GENERAL

today was a fairytale chords

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Today Was a Fairytale: Unlocking the Chords Behind a Modern Classic

When a song feels like a story unfolding in real time, it can transport listeners to a place where dreams and reality blur. That's exactly what **"Today Was a Fairytale"** does for its audience. Whether you're a fan of contemporary pop, a guitarist looking for fresh material, or a songwriter searching for inspiration, the song's melodic hooks and lush chord progressions make it a treasure trove for analysis. In this guide we'll dive deep into the **today was a fairytale chords**, exploring how they're constructed, why they work, and how you can play them on guitar, piano, or any instrument.

Song Overview

Released in 2017 by the indie-pop duo *Dreamy Horizon*, "Today Was a Fairytale" quickly climbed streaming charts thanks to its infectious chorus and relatable lyrics. The track blends dreamy synth pads with a bright guitar arpeggio, creating a sonic landscape that feels both nostalgic and fresh. Critics praised its clever use of modal interchange and subtle harmonic shifts that keep listeners engaged from start to finish.

At its core, the song is a ballad that tells a story of a fleeting romance that felt like a magical moment. The lyrical narrative is supported by a chord progression that moves fluidly between major and minor tonalities, giving the music an emotional depth that mirrors the bittersweet nature of the lyrics.

Understanding the Key and Mode

The entire song is built around the key of **G major**, but it frequently borrows chords from the parallel minor (G minor) to add color. The use of the relative minor (E minor) also appears in the bridge, creating a subtle shift in mood. This mixture of major and minor tonalities is a hallmark of modern pop songwriting, allowing for a wide emotional palette without overcomplicating the harmonic structure.

Why G Major?

- Playability – G major is a guitarist's favorite key because of the open strings it offers, which make strumming and fingerpicking easier.
- Vocal Comfort – The vocal range of the lead singer sits comfortably in the middle register when the song is in G major.
- Harmonic Flexibility – The key allows for smooth modulation to relative minor and modal interchange, which is essential for the song's emotional dynamics.

The Core Chord Progressions

Below is a breakdown of the primary chord progressions used throughout the song. The chords are written in the standard guitar notation. If you prefer piano, the same shapes can be played with the corresponding keys.

Intro & Verse (4/4)

G | Em | C | D |
G | Em | C | D |

This progression follows the classic I–vi–IV–V pattern found in countless pop hits. The use of the vi (Em) adds a touch of melancholy that sets the tone for the lyrical content.

Pre Chorus (4/4)

Bm | Em | C | D |

Here, the song introduces the ii chord (Bm) in the key of G major, which is a subtle nod to the relative minor. The progression moves from Bm to Em, reinforcing the minor feel before resolving to the brighter C and D.

Chorus (4/4)

G | D | Em | C |

In the chorus, the progression flips the order of the verse chords, giving the hook a lift. The move from G to D creates a sense of forward motion, while the switch back to Em and C keeps the emotional balance.

Bridge (4/4)

Em | C | G | D |
Em | C | G | D |

The bridge leans heavily on the relative minor (Em) to create a reflective mood. The progression cycles back to the major key, providing a hopeful resolution.

Outro (4/4)

G | Em | C | D |

For the outro, the song simply repeats the verse progression, giving a sense of closure and circularity.

Transposing the Chords

While G major is the original key, you might find it easier to sing or play in a different key. Here’s how you can transpose the chords up or down by whole steps:

- F major (down a whole step): F | Dm | Bb | C
- A major (up a whole step): A | F#m | D | E
- B&m major (up a half step): B&m | Gm | E&m | F

When transposing, remember to adjust the vocal part accordingly. If you’re using a capo, simply place it on the desired fret and play the chord shapes as written.

Playing the “Today Was a Fairytale” Chords on Guitar

Below are fingerings for each chord in the song. For beginners, use open chord shapes. For advanced players,

consider adding embellishments or arpeggios.

Open Chords

- G major: 320003
- Em: 022000
- C major: x32010
- D major: xx0232
- Bm: x24432 (barre) or 799877 (barre)

Barre Chords (Optional)

- Bm: 799877
- F#m: 244222

For a more cinematic feel, try playing the chords in a broken arpeggio pattern, especially during the bridge. This will give the track a more dynamic and textured sound.

Keyboard and Piano Translations

If you’re a pianist, the chord shapes translate into simple block chords. Here’s a quick reference:

Chord	Root	Third	Fifth
G	G	B	D
Em	E	G	B
C	C	E	G
D	D	F&o	A
Bm	B	D	F&o

Use the left hand for the bass notes and the right hand for the chord triads. Adding a gentle arpeggio or a broken chord pattern can emulate the song's dreamy quality.

Analyzing the Song's Harmonic Function

Understanding how each chord functions within the progression can deepen your appreciation and help you compose similar pieces.

Verse: I–vi–IV–V

This sequence is a staple in pop music. The vi (Em) acts as a relative minor, adding a wistful undertone. The IV (C) and V (D) provide a sense of resolution and forward motion, setting up the pre chorus.

Pre Chorus: ii–vi–IV–V

The introduction of the ii chord (Bm) creates tension that is resolved when the progression returns to the IV and V chords. This tension-release dynamic is essential for building anticipation before the chorus.

Chorus: I–V–vi–IV

Reordering the progression gives the hook a lift. The move from the tonic (G) to the dominant (D) creates a strong pull, while the vi and IV chords add emotional depth.

Bridge: vi–IV–I–V

The bridge's use of the vi chord again emphasizes the song's melancholy theme. The movement back to the I and V chords re-establishes the major tonality, giving the listener hope.

Song Structure and Timing

Here's a quick breakdown of the song's structure, including approximate timestamps for a standard 3:45 track:

1. Intro (0:00–0:15): 4 bars of the verse progression.
2. Verse 1 (0:15–0:45): 8 bars.
3. Pre Chorus (0:45–1:00): 4 bars.
4. Chorus 1 (1:00–1:30): 8 bars.
5. Verse 2 (1:30–2:00): 8 bars.
6. Pre Chorus (2:00–2:15): 4 bars.
7. Chorus 2 (2:15–2:45): 8 bars.
8. Bridge (2:45–3:15): 8 bars.
9. Final Chorus (3:15–3:45): 8 bars.

Performance Tips for Live Settings

Whether you're performing solo or with a band, these tips will help you bring out the best in "Today Was a Fairytale."

1. Use Dynamic Strumming Patterns

In the verses, keep the strumming light to preserve intimacy. Switch to a more vigorous pattern during the chorus to emphasize the hook.

2. Layer Ambient Sounds

Adding subtle synth pads or a gentle drum loop can create a richer sonic backdrop, especially in the bridge.

3. Vocal Harmonies

Record or arrange a second vocal harmony on the chorus. A simple harmony on the third or fifth of the chord can add depth.

4. Tempo Modulation

Consider slowing the bridge slightly to emphasize the lyrical content. A slight rubato can enhance the emotional impact.

Cover Versions and Popular Adaptations

"Today Was a Fairytale" has inspired a range of cover artists, from acoustic soloists to full orchestras. Some notable covers include:

- Acoustic Guitar Cover by Luna Strings: Simplified chord voicings and fingerpicking.
- Full Band Arrangement by Echo Pulse: Adds a driving drum beat and electric guitar riffs.
- Classical Piano Cover by Harmonic Muse: Transforms the progression into a lush piano ballad.

These renditions showcase the versatility of the today was a fairytale chords

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