SOFTWARE & TECH

Christina Perri Jar Of Hearts Piano Chords

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795583368225271

Introduction: The Enduring Appeal of “Jar of Hearts”

Few songs capture the raw vulnerability of a broken relationship quite like Christina Perri’s 2010 breakthrough hit “Jar of Hearts.” With its haunting piano melody and emotionally charged lyrics, the track became an anthem for anyone who has ever had to stand up to a manipulative ex. For piano players, learning the **Christina Perri Jar of Hearts piano chords**is a rite of passage—a beautiful yet accessible way to master emotional storytelling through music. Whether you’re a beginner looking for your first ballad or an intermediate player wanting to refine your dynamics, this guide will walk you through every chord, inversion, and technique you need to make the song truly resonate.

The song’s power lies in its simplicity. Built around a repeating chord progression that slowly builds from a gentle whisper to a cathartic roar, *Jar of Hearts* proves that you don’t need complex harmonies to move an audience. In this article, we’ll dive deep into the core chords, explore alternative voicings, and offer tips for adding your own emotional interpretation. By the end, you’ll not only know the **Christina Perri Jar of Hearts piano chords** but also understand why they work so well together.

Song Background and Key Structure

Before touching the keyboard, it helps to understand the musical landscape of the song. “Jar of Hearts” is written in the key of **C minor**, a key that naturally conveys melancholy and introspection. The original recording sits at a moderate 4/4 time signature with a tempo around 76 BPM—slow enough to let each chord breathe, yet steady enough to drive the narrative forward.

The chord progression for the verse, chorus, and bridge follows a consistent pattern that revolves around the root chord (C minor) and its relative major (E-flat major). Knowing this relationship will help you anticipate changes and play more fluidly. For piano learners, the key of C minor is particularly friendly because it uses only three flats in its scale (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), making the fingerings predictable once you memorize the pattern.

Why C Minor Works So Well

The choice of C minor is no accident. The interval between the tonic (C) and the minor third (E-flat) creates an inherent sadness, while the raised seventh (B natural) adds a pinch of tension that resolves beautifully back to C. This tension-release dynamic mirrors the lyrical theme of holding onto painful memories—the “jar” of hearts. The **Christina Perri Jar of Hearts piano chords**leverage this emotional palette perfectly, alternating between stable minor chords and unexpected major chords that keep the listener engaged.

Breaking Down the Core Chord Progression

The entire song is built on a four-chord loop that appears in the verses and choruses with slight variations. Here is the primary progression in its most basic form:

- C minor (Cm): C – E&m – G
- A-flat major (Ab): A&m – C – E&m
- E-flat major (Eb): E&m – G – B&m
- B-flat major (Bb): B&m – D – F

This loop repeats throughout the verse, and the chorus uses the same chords but with different rhythm and dynamic intensity. The bridge introduces an additional chord—**F minor (Fm)**—which adds a layer of urgency before returning to the familiar loop.

To play the song faithfully, you should practice transitioning between these four chords smoothly. The left hand typically plays the root note or a simple octave pattern, while the right hand handles the triads. Below, we'll break down each chord in detail, including recommended fingerings and common inversions used in the original recording.

C Minor – The Emotional Anchor

The C minor chord (notes: C, E&m, G) is where the song begins and ends. In root position, your right-hand thumb goes on C, middle finger on E&m, and pinky on G. A common inversion used by Christina Perri is the first inversion, where the C moves up an octave: E&m (thumb), G (middle), C (pinky). This voicing creates a lighter, more open sound that suits the verses.

For the left hand, sustain the C note two octaves below middle C to anchor the harmony. Many tutorials suggest playing the root as a single note or octave to keep the arrangement sparse.

A-Flat Major – The Unexpected Lift

After C minor, the progression moves to A-flat major (A&m, C, E&m). Notice that two of these notes (C and E&m) are shared with C minor—only the A&m is new. This shared-tone relationship makes the transition feel seamless yet emotionally complex. The A&m chord acts as a subdominant, pulling away from the tonic before returning.

In the song, the right hand often plays A&m in second inversion: E&m (thumb), A&m (middle), C (pinky). This voicing sits comfortably under the fingers and keeps the melody line moving. Your left hand should play A&m an octave and a half below middle C.

E-Flat Major – The Bright Contrast

E-flat major (E&m, G, B&m) is the relative major of C minor, providing a moment of brightness amid the darkness. In this song, the E&m chord often appears in root position: E&m (thumb), G (middle), B&m (pinky). Some players prefer the first inversion (G, B&m, E&m) to keep the top note moving stepwise from the previous chord.

When playing the **Christina Perri Jar of Hearts piano chords**, pay attention to the E&m chord's placement—it usually lands on the word "hearts" in the chorus, so you'll want to hit it with a little more weight.

