

# Wide River to Cross

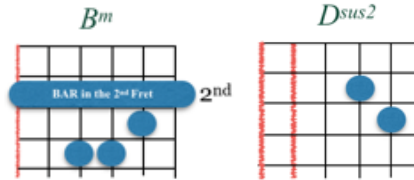
Words & Music by Levon Helm © 2007 all rights reserved

Sing along with Levon Helm @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=218wiYYuAXI>



CAPO 3<sup>RD</sup> FRET TO PLAY THE CHORD PATTERNS ON THIS SHEET.

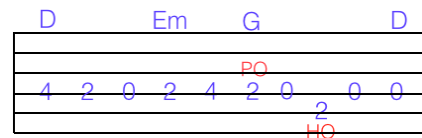
*D* *G* *D*  
There's a sorrow in the wind,  
*G* *D*  
Goin' down the road I've been.  
*Bm* *G* *D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
I can hear it cry while shadows steal the sun;  
*G* *D*  
But I cannot look back now.  
*G* *D*  
Come too far to turn around,  
*Bm* *G* *D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
And there's still a race ahead that I must run.



## CHORUS

*Bm A D*  
I'm only half way home.  
*Bm A D*  
I gotta journey on,  
*Em G D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
To where I'll find the things that I've lost.  
*D Bm A D*  
I've come a long, long road,  
*Bm A D*  
But still I've got some miles to go.  
*Em G D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
I've got a wide, wide river to cross.

## GUITAR LEAD ON THE INTRO



*D G D*  
I have stumbled I have strayed.  
*G D*  
You can trace the tracks I've made,  
*Bm G D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
All across the memories my heart recalls.  
*G D*  
But I'm still a refugee.  
*G D*  
Won't you say a prayer for me;  
*Bm G D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
'cause sometimes even the strongest soldier falls.

## CHORUS ~ INSTRUMENTAL VERSE ~ CHORUS

## TAG

*Em G D D<sup>sus2</sup> D*  
I've got a wide, wide river to cross.

## *Scripture and History*

The Jordan River is a frequent symbol in folk, gospel, and spiritual music, and in poetic and literary works. Because, according to Jewish tradition, the Israelites made a difficult and hazardous journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, the Jordan can refer to freedom.

The actual crossing is the final step of the journey, which is then complete.

“**Wide River to Cross**” is a part of *Dirt Farmer*, an album by Levon Helm, former drummer for The Band. The album was released on October 30, 2007 on Vanguard Records, and was Helm's first studio album since 1982. It won the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Album in February 2008.

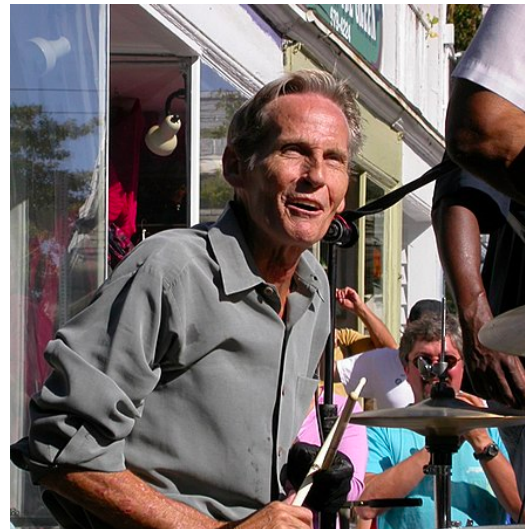
Mark Lavon "Levon" Helm (May 26, 1940 – April 19, 2012) was an American musician and actor who achieved initial fame as the drummer and one of the vocalists for The Band. Helm was known for his deeply soulful, country-accented voice, multi-instrumental ability, and creative drumming style, highlighted on many of The Band's recordings, such as “The Weight”, “Up on Cripple Creek”, and “The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down”.

Helm also had a successful career as a film actor, appearing as Loretta Lynn's father in *Coal Miner's Daughter*, as Chuck Yeager's friend and colleague Captain Jack Ridley in *The Right Stuff*, and as a Tennessee firearms expert in *Shooter*.

In 1998, Helm was diagnosed with throat cancer, which caused the loss of his singing voice. After treatment, his cancer eventually went into remission, and he gradually regained the use of his voice. His 2007 comeback album *Dirt Farmer* earned the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Album in February 2008, and in November of that year, Rolling Stone magazine ranked him No. 91 in its list of 100 Greatest Singers of All Time. In 2010, *Electric Dirt*, his 2009 follow-up to *Dirt Farmer*, won the first Grammy Award for Best Americana Album, a category inaugurated in 2010. In 2011, his live album *Ramble at the Ryman* won the Grammy in the same category.

On April 17, 2012, his wife and daughter announced on Helm's website that he was "in the final stages of his battle with cancer" and thanked fans while requesting prayers. Two days later, Helm died at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

*Wikipedia*



Levon Helm performing in 2004 on the Village Green in Woodstock, New York