

# just once james ingram chords

**Just Once James Ingram Chords** are an essential part of learning to play one of the most memorable ballads from the 1980s. This song, originally performed by James Ingram, showcases his incredible vocal range and emotional depth. It has become a staple in romantic playlists and is often covered by aspiring musicians and seasoned artists alike. In this article, we will delve into the chords, structure, and performance tips for "Just Once," providing you with a comprehensive guide to master this classic song.

## Understanding the Song's Background

"Just Once" was released in 1981 and became a significant hit for James Ingram, who was relatively new to the music scene at the time. The song was featured on the soundtrack of the film "Best Friends" and later appeared on Ingram's debut album, "It's Your Night." Co-written by Ingram and Grammy-winning songwriter Rod Temperton, the song's heartfelt lyrics and rich melody resonated with listeners, solidifying its place in pop and R&B music history.

The song speaks to the desire for a fleeting moment of love and connection, making it a perfect choice for weddings, anniversaries, and romantic settings. Its smooth melody and powerful vocal delivery require both skill and emotion, adding to its allure.

## Chords Overview

To play "Just Once," you will need to familiarize yourself with the chords used throughout the song. Below is a list of the primary chords involved:

- Verse Chords:
  - Cmaj7
  - Bm7
  - E7
  - A7
- Chorus Chords:
  - Fmaj7
  - Em7
  - A7
  - Dm7
  - G7

In the following sections, we will break down the chord progressions for each part of the song.

## Verse Chord Progression

The verse of "Just Once" has a gentle flow, allowing the singer to convey the song's emotional weight. The chord progression is as follows:

1. Cmaj7
2. Bm7
3. E7
4. A7

Repeat this progression throughout the verses. You can use a simple strumming pattern or fingerstyle technique to enhance the song's emotional impact. The key is to maintain a smooth transition between chords.

## Chorus Chord Progression

The chorus elevates the song's intensity and emotion, making it the most memorable part. The chord progression here is:

1. Fmaj7
2. Em7
3. A7
4. Dm7
5. G7

This sequence provides a beautiful contrast to the verses and allows for dynamic vocal expressions. Make sure to emphasize the changes, as they help convey the song's emotional peaks.

## Playing Techniques

To effectively play "Just Once," it is essential to use the right techniques that match the song's style. Here are some tips to help you achieve the best sound:

### Strumming Patterns

A simple yet effective strumming pattern can elevate your performance. Consider the following pattern:

- Down, Down-Up, Up-Down-Up

This pattern should be applied to each chord in both the verses and the chorus. Feel free to adapt the pattern based on your comfort level and the song's dynamics.

### Fingerstyle Technique

If you prefer fingerpicking, focus on a gentle arpeggio style. You can pick individual strings to create a softer, more intimate sound. For instance:

- On Cmaj7: Pick the 5th (A) string, followed by the 4th (D), 3rd (G), and 2nd (B) strings in succession. Repeat this for other chords, adjusting for their respective bass notes.

This technique adds a delicate touch to the performance, allowing the emotional depth of the song to shine through.

## Lyric Structure and Timing

Understanding the lyric structure helps in timing your chord changes effectively. The song follows a repeated verse-chorus format, making it easier to memorize. Here's a breakdown:

- Intro (Instrumental)
- Verse 1
- Chorus
- Verse 2
- Chorus
- Bridge
- Chorus (Repeat)
- Outro (Instrumental)

Make sure to listen to the song multiple times to get a feel for the timing and phrasing of the lyrics. This familiarity will aid in smoother transitions and a more confident performance.

## Performance Tips

When preparing to perform "Just Once," consider the following tips to enhance your delivery:

### Vocal Delivery

James Ingram's unique vocal style is a key element of "Just Once." Pay attention to the following:

1. Emotion: Convey the song's emotional weight by connecting with the lyrics. Imagining personal experiences can enhance your performance.
2. Dynamics: Vary your volume and intensity throughout the song. The verses should be softer, while the chorus should be more powerful.
3. Phrasing: Make sure to phrase the lyrics effectively, allowing pauses for dramatic effect, especially before the chorus.

## Stage Presence

If you plan to perform live, consider your stage presence:

- Engagement: Make eye contact with your audience to create a connection.
- Movement: Use subtle movements to express the song's emotions. Avoid over-exaggeration; instead, let your body language reflect the song's mood.

## Conclusion

Learning to play Just Once James Ingram Chords can be a rewarding experience, whether you are playing for yourself or sharing it with others. The song's beautiful melody, combined with its heartfelt lyrics, provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your musical skills. By mastering the chord progressions, employing effective techniques, and delivering an emotionally charged performance, you will undoubtedly captivate your audience.

As you practice, remember that every musician develops their style. Feel free to experiment with different strumming patterns, vocal techniques, and dynamics to make the song your own. With dedication and passion, you will be able to deliver a rendition of "Just Once" that honors James Ingram's legacy while showcasing your unique artistry. Happy playing!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the basic chords for 'Just Once' by James Ingram?

The basic chords for 'Just Once' are typically C, G, Am, and F.

### Are there any specific guitar tuning requirements for playing 'Just Once'?

No specific tuning is required; standard tuning works perfectly for 'Just Once'.

### What is the key of 'Just Once' by James Ingram?

The song 'Just Once' is in the key of B major.

### Can I find a chord chart for 'Just Once' online?

Yes, many websites and chord libraries offer free chord charts for 'Just Once' by James Ingram.

### What strumming pattern is suitable for 'Just Once'?

A common strumming pattern for 'Just Once' is a simple down-down-up-up-down-up.

## Is it possible to play 'Just Once' on the piano?

Yes, 'Just Once' can be played on the piano using the same chords as the guitar.

## Are there any common mistakes to avoid when playing 'Just Once'?

One common mistake is rushing through the chord transitions; take your time to ensure smooth changes.

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