

TRANSCRIPTION OF

“HUNGRY HEART”

by BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

BASS by GARRY TALLENT

by PAUL WOLFE

www.how-to-play-bass.com

TRANSCRIPTION OF “ HUNGRY HEART” by BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN/BASS LINE BY GARR TALLENT

In this transcription we're going to look at the bass line to Hungry Heart from Bruce Springsteen's double album The River. This was one of those albums I originally had on vinyl and wore out working out the lines and playing along to.

I really like Gary Tallent's bass playing - it's very understated, but very there. He was interviewed last year by Bass Player Magazine and he said something like: "I try and play lines that you only notice when they're not there."

I thought that was a pretty modest and cool quote. If you want to learn to play rock bass lines that aren't tied to the root note and a straight 8th note rhythm Garry Tallent is a great bass player to model. The River is chock full of songs with bass lines that both fulfill the function of the bass and yet contain variations of rhythms and note choices that keep the lines interesting.

I've presented the transcription in notation only, and notation with bass tab. On the tabbed version I've tabbed EVERYTHING as played within the first four frets. So you shouldn't have to move out of first position. (But I've got to be honest and tell you that when I play it, I play Section E - see below - at the 7th fret. Mainly that's a sound preference - the E at the 7th fret of the A string has got more presence and depth than the E at the 2nd fret of the D string - but try it both ways, see which way you prefer.)

Here's how the sections of the tune lay out:

Letter 'A' - Intro - 0.00
Letter 'B' - Verse 1 - 0.19
Letter 'C' - Chorus 1 - 0.37
Letter 'D' - Verse 2/Chorus 2 - 1.02
Letter 'E' - Organ Solo - 1.38
Letter "F" - Verse 3 - 1.55

Letter 'G' - Chorus 3 - 2.13

Letter 'H' - Outro - 2.33

Letter 'I' - Outro/Fade Out - 2.57

So if you want to work on a section of the tune, you can just cue the track forward (or backwards) to the appropriate point and start playing.

The transcription is presented in notation only first, and then notation with tab. The tabbed positions reflect my current pre-occupation with playing in first position - feel free to change it around to suit your own fingering system and fretboard scale.

HUNGRY HEART by BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

bass by Garry Tallent

A



B



C



D



E



F



G

First line of musical notation for section G, bass clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of three flats. The line contains four measures of music with eighth and quarter notes.

Second line of musical notation for section G, bass clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of three flats. The line contains four measures of music with eighth and quarter notes.

Third line of musical notation for section G, bass clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of three flats. The line contains four measures of music with eighth and quarter notes.

H

First line of musical notation for section H, bass clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of three flats. The line contains four measures of music with eighth and quarter notes.

Second line of musical notation for section H, bass clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of three flats. The line contains four measures of music with eighth and quarter notes.

I

First line of musical notation for section I, bass clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of three flats. The line contains four measures of music with eighth and quarter notes.

A

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

B

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

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

C

4 4 4 1 || 4 4 1 4 0 | 1 1 1 1 2 | 1 1 1 0

4 4 4 1 | 4 4 1 4 0 | 1 1 1 1 2 | 1 1 1 0

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

D

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

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

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

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

E

1 1 1 || 2 2 2 2 1 | 4 4 2 4 4 1 0 | 4 4 4 4 4 4

4 4 1 | 2 2 2 2 1 | 4 4 2 4 4 1 0 | 4 4 4 4 4 4

F

G

H

The first system of music consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff is in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, including some rests. The tablature staff shows fingerings: the top line (T) has '1 1' and the bottom line (B) has '4 4 4 4 4 1' in the first measure, '4 4 4 4 1 4 0' in the second, '1 1 4 1 1 3 2' in the third, and '1 1 1 1 3 2' in the fourth.

I

The second system of music consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line from the first system. The tablature staff shows fingerings: the top line (T) has '1 1 3 1 1' and the bottom line (B) has '4 4 4 1 4 0' in the first measure, '1 1 4 1 1 3 1' in the second, and '4 4 4 1 4 0' in the third.

The third system of music consists of a bass staff and a tablature staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line. The tablature staff shows fingerings: the top line (T) has '1 1 1 1 1 1 1' and the bottom line (B) has '4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1' in the first measure, and '4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1' in the second.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Paul Wolfe has been playing since he was 15...which is wayyyy too long.

He is based in London in the UK where he runs one of the most sought after cover bands for weddings, corporate parties, charity balls and events.

Paul also runs a how to play bass website focusing on beginners. Paul's teaching philosophy is song based rather than scale based - as most private teachers seem to be. Paul is the author of Bass Hannon Volume 1 and Deliberate Practice: How To Make Constant And Consistent Progress In Your Bass Playing and is working on a new course with the working title of: "Building Motown Bass Lines."

This transcription originally appeared in one of his free Ezines. These ezines are now monthly - all you have to do is head over to his website and subscribe to join the mailing list.