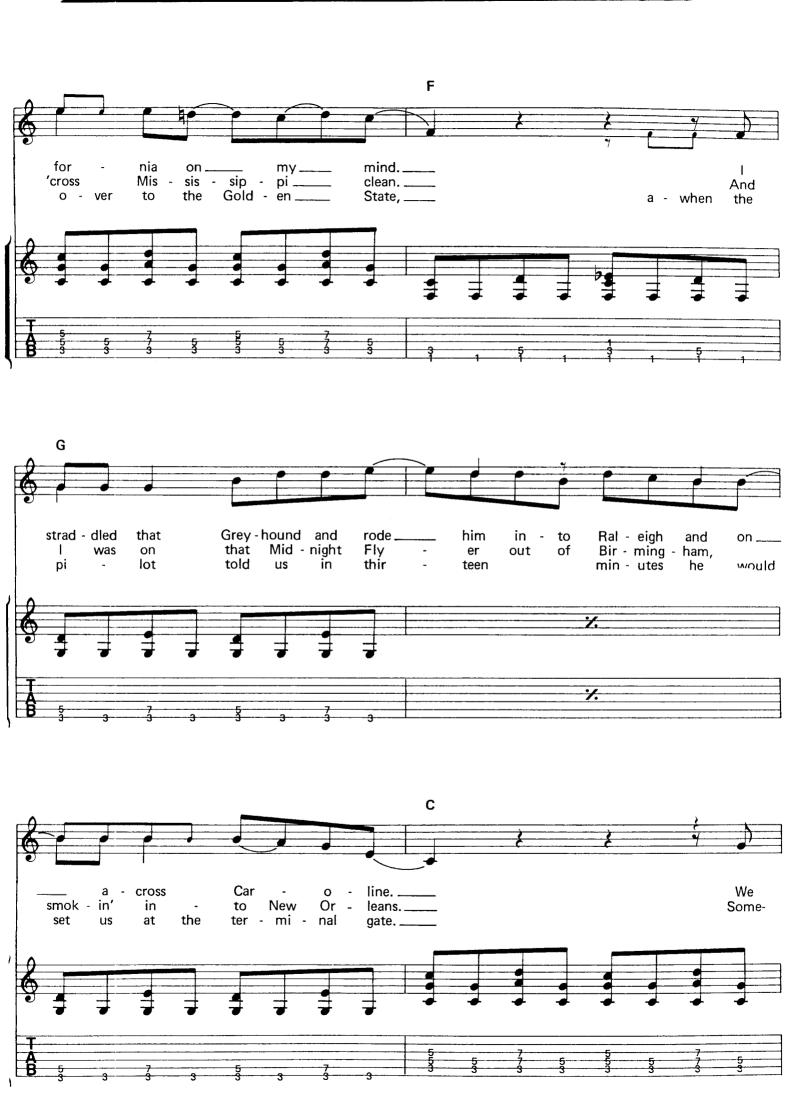
What a great poem about an East-to-West Coast journey!

