Cats In The Cradle – Harry Chapin

Strumming Pattern: DDD, DU

Fingerstyle Pattern: The low melody notes should be played with the thumb. The mid-melody notes should be played with your 1st finger. The high melody notes should be played with your 2nd finger.

Chords Used (note – the D, D/C#, D/B, and D/A is in the tab):

Feel free to use the G barred version as well if you’d like.

Capo Fret 1

The bass run:

Really this is just a D with bass notes on the A string. The / indicates the bass note so the progression is this before we move into the G chord (which is also really just a G note with open notes on the G and B strings)

D  D/C#  D/B  D/A (really just a D chord)

e|--2-------2-------2------------------
B|--3-------3-------3------------------
G|--2-------2-------2------------------
D-------------------------------------
A|-------4-------2-------0---------
E-------------------------------------

Intro: E

(E) G
My child arrived just the other day
A E
He came to the world in the usual way
G
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay
A E
He learned to walk while I was away
D D/C# D/B D/A
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
G Bm E
He said "I'm gonna be like you dad
G Bm E
You know I'm gonna be like you"
(E) D
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
G        A  
Little boy blue and the man on the moon
E  
When you comin' home dad?
D    G        Bm    E    
I don't know when, but we'll get together then son
G    Bm    E  
You know we'll have a good time then
(E)    
G  
My son turned ten just the other day
A                                    E
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play
G
Can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today
A                                    E
I got a lot to do", he said, "That's ok"
D    D/C#    D/B    D/A
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed
G    Bm    E
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah
G    Bm    E
You know I'm gonna be like him"
(repeat CHORUS)
(E)    
G
Well, he came home from college just the other day
A                                    E
So much like a man I just had to say
G
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while?"
A                                    E
He shook his head and said with a smile
D    D/C#    D/B    D/A
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys
G    Bm    E
See you later, can I have them please?"
(Repeat CHORUS)
Bridge: C – D – Bm – E (x2)
(E)    
G
I've long since retired, my son's moved away
A                                    E
I called him up just the other day
G
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"
A                                    E
He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time
D    D/C#    D/B    D/A
You see my new job's a hassle and the kids have the flu
G    Bm    E
But it's been nice talking to you, Dad
G    Bm    E
It's sure nice talking to you"
D    D/C#    D/B    D/A
And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me
G    Bm    E
He'd grown up just like me
G    Bm    E (build)
My boy was just like me
CHORUS

(E)                           (D)
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
(G)                       (A)
Little boy blue and the man on the moon
(E)
When you comin' home son?
(D)           (G)             (Bm)       (E)
I don't know when, but we'll get together then dad.
(G)           (Bm)           (E)
You know we'll have a good time then...