

# People Get Ready

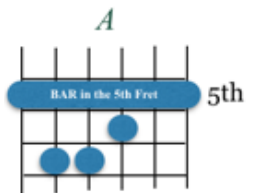
Words & Music by Curtis Mayfield © 1965 all rights reserved  
 Sing along with As You Go @ [https://static.wixstatic.com/mp3/055bba\\_47f75fb33f6f486a9aa73c0af4ac7689.m4a](https://static.wixstatic.com/mp3/055bba_47f75fb33f6f486a9aa73c0af4ac7689.m4a)



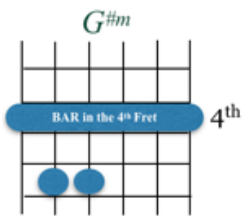
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 People get ready, there's a train a comin',  
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 You don't need no baggage, you just get on board.



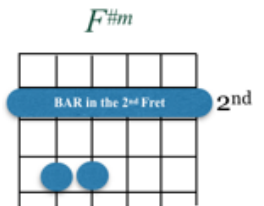
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin',  
*G#m* *F#m* *A* *E* *G#m* *F#m* *A* *E* } INTRO & TAG LAST 4 CHORDS  
 Don't need a ticket, you just thank the Lord.



*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 So people get ready for the train to Jordan,  
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 Pickin' up passengers coast to coast.  
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 Faith is the key. Open the doors and board 'em.  
*G#m* *F#m* *A* *E* *G#m* *F#m* *A* *E*  
 There's hope for all. Listen for the Holy Ghost.



*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 There's ain't no room for the hopeless sinner,  
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 Whom would hurt all mankind just save his own.  
*E* *C#m/G#* *A* *E*  
 God have mercy on the lost and the searchin'.  
*G#m* *F#m* *A* *E* *G#m* *F#m* *A* *E*  
 There's no place to hide before the Kingdom's throne.



REPRISE VERSE 1



## Scripture and History

Curtis Mayfield wrote “**People Get Ready**” in 1965. He said, “That was taken from my church or from the upbringing of messages from the church. Like there's no hiding place and get on board, and images of that sort. I must have been in a very deep mood of that type of religious inspiration when I wrote that song.”

A passenger train is a place going somewhere. Mr. Mayfield’s first line of the second verse, “People get ready for the train to Jordan,” digs deeply into this very human romantic notion; being a rider on a train full of loved ones, and links it with our longing to be with our God. Jordan is often used as a synonym for heaven.

This song resonated with Americans during the civil rights struggles of the '60s. It speaks for the downtrodden, and Mayfield made it clear that transcended race. "It doesn't matter what color you are or faith you have," he told *Goldmine* in 1997. "I'm pleased the lyrics can be of value to anybody.”

**Curtis Lee Mayfield** (June 3, 1942 – December 26, 1999) was an American singer-songwriter, guitarist, record producer, and one of the most influential musicians in soul and politically conscious American music.



He was the Impressions’ lead singer but got his start performing with the Northern Jubilee Gospel Singers, competing with other gospel acts in the Chicago area.



After Curtis Mayfield was paralyzed in 1990 (a light rig fell on him, crushing three vertebrae), royalties from this song - especially the Rod Stewart version - helped keep him financially sound. He credited this for helping him fend off depression and remain active as a songwriter and singer.

from [en.wikipedia.org/](https://en.wikipedia.org/)

Rolling Stone magazine named "People Get Ready" the 24th greatest song of all time and also placed it at number 20 on their list of the 100 Greatest Guitar Tracks. The song was included in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll. It was named as one of the *Top 10 Best Songs Of All Time* by Mojo music magazine, and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2016, the song was selected for preservation in the National Recording Registry due to its "cultural, historic, or artistic significance."

[www.songfacts.com/](http://www.songfacts.com/) , *Wikipedia and Rick Larson at asyougosongs.com*