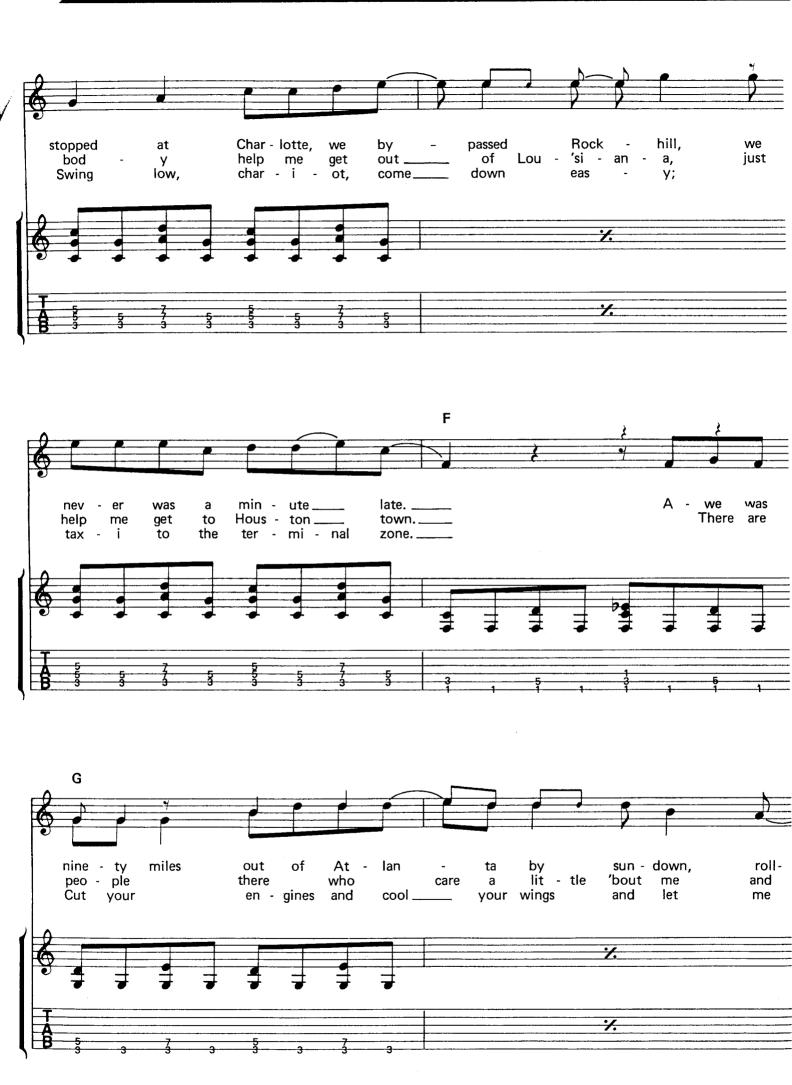
Words and Music by Chuck Berr





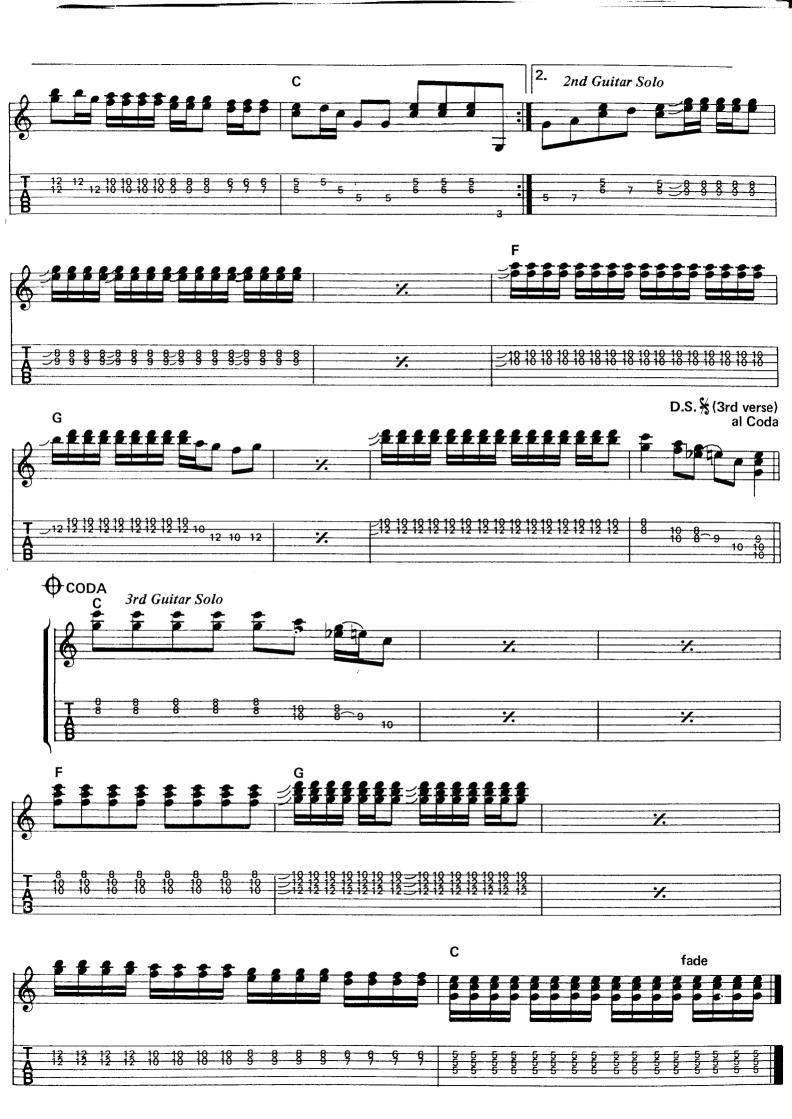
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ROLL OVER, BEETHOVEN

