

Mighty Mississippi

By Randy Sparks

Key of G (1 Sharp); Cut Time. "Moderately With A Strong Beat."

From the New Christy Minstrels 1963 album *Ramblin'*.

Introduction - A two note pickup with a four measure instrumental. No chords indicated, but the chords in the last line of the verse would work well: G6 A7 D7 G G7.

Chorus:

C7 **G - G7**
Mighty Mississippi, roll a-long;
C7 **G**
Lazy river, sing your song.
B7 **C** **E dim**
And it's away, Dixie, steady as you go.
G6 **A7** **D7 - G - G7**
On your way down to the Gulf of Mexico.

C7 **G - G7**
1. Oh! ol' man river keeps on callin' me.
C **G**
There ain't no place on earth I'd rather be
B7 **C** **E dim**
Well it's Greenville, Vicksburg and Natchez down the line;
G6 **A7** **D7** **G - G7**
It's fare-well ol' Memphis, Tennessee. Oh! *Chorus.*

C7 **G - G7**
2. Well, I used to ride aboard that River Queen.
C **G**
It's many a game of fortune I have seen.
B7 **C** **E dim**
Oh, once I lost a million and I won it back again.
G6 **A7** **D7** **G - G7**
On the way from Baton Rouge to New - Orleans. Oh!

C7 **G - G7**
Mighty Mississippi, roll a-long;
C7 **G**
Lazy river, sing your song.
B7 **C** **E dim**
And it's away, Dixie, steady as you go.
G6 **A7** **D7**
On your way down to the Gulf, my honey!
G6 **A7** **D7** **G6** **A7** **D7** **G**
Down to the Gulf my baby! Down to the Gulf of Mex-i-co

[Spoken] "One more time!"

G6 **A7** **D7** **G6 (2 Measures)**
On your way down to the Gulf of Mex-i-co [Spoken] Yeah!
= = 30 = =

Notes.

At the end of the first and second verses:

On page 10 of the sheet music from the *Ramblin'* LP (the third page of the sheet music for "Mighty Mississippi"), the 4th and 5th measures of the first line on that page:

During the G to G7 transition, on the bass line of the treble clef accompaniment, there is a four chord descending run - which turns out to be a G - G Dim - C6 - C11 - then a three note ascending run beginning on the bottom line of the Bass Clef, g a b|g Treble Clef on the word "Oh!", leading to the C7 over "Mighty" in the Chorus

Chord Inversion ... from the sheet music which has the G whole note on the second ledger line of the treble clef with the first note a doubled G on the Treble and Bass Clefs, then notes 2, 3, & 4 and the first note of the next measure:

| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 2nd | g b d | G Major Chord |
| 3rd | g bb db (with a c below the bass clef) | G Dim Chord |
| 4th | g a c | C6 Chord with omitted 3 rd ("E") |
| 1st | g d b c (with a g on the bottom line of the bass clef), and the C being below the B in the sheet music. G7 chord on the sheet music. | C11 Chord with omitted 7 th ("F") |

This progression also occurs at the top of p. 9 of the sheet music at the end of the Chorus.

Also note the four note bass pickup at the end of the Introduction on p. 8: G A B C leading into a C7 chord.

How Randy Sparks Came To Write "Mighty Mississippi."

The following note was found in the Blog at the New Christy Minstrels web site, www.newchristyminstrels.com :

Randy Sparks wrote "Mighty Mississippi" while on board the airplane that was bringing The New Christy Minstrels back from their concert at Carnegie Hall, New York City, New York. The Captain of the airplane announced that they were flying over the Mighty Mississippi and folks could see it if they looked out the window. This view inspired Randy Sparks to start writing and singing the song, "Mighty Mississippi," which he completed before they landed the airplane. Then he started teaching the song to the group, and they recorded "Mighty Mississippi" shortly after.