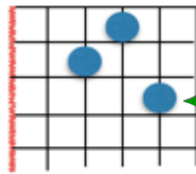


# Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head

A Kentucky Folk Carol collected by John Jacob Niles

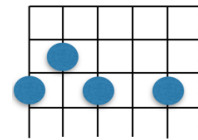
*C Em7 Am7 Amaj7sus4*  
 Jesus, Jesus rest your head,  
*F G7[1] C*  
 You have got a manger bed.  
*F C G7[2] C*  
 All the other kingly heads,  
*F C Am7 Em*  
 Sleep with feathers on their beds.  
*C Em7 Am7 Amaj7sus4*  
 Jesus, Jesus rest your head,  
*F G7[1] C*  
 Gently on Your manger bed.

*Amaj7sus4*

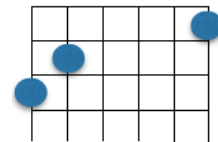


Hammer on the D on the 2nd half of "your", then pluck the G string on "head".

*G7[1]*



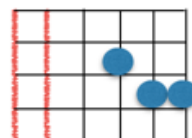
*G7[2]*



} Intro

*C F Em7 Am7 Amaj7sus4*  
 Have you heard about my Jesus;  
*F Em7 Em Am*  
 How He came a king of all?  
*C F Em Am7 Amaj7sus4*  
 Born to Mary, low-ly wonder,  
*F Em7 Em Am*  
 In a humble cattle stall  
*F Em7 C Dsus4 Dm*  
 Winds were blowing; stars were glow-ing,  
*C Dm Am7 G G7[2]*  
 Winds were blowing, stars were glowing.

*Dsus4*



*C Em7 Am7 Amaj7sus4*  
 Jesus, Jesus rest your head,  
*F G7[1] C*  
 You have got a manger bed.  
*F C G7[2] C*  
 All the other kingly heads,  
*F C Am7 Em*  
 Sleep with feathers on their beds.  
*C Em7 Am7 Amaj7sus4*  
 Jesus, Jesus rest your head,  
*F G7[1] C*  
 Gently on Your manger bed.

*Christmas as you go*

# Scriptural History

“**Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head**” is a Kentucky folk carol; collected by John Jacob Niles: 1912-1913 and 1932-1924.



John Jacob Niles singing, “I Wonder as I Wander.”

[www.john-jacob-niles.com](http://www.john-jacob-niles.com)

John Jacob Niles (1892-1934), is considered to be one of America’s most influential musicians and has been called the "Dean of American Balladeers". He began collecting Appalachian folk songs and composing music as a Kentucky teenager. He was attracted to folk songs while working as a surveyor in the Appalachians. After he served in World War I he was educated at the music conservatories in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lyon, France, and at the Schola Cantorum of Paris. His ballad collections frequently included material that he composed, such as “I Wonder As I Wander” and "Black Is the Color of My True Love's

Hair," or arranged, as well as ballads transcribed directly from oral sources.

In 1921 in New York City, Niles became master of ceremonies at the Silver Slipper nightclub before teaming up with Marion Kerby, with whom he toured widely in the United States and Europe as a folksinger. In 1925, Niles published his first song collection—“Impressions of a Negro Camp Meeting”—and in 1933, he toured the U.S. and Europe with Marion Kerby to critical acclaim. He released *his first album for RCA’s Red Seal label, “Early American Ballads” in 1938.*

“Like a psalmodist, he intoned his verses in an ethereal chant which the angels carried aloft to the Glory seat. When he sang of Jesus, Mary and Joseph they became living presences. A sweep of the hand and the dulcimer gave forth magical sounds which caused the stars to gleam more brightly, which peopled the hills and meadows with silvery figures and made the brooks to babble like infants. We would sit there long after his voice had faded out, talking of Kentucky where he was born, talking of the Blue Ridge mountains.”

*Henry Miller, Plexus: Book 2 of the Rosy Crucifixion, pp. 366-367, Grove Press, 1965, Sources: [johnjacobniles.com/articles.htm](http://johnjacobniles.com/articles.htm), [www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/dylan/dylan\\_niles.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/dylan/dylan_niles.html) Posted by Dave Tabler | December 22, 2015 and Encyclopedia Britannica.*

*Christmas as you go*