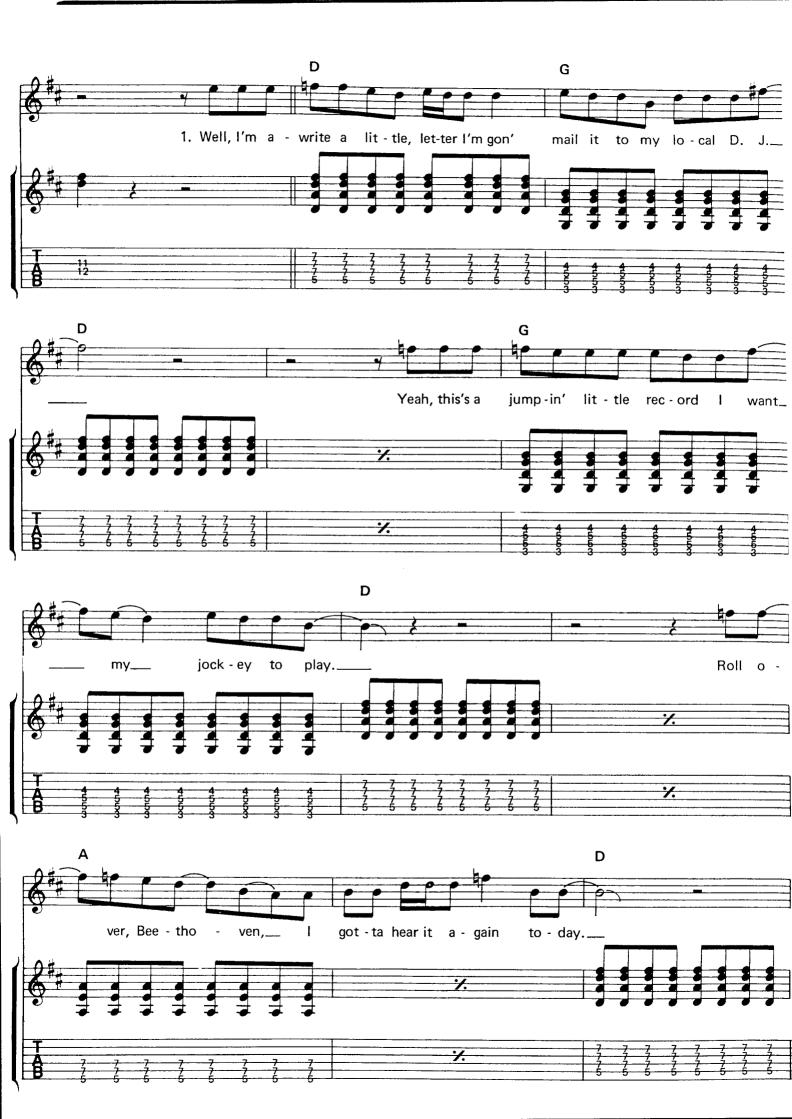
The chordal backup is all rapid downstrokes. Both solos feature the Charlie Christian-style "slide-the-3rd string-up-to-match-the-2nd string" lick (it's also in the MABELLENE solo).

