

I Will Sing

Words and music by Phil Keaggy

This evocative ballad appeared on Phil's first solo album, *What A Day*, in 1973. It features an unusual tuning—Open E6—that would later appear (with the B₉^o arpeggio of measure 12) in the instrumental “Fragile Forest” on *Beyond Nature* (tuned 1/2 step down). Such drastically altered tunings were rare in vocal music in the early 70s. Also somewhat unusual are the frequent changes of meter, and the musical structure; there is no Verse/Chorus/Verse pattern typical of most popular music. After a brief instrumental Intro, the entire lyric is sung straight through with no refrain, and then followed by an instrumental Coda that repeats through the fadeout.

The principal challenge in learning this piece is finding convenient fingerings in the altered tuning, and moving fluidly from chord to chord, letting the notes ring as long as possible to build the extended harmonies Phil has crafted. To help you find good fingerings, Roman numerals in the tab staff indicate where the left hand 1st finger should bar; hold the indicated bars throughout a measure unless otherwise noted. Also, small Arabic numbers in the standard staff indicate suggested left hand fingerings for a few of the more troublesome chords. Note the use of the left hand thumb (T) in measure 10. Also noteworthy is the use of the 1st finger in measures 21, 26, and 40. The tip of the finger holds down a note on a bass string, while the side of the base of the finger holds down a note on the 1st string one fret below the low note's position.

Phil recorded this piece with several guitars; this combined with heavy use of a phase shifter in the production made transcribing the tune challenging! Use this transcription as a departure point for creating your own solo arrangement. I enjoy playing “Fragile Forest” and “I Will Sing” as a medley for morning prayer, and I hope performing this transcription helps you, too, to prayerfully “greet the day with a song.”

—Tom Lored, March 1996

E6 D/A Bm7(6) C#6(no 3)

18

B/F# G#m7(6) A#6 F#6

22

B6M7 F#6 B6M7 EM7

26

A6M7 EM7 B9

30

EM9 A6 EM9 A6 B4 E

34

5 4 3 2 1 0 3 3 2 1 0 3 3 2 1 0 5 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 12 7 7 7 5 5

Coda A6M7 G#7 C#m F#13 B2

39

V IV II 7 7 5 5 5 7 5 5 5 5 5 3 5 4 4 5 5 3 3 2 2 2 3 3 2 3 3 2 3 2 3 2 2 2 4 2 3 2 3 2 3 2 2

Repeat Coda thru fade

A6 G# B9

43

0 2 0 2 0 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 0 2 1 0 2 1 0 1 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 3 2 4 1 2 0 0