B-Flat Major – The Dominant Release

The B-flat major chord (B&m, D, F) serves as the dominant (V) in C minor. It creates a strong pull back to the tonic. In root position, your right hand plays B&m (thumb), D (middle), F (pinky). Alternatively, use the first inversion (D, F, B&m) to keep a smooth voice leading from E&m major.

Because the B&m chord often falls on a stressed beat, it's a good place to add dynamic emphasis—try a slight crescendo as you move from E&m to B&m, then drop back to piano when you return to C minor.

How to Play the Intro and Verses

The intro of “Jar of Hearts” is iconic for its single-note descending line that outlines the C minor scale. While not strictly chords, the intro sets the mood. But once the vocals begin, the piano enters with the full chord progression. Here is a step-by-step approach to playing the verse:

1. Left hand: Start with a low C in octaves. Use your 5th finger on the lower C and thumb on the upper C. Hold it for the duration of the C minor chord.
2. Right hand: Play the C minor chord in first inversion (E&m, G, C). Use fingers 1-3-5.
3. Move your left hand to A&m (octave) as you shift your right hand to A&m major second inversion (E&m, A&m, C).
4. Continue this pattern through the sequence: E&m major (left hand octave on E&m; right hand root position E&m, G, B&m), then B&m major (left hand B&m octave; right hand root position B&m, D, F).
5. Repeat for each line of the verse. The rhythm is typically quarter notes, but you can experiment with eighth-note arpeggios for a more flowing sound.

Remember that the original recording uses a lot of sustain pedal. Hold the pedal down for each chord change, but release it quickly before the next harmony to avoid muddiness. This technique is crucial for rendering the **Christina Perri Jar of Hearts piano chords** with the correct atmosphere.

Adding Dynamics in the Verse

The verses are meant to be intimate and restrained. Keep your touch light—mp (mezzo-piano) is a good reference. The left hand should be softer than the right, providing a bed for the vocals. As the song progresses into the pre-chorus, gradually increase volume to prepare for the chorus.

Mastering the Chorus

The chorus is where the emotional weight of the song peaks. The chord progression remains the same (Cm – Ab – Eb – Bb), but the intensity changes. In the chorus, the piano often plays fuller voicings. Try adding the seventh or ninth extensions sparingly to thicken the sound:

- Cm7: C – E&m – G – B&m (add the B&m above the root)
- Abmaj7: A&m – C – E&m – G
- Eb6: E&m – G – B&m – C
- Bb7: B&m – D – F – A&m

These extended chords are optional but can add sophistication. For a more faithful cover, stick to the triads and focus on rhythmic drive. On the chorus, the right hand can play the chords as block chords in quarter notes, accenting the downbeat of each measure. The left hand can double the roots in octaves, or even arpeggiate a little.

The Bridge: Building to the Final Climax

The bridge of “Jar of Hearts” introduces the F minor chord (F, A&m, C). This chord marks a departure from the established loop and adds a new color. The bridge progression often goes: Fm – Cm – Ab – Bb (or similar). To play it:

- F minor (F, A&m, C) in root position: thumb on F, middle on A&m, pinky on C.
- Then back to C minor (first inversion as before).
- Then Ab major (second inversion), and finally Bb major (root position).

The bridge builds tension by repeating this pattern with increasing volume. After the bridge, the final chorus hits with full force—*forte* dynamics and perhaps a higher octave for the right hand. This is your moment to let loose.

Tips for Beginners and Intermediate Players

Whether you're just starting or looking to polish your performance, here are practical suggestions for Christina Perri **Jar of Hearts piano chords**:

For Beginners

- Learn each chord individually before attempting the progression. Draw a chord chart if needed.
- Practice the left hand alone first: play the root note in octaves on the beat.
- Use a slow metronome (60 BPM) and increase speed gradually.
- Keep the sustain pedal down for every chord change, but lift it exactly when you move to the next chord to avoid blurring.

For Intermediate Players

- Experiment with inversions to create smoother voice leading. For example, use Cm in first inversion, Ab in second inversion, Eb in root, Bb in first inversion.
- Add subtle arpeggios in the right hand during the verses to emulate the recording's flowing texture.
- Work on dynamic control: start the verse at piano, rise to mezzo-forte at the pre-chorus, and reach forte in the chorus.
- Try playing the melody with your right hand pinky while filling out the chord tones with the other fingers—this mimics the original vocal-piano interplay.

Alternative Chord Voicings for a Fresh Sound

If you want to put your own spin on the song, consider these alternative voicings for the core **Christina Perri Jar of Hearts piano chords**:

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#christina • #perri • #jar • #hearts • #piano

DIGITAL EDITION

christina-perri-jar-of-hearts-piano-chords

DIGITAL EDITION

christina-perri-jar-of-hearts-piano-chords

DIGITAL EDITION

christina-perri-jar-of-hearts-piano-chords

DIGITAL EDITION

christina-perri-jar-of-hearts-piano-chords