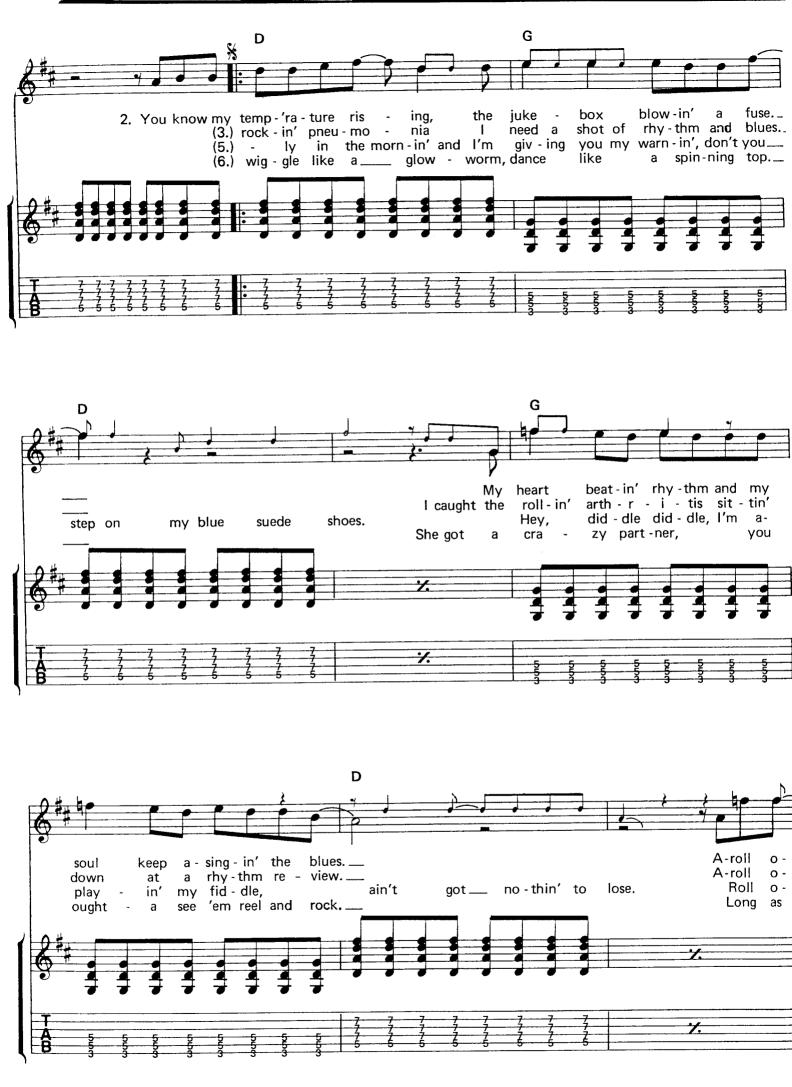
The Beatles are one of many groups that covered this hymn to rock and roll.

