GENERAL

count on you tommy shaw lyrics and guitar chords

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Count On You (Tommy Shaw) – Lyrics, Guitar Chords, and How to Play It

When you hear the name **Tommy Shaw**, the first thing that often comes to mind is the iconic guitarist of Styx, but his solo career is equally impressive. One of the standout tracks from his 2015 solo album, *The Day That Never Comes*, is “Count On You.” It’s a heartfelt power ballad that blends soaring melodies, emotional lyrics, and a memorable guitar hook. Whether you’re a seasoned guitarist looking to add another classic to your repertoire or a beginner eager to learn a meaningful song, this guide will walk you through the entire process—lyrics, chords, strumming patterns, and practical tips for mastering the track.

Why “Count On You” Is a Must Learn Song

“Count On You” showcases Tommy Shaw’s signature blend of melodic sensibility and technical prowess. The song’s narrative—about loyalty, support, and unwavering friendship—resonates with listeners across generations. Musically, it offers a balanced mix of clean and distorted tones, making it an excellent training ground for dynamics, timing, and chord transitions. Learning this track not only expands your repertoire but also deepens your understanding of modern rock ballad structure.

Key Takeaways Before You Dive In

- Song Structure: Intro – Verse – Chorus – Verse – Chorus – Bridge – Chorus – Outro.
- Key: G major.
- Tempo: 108 BPM (moderate ballad pace).
- Recommended Gear: Electric guitar, clean amp setting for verses, slightly overdriven for choruses.

Full Lyrics: “Count On You” by Tommy Shaw

Below are the complete lyrics to “Count On You.” These words, coupled with the song’s melodic lines, create an emotional journey that listeners can connect with. If you plan to perform the song, it’s helpful to memorize the lyrics as they provide cues for dynamic changes and emotional emphasis.

When the night is falling, and the world feels heavy,
I can see the fire in your eyes.
We’ve walked through fire and found our way,
We’re stronger, we’re not alone.

You’ll never feel alone, I’m here for you.
I’ll be your light when the world feels so dark.
You’ll never feel alone, I’ll be your guide.

You’ll keep on walking, keep moving forward.
You’ll keep on walking, keep living in the light.
We’ll keep this fire, we’ll keep this flame.

We’ll keep this fire, we’ll keep that light.

When the night is falling, the world feels heavy.
You’re always in my heart.
You’ll never be alone.

I’ll be the one that you can hold.
I’ll be the one that you can hold.

I’ve been there for you, you’ve been there for me.
I will keep the world in our hands.
We’ll have to keep our hearts.

We’re here to make the world that we want.
We’ll do everything that we can.

We’ll do everything…

Understanding the Lyrics: Themes and Emotional Core

At its heart, “Count On You” is an anthem of companionship. The recurring line “You’ll never feel alone” functions as a reassurance that no matter how tough the world may seem, the bond between the narrator and the listener remains unbreakable. The verses paint a picture of shared struggles, while the chorus delivers a cathartic promise of support.

Musically, the song’s structure mirrors its lyrical themes. The verses are introspective and restrained, using clean tones and subtle dynamics. The choruses explode with power chords and a driving rhythm, symbolizing the strength of the promise being made. This contrast gives the listener a clear emotional roadmap.

Chord Chart: “Count On You” – Guitar Chords

Below is a straightforward chord chart that covers the entire song. The chords are written in open position for ease of play, and the notation follows standard guitar chord symbols.

Intro (4 Bars)

| G | D | Em | C |
| G | D | Em | C |

Verse (8 Bars)

| G | D | Em | C |
| G | D | Em | C |

Pre Chorus (4 Bars)

| Am | G | D | Em |

Chorus (8 Bars)

| G | D | Em | C |
| G | D | Em | C |

Bridge (4 Bars)

| Am | Em | G | D |

Outro (Same as Intro)

| G | D | Em | C |
| G | D | Em | C |

Chord Fingerings and Tips

Below are the finger placements for each chord. If you're new to any of these shapes, take your time practicing each transition. Remember to keep your fingers close to the fretboard to maintain tone and clarity.

- G Major: 320003 (index on 2nd fret of A, middle on 3rd of low E, ring on 3rd of high E)
- D Major: xx0232 (index on 2nd of G, middle on 2nd of B, ring on 3rd of high E)
- Em: 022000 (index on 2nd of A, middle on 2nd of D)
- C Major: x32010 (index on 1st of B, middle on 2nd of D, ring on 3rd of A)
- Am: x02210 (index on 1st of B, middle on 2nd of D, ring on 2nd of G)

Strumming Pattern

The song's rhythmic feel is a steady 4/4 groove. Try this pattern for each chord:

- Down, Down, Up, Up, Down, Up (D-D-U-U-D-U)

In the verses, keep the strumming light—use a clean tone and moderate pick attack. Transition to a slightly heavier sound in the chorus by adding a touch of overdrive or distortion. The bridge can be played with a palm muted rhythm to create a subtle tension before resolving back to the chorus.

Step by Step Playthrough

Below is a concise guide to help you learn "Count On You" efficiently. We'll break the process into three phases:

Listening & Analysis, **Chord Practice**, and **Full Song Execution**.

Phase 1 – Listening & Analysis

1. Play the original track several times. Focus on the chord changes and the vocal phrasing.
2. Use a slow down tool (e.g., Audacity or an online player) to slow the song to 70% of its original speed. This will help you catch subtle timing nuances.
3. Mark the exact bars where each chord change occurs. This will be useful when you start transcribing.

Phase 2 – Chord Practice

1. Start with the intro. Play each chord slowly, ensuring clean sound. Record yourself to check intonation.
2. Move to the verse. Practice the verse chord progression until you can play it without looking at the tab.
3. Practice the pre chorus and chorus separately, focusing on dynamic changes.
4. Finally, work on the bridge. Notice how the chord progression shifts to Am and Em, adding a slightly melancholy feel.

Phase 3 – Full Song Execution

1. Play the entire song from the intro to the outro, keeping a steady metronome at 108 BPM.
2. Record a video or audio of your performance. Listen back to identify any timing or chord voicing issues.
3. Practice the vocal line with the guitar simultaneously. Even if you're not singing, try to match the vocal melody with your strumming pattern to internalize the feel.
4. When you feel confident, add expressive dynamics: play the verses softer, the choruses louder, and the bridge with a subtle palm mute.

Advanced Techniques: Adding Your Own Flair

Once you're comfortable with the basic structure, consider adding your personal touch. Here are a few ideas to elevate your performance:

- Fingerstyle Intro: Replace the strummed intro with a fingerpicked arpeggio of the G–D–Em–C progression. This adds a delicate texture.
- Lead Riff: During the bridge, insert a simple lead line on the high E string that follows the chord changes. This can create a memorable hook.
- Pedal Effects: Use a delay or reverb pedal to create atmospheric depth, especially during the chorus.
- Alternate Tunings: Experiment with Drop D (DADGBE) tuning to simplify power chord shapes for the chorus.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even seasoned players can fall into pitfalls when learning a new song. Below are typical errors and practical solutions.

- Skipping the Dynamics: The power of "Count On You" lies in its dynamic contrast. Make sure you play the verses softer than the choruses.
- Misreading the Bridge: The bridge shifts to Am and Em—if you keep the same strumming pattern as the chorus, the emotional impact weakens.
- Rushing the Transitions: Smooth chord changes are essential. Practice the transitions at a slower tempo before speeding up to 108 BPM.

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