

"Knockin' on Heaven's Door"

As heard on *Use Your Illusion II* (Geffen)
Words and Music by **Bob Dylan** • Transcribed by **Jeff Perrin**

Mama, take this badge from me
I can't use it anymore
It's getting dark, too dark to see
Feels like I'm knockin' on heaven's door

chorus:
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Hey, hey, hey, yeah
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door

Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Ay, hey, yeah

Mama, put my guns in the ground
I can't shoot them anymore
That cold black cloud is comin' down
Feels like I'm knockin' on heaven's door

chorus

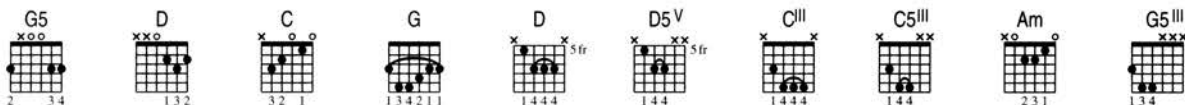
"Well, you just better start sniffin' your own rank
subjugation, Jack, 'cause it's just you against your
tattered libido, the bank and the mortician forever, man,
and it wouldn't be luck if you could get out of life alive"

Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door (12x w/vocal
ad lib and choir)

Whoa, oh, yeah

All guitars are tuned down one half step (low to high: E \flat A \flat D \flat G \flat B \flat E \flat).

All notes and chords sound one half step lower than written (key of G \flat).



A Intro (0:00)

Slowly $\text{♩} = 64$

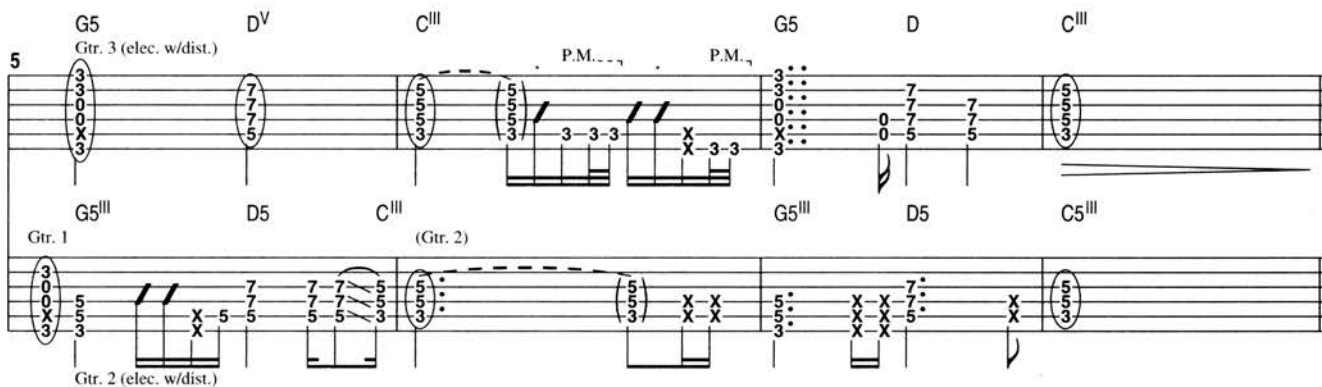
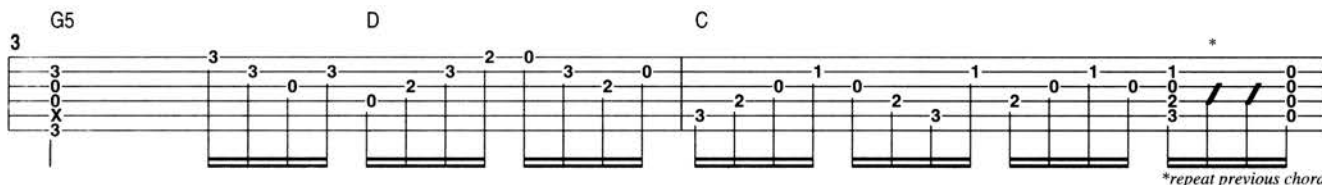
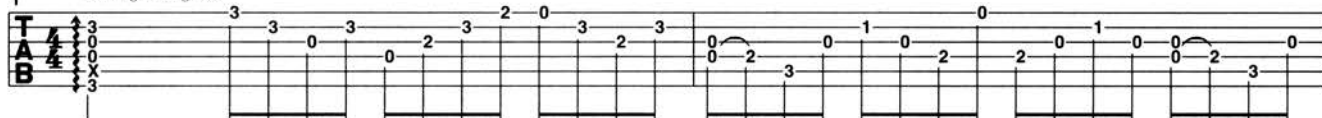
G5

