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Spirit Of The Living God Audrey Assad Chords

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Exploring the Depth and Simplicity of Spirit of the Living God Chords by Audrey Assad

In the vast landscape of modern worship music, few songs manage to achieve the perfect balance of theological depth, emotional honesty, and musical accessibility. Audrey Assad's rendition of "Spirit of the Living God" is one of those rare gems. Whether you are a seasoned worship leader, a beginner guitarist, or a pianist looking to expand your repertoire, understanding the **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**uses can open up new avenues for personal devotion and corporate worship. This article will walk you through the chord structure, the story behind the song, and practical tips for playing it with feeling and precision.

The beauty of this particular arrangement lies in its restraint. Unlike many contemporary worship songs that rely on complex progressions and soaring instrumental layers, Audrey Assad's version strips everything back to the essentials. The chords are simple yet evocative, allowing the weight of the lyrics to take center stage. By the end of this guide, you will have a thorough understanding of how to play and interpret this song, whether you are leading a congregation or creating a quiet moment of reflection in your own home.

The Story Behind the Song and Audrey Assad's Unique Approach

"Spirit of the Living God" is a classic hymn that has been sung in churches for decades. Its origins date back to the early 20th century, written by Daniel Iverson in 1926. The song has since been covered by countless artists, each bringing their own interpretation. However, Audrey Assad's version stands out for its gentle, intimate quality. She reimagines the hymn with a modern folk sensibility, using sparse instrumentation and a vulnerable vocal delivery that invites listeners into a deeper sense of contemplation.

Audrey Assad is known for her poetic songwriting and her ability to merge the sacred with the everyday. Her approach to this hymn is no different. She treats the lyrics not as ancient words to be repeated, but as a living prayer. The **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**selects for her arrangement are rooted in the key of D major, a key that is both warm and accessible for most vocalists. This choice makes the song approachable for beginner musicians while still offering enough nuance for experienced players to explore dynamic expression.

Understanding the Basic Chord Progression

Before diving into specific finger placements and strumming patterns, it is helpful to understand the overall harmonic structure of the song. The chord progression for Audrey Assad's version follows a pattern that is both predictable and deeply satisfying. The main progression revolves around the I, IV, V, and vi chords in the key of

D major. These chords are D, G, A, and Bm.

Here is a simplified breakdown of the progression as it appears in the verses and chorus:

- D – Root chord, establishes the tonal center
- G – Subdominant, adds a sense of openness
- A – Dominant, creates tension that resolves back to D
- Bm – Relative minor, introduces emotional depth

The beauty of this progression is its versatility. You can play it with simple open chords on the guitar or with light fingerpicking patterns on the piano. The **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**uses are not complicated, but they are arranged in a way that allows the song to breathe. This is a great example of how less can be more in worship music.

Verse Progression

The verse of the song is where the gentle, reflective mood is established. Audrey Assad sings the verses with a soft, almost whispered dynamic. The chord progression for the verse is as follows:

D – G – D – A

This four-chord loop repeats throughout the verse, creating a stable foundation. The movement from D to G feels like a gentle lift, while the return to D and the shift to A prepare the ear for the chorus. When playing this section, focus on keeping your strumming light and even. A simple down-up-down-up pattern at a slow tempo works beautifully.

Chorus Progression

The chorus introduces a slight variation to build emotional intensity. The progression expands to include the Bm chord, which adds a touch of melancholy and longing. Here is the chorus progression:

D – G – D – A – Bm – G – D – A

The addition of Bm is crucial. It breaks the predictability of the verse and gives the chorus a distinct identity. When you hit that Bm chord, allow your playing to become slightly more emphatic. This is the moment where the song's plea for the Spirit to move becomes most urgent. The **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**uses in the chorus are designed to mirror the emotional arc of the lyrics, rising and falling with the vocal melody.

Detailed Chord Breakdown for Guitar

If you are playing this song on the guitar, you are in luck. The chords are all standard open chords that most beginner guitarists learn within their first few weeks of practice. Let us look at each chord in detail, including finger placement and tips for smooth transitions.

D Major

Place your index finger on the second fret of the G string. Your middle finger goes on the second fret of the high E string. Your ring finger goes on the third fret of the B string. Strum from the D string down, avoiding the low E and A strings. This chord rings out with a bright, clear tone that anchors the song.

G Major

Place your middle finger on the third fret of the low E string. Your index finger goes on the second fret of the A string. Your ring finger goes on the third fret of the B string, and your pinky goes on the third fret of the high E string. Strum all six strings. The G chord provides a full, resonant sound that contrasts nicely with the D.

