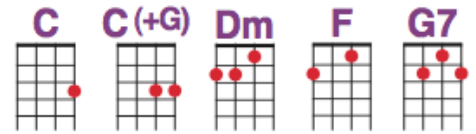


Gentle on My Mind

John Hartford

Key: C

C **C(+G)**
It's knowing that your door is always open,
C **Dm**
And your path is free to walk,
F **Dm**
That makes me tend to leave my sleeping bag
G7 **C**
Rolled up and stashed behind your couch



C(+G)
And it's knowing I'm not shackled by forgotten words and bonds
C **Dm**
And the ink stains that have dried upon some line,
F
That keeps you in the backroads
Dm
By the rivers of my mem'ry
G7 **C**
That keeps you ever gentle on my mind

C **C(+G)**
It's not clinging to the rocks and ivy
C **Dm**
Planted on the columns now that binds me,
F **Dm**
Or something that somebody said
G7 **C**
Because they thought we fit together walkin'
C(+G)
It's just knowing that the world will not be cursing
C **Dm**
Or forgiving when I walk along some railroad track
F
And find, that you are moving on the backroads
Dm
By the rivers of my mem'ry
G7 **C**
And for hours you're just gentle on my mind



C C(+G)

Though the wheat fields and the clothes lines

And the junkyards and the highways come between us

And some other woman's cryin' to her mother

'Cause she turned and I was gone

I still might run in silence, tears of joy might stain my face

And the summer sun might burn me 'til I'm blind

But not to where I cannot see

You walkin' on the back roads

By the rivers flowin' gentle on my mind

C C(+G)
I dip my cup of soup back

From a gurglin' cracklin' cauldron In some train yard

My beard a rustlin' coal pile

And a dirty hat pulled low across my face

Through cupped hands 'round a tin can

I pretend to hold you to my breast and find

That you're waitin' on the back roads

By the rivers of my memories

Ever smilin', ever gentle on my mind