Words and Music by Chuck Beri

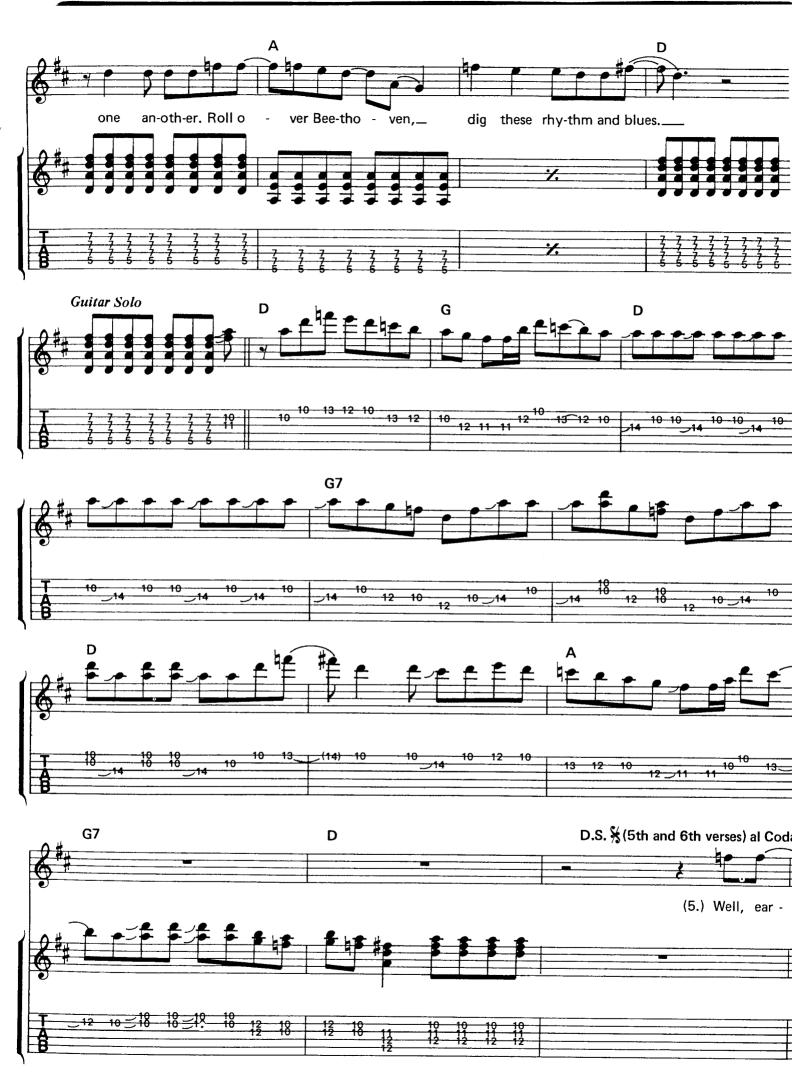


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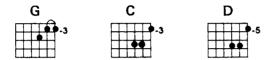






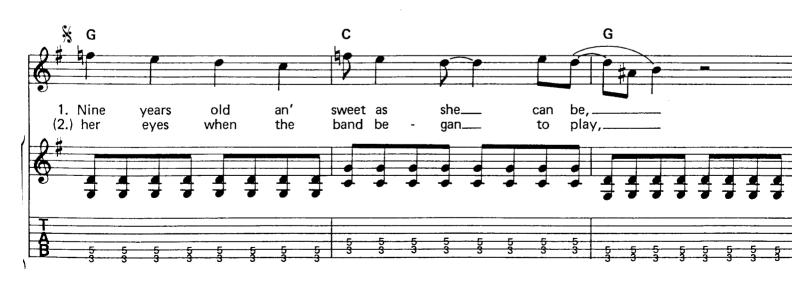
SWEET LITTLE ROCK AND ROLLER

While a second guitar pumps out the standard Berry-style boogie-woogie rhythm throughout, Berry sprinkles in various backup licks and rhythmic chop chords. The bluesy lick he plays in the chorus (on the 1st and 2nd strings) appears later in the tune to fill holes between vocal lines during the verses. The rhythm chops are on these chords:



Words and Music by Chuck Berry





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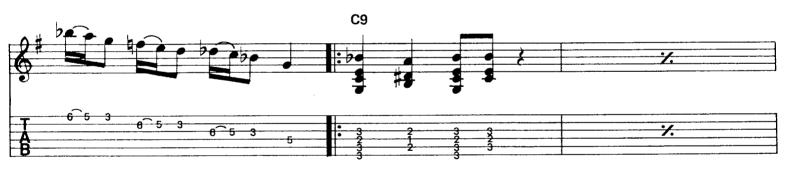
GUITAR BOOGIE

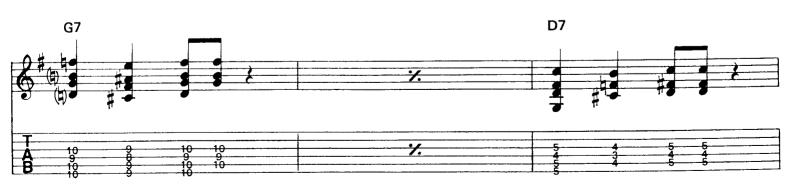
This is a twelve-bar blues; Berry solos for four bars, then plays a repetitious eight-bar "head" with the band. Each four-bar solo features a Berry *idea* ranging from his typical riffs to MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB and beyond. The ninth chord includes an extra bass note:



By Chuck Berry













SCHOOL DAY

(Ring! Ring! Goes The Bell)

Written by Berry at the age of thirty in a black hotel in downtown St. Louis, the song spoke clearly to American teenagers of their daily frustrations and hailed rock and roll as the great liberator.

The guitar clearly mimics the vocal line during the verses.

Words and Music by Chuck Berry