A Major

Place your index, middle, and ring fingers on the second fret of the D, G, and B strings respectively. Strum from the A string down. The A chord acts as a tension builder, leading back to D or moving to Bm.

B Minor

This is the most challenging chord in the progression for beginners. Place your index finger across all six strings at the second fret to form a barre. Then place your ring finger on the fourth fret of the D string and your pinky on the fourth fret of the G string. Alternatively, you can play a simplified version by only barring the top five strings. Strum from the A string down. The B minor chord adds a somber, reflective quality to the chorus.

When practicing the **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**uses on guitar, pay special attention to the transition from A to Bm. These two chords share a similar shape, and with practice, your hand will learn to move fluidly between them.

Detailed Chord Breakdown for Piano

For pianists, this song is equally accessible. The chords are all in root position, but you can add inversions to create a more flowing sound. Here are the basic chord shapes for piano in the key of D major:

- D Major: D, F#, A
- G Major: G, B, D
- A Major: A, C#, E
- B Minor: B, D, F#

To emulate Audrey Assad's gentle piano style, use a light touch on the keys. Play the chords with your right hand while your left hand plays simple root notes in the lower octave. You can also experiment with arpeggios, breaking the chords into individual notes played in sequence. This creates a harp-like effect that suits the intimate nature of the song.

One of the advantages of playing the **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**uses on piano is the ability to control dynamics with precision. During the verses, keep your volume low and your touch soft. As you move into the chorus, gradually increase the weight of your keystrokes to reflect the growing emotional intensity.

Strumming Patterns and Rhythmic Feel

The rhythm of this song is gentle and flowing, like a calm river. Audrey Assad's original recording features a fingerpicked guitar pattern that is both soothing and rhythmic. If you are using a pick, try a pattern like **down, down-up, down-up**at a slow tempo of around 70 beats per minute. The key is to leave space between the chords. Do not rush the transitions. Let each chord ring out fully before moving to the next.

For fingerstyle players, try this simple pattern: **thumb, index, middle, index**on the strings. The thumb plays the root note of the chord, while the index and middle fingers alternate between the higher strings. This pattern creates a gentle arpeggio effect that perfectly complements the reflective mood of the song.

How the Chords Enhance the Lyrical Message

Music theory often feels abstract, but in the context of worship, chord progressions carry emotional and spiritual weight. The **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**chooses are not arbitrary; they are deliberately selected to reinforce the lyrics. When she sings "Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me," the chords move from D to G, an ascending fourth that evokes a sense of reaching upward. The subsequent move to Bm in the chorus mirrors the vulnerability of the request, acknowledging our own insufficiency and need for divine intervention.

The repetition of the I-IV-V progression in the verses creates a sense of stability and trust, while the introduction of the vi chord (Bm) in the chorus introduces an element of honest human emotion. This balance between security and vulnerability is what makes the song so powerful. It is not just a performance; it is a prayer set to music.

Practical Tips for Worship Leaders and Beginners

If you are planning to lead this song in a worship setting, there are a few things to keep in mind. First, consider the key. D major is a comfortable key for most congregational singing, but you may want to capo the guitar to accommodate different vocal ranges. A capo on the second fret will transpose the song to E major, which might be a better fit for higher voices.

Second, focus on dynamics. One of the strengths of Audrey Assad's arrangement is its dynamic range. Start the song very softly, almost like a whisper. As the song progresses, gradually increase the volume and intensity. By the final chorus, you can allow the music to swell, but never let it become harsh or forced. The goal is to create a sense of spaciousness where the congregation can connect with the lyrics.

For beginners, do not be discouraged by the B minor barre chord. If you are struggling with it, you can substitute a Bm7 chord (x20202) or even play a simplified version using only the top four strings. The essence of the song will remain intact. The **Spirit of the Living God chords Audrey Assad**uses are forgiving; even a simplified version will carry the same emotional weight.

Exploring Variations and Alternate Versions

While Audrey Assad's version is my personal favorite, there are many other interpretations of this hymn that can inspire your playing. Some artists play it in the key of C or G, which changes the chord shapes but not the essential spirit of the song. If you are playing with a band, you might experiment with adding a pedal steel guitar or a soft organ pad to create a more atmospheric sound.

You can also vary the chord voicings. On guitar, try playing D in an open position, then moving to a D/F# for a different bass note. On piano, experiment with suspended chords like Dsus4 or Asus4 to

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