D

C

Gtr. 1 (elec. w/clean tone and chorus)

let ring throughout



"Knockin' on Heaven's Door"

B Verses* (0:30, 1:58)

1. Mama take this...
2. Mama put my guns...

G5 D Am G5 D
 Gtr. 4 plays Fill 1 second time
 Gtr. 5 plays Rhy. Fig. 3 twice simile second time
 Gtr. 4 (elec. w/clean tone)

9 (played fingerstyle)

*play simile on 2nd verse

Gtr. 1

12 C G5 D Am
 Gtr. 1 substitutes Rhy. Fill 1 second time

C Chorus (0:59, 2:27, 4:51)

Knock knock knockin' on heaven's door...

G5 D C G5^{III} D5 C5
 Gtr. 2
 Rhy. Fig. 1

15

Fill 1 (1:58)

Gtr. 4 G5 D

Rhy. Fill 1 (2:09)

Gtr. 1 C

Rhy. Fig. 3 (1:58)

Gtr. 5 G5 D Am

"Knockin' on Heaven's Door"

18 C^{III} G D^V C^{III}
 Gtr. 2 *end Rhy. Fig. 1* Gtr. 2 repeats Rhy. Fig. 1 three times simile Gtr. 4 (w/dist.) Gtr. 3 substitutes Rhy. Fill 2 second time

21 G5 D^V C^{III} G5 D5
 fdbk. pitch: G P.M.₁ P.M.₂

24 C5 G5 D C
 fdbk. Gtr. 4 full 1/2 end Rhy. Fig. 2
 pitch: G Gtr. 5 (acous.) Rhy. Fig. 2

27 G D C G D
 Gtr. 4 full full full full
 go back to verse **B**

30 C G D C
 full full full full
 go back to verse **B**

Rhy. Fill 2 (2:38)
 C^{III} C5 P.M.
 Gtr. 3 (doubled loosely by Gtr. 2)

TAB

The image contains a detailed guitar tablature for the song "Knockin' on Heaven's Door". It is organized into systems, each with a measure number (18, 21, 24, 27, 30) and a key signature (C, G, D, C). The notation includes standard musical notation (stems, beams, notes) and guitar-specific notation (fingering numbers 1-5, fret numbers, bends, vibrato, and effects like fdbk. and P.M.). A section titled "1st Guitar Solo (1:28)" is marked with a box. A "Rhy. Fill 2 (2:38)" section is also boxed and includes a "TAB" section. The piece concludes with a "go back to verse B" instruction.

“Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door”

E (2:52)
C^{III}

F 2nd Guitar Solo (2:56)

G5 D5 C5
Gr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 1 four times simile (see meas. 17)

33 Gr. 6 (elec. w/dist.)

Gr. 4

Gr. 3 P.M.

Gr. 3 Rhy. Fig. 4 end Rhy. Fig. 4

G5 D5 C5
Gr. 3 plays Rhy. Fig. 4 three times simile (see meas. 34)

Gr. 6 let ring full

36

C5 G5 D5 C5

39

G Interlude (3:25)

G5^{III} D5 C5 G5^{III} D5

Gr. 6 1/2

42

Gtrs. 2 and 3 Gr. 2

C5 G5^{III} D5 C5

45 fdbk.

pitch: G

"Knockin' on Heaven's Door"

48 G5 III D5 C5

[H] Breakdown (3:53)

Knock knock knockin' on heaven's door...

50 G5 III N.C.(D) (C) (G5) (D5) (C5)

54 G D C

Gtr. 3 w/pick and finger

Gtr. 1

57 G5 D5 C5

60 G5 D C

Gtr. 1

D slight P.M.

go back to chorus [C]

63 C G N.C. C5

(pick-scraps) w/pick

[I] (5:16)

Free time

66 C5 G5

Gtr. 4 (pick-scraps) rit.

Gtr. 3 let ring fdbk. (string noise)

Gtr. 2 rit.

pitch: A