

ONE-CHORD WOODY

This one presents a real dilemma between authenticity and art. As you can see here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH2DJvgNIMA>, Woody performed it playing a D major chord throughout the song. And the purity and earnestness of the song certainly comes out when it is done that way. But to my musical taste, the melody cries out for a minor chord at the beginning, and the dramatic change to the relative major in the second line, as in this fine rendition from 1965 by Tracy Newman <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKTGIlvIw7Y>. You can take your pick. That's why they call it folk music. I have notated the chords the way Tracy plays it. You can play it as she does in the A minor chord shape and capo anywhere from open up to V or so to fit your vocal range.

PASTURES OF PLENTY

Woody Guthrie

Am

It's a mighty hard road that my poor hands has hoed

C

E7

My poor feet have travelled a hot dusty road.

Am

Out of your dust bowl and westward we roll.

Am

F

Am

And your deserts was hot and your mountains was cold.

I've worked in your orchards of peaches and prunes.

And I've slept on your ground in the light of the moon.

On the edge of your city you'll see us and then.

We come with the dust and we go with the wind.

California, Arizona we make all your crops.

Then it's north up to Oregon to gather your hops.

Take the beets from the ground, take the grapes from the vine.

To set on your table that light sparkling wine.

Green pastures of plenty from dry desert ground.

From the Grand Coulee Dam where the waters run down.

Every state in the union us migrants have been.

We'll work in the fight and we'll fight till we win.

It's always we've rambled, that river and I.

All along your green valley I'll work till I die.

My land I'll defend with my life it it be.

"Cause my pastures of plenty must always be free,