

Autumn Leaves

This lovely, mood-inspiring song began as a French poem, "Les Feuilles Mortes," by Jacques Prévert. It was set to music by Hungarian-born Joseph Kosma and became a favorite among the better French café singers after World War II. Mercer, America's most prolific lyricist, was also, at that time, a busy recording executive and singer, but he loved the song and agreed to write the English lyrics. Then he became preoccupied with other matters. Reminded of his commitment, he hurriedly scribbled the lyrics in a cab on his way to a plane, stopping off enroute to slip them under the publisher's door. The song really hit its stride, however, in 1955 when a young pianist, Roger Williams, made a recording of a piano version which went on to sell 2½ million copies.



Words and music by:

Joseph Kosma, Jacques Prévert and Johnny Mercer

Freely throughout

The first system of musical notation for 'Autumn Leaves'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo/mood is 'Freely throughout'. The dynamics are marked 'mp throughout'. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

The second system of musical notation for 'Autumn Leaves'. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics 'The fall - ing leaves drift by the win - dow The au - tumn' are written below the staff. Above the staff, there are four chord diagrams labeled Am7, D7, Gmaj7, and Cmaj7. The dynamics are marked 'p'.

The third system of musical notation for 'Autumn Leaves'. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics 'leaves of red and gold I see your lips the sum - mer' are written below the staff. Above the staff, there are five chord diagrams labeled F#m7-5, B7, Em, Am7, and D7. The dynamics are marked 'p'.

Gmaj7 Cmaj7 F#m7-5 B7 Em

kiss - es The sun-burned hands I used to hold. Since you

B7 Em Dmaj7 Eb9 Am7 Ab7-5

went a - way the days grow long And soon I'll hear old win - ter's

Gmaj7 F#m7-5 B7 Em Em/D bass

song But I miss you most of all my dar - ling When

A/C#bass Am/Cbass B7 Em Em6 add 9

Au - tumn Leaves start to fall.

3 3 3 3

