

Sunflower River Blues

by John Fahey, © 1964

- A theme -

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

5 | 6 | 7 | 8a |

- B theme -

8b | 9 | 10 | 11 |

- C theme - (fortissimo)

12a | 12b | 13 <— repeat 13 & 14 3x —> | |

15 | 16 |

- A theme variations -

1 | 2 | 3 (var.) | 4 |

5 | 6 | 7 (var.) | 8a (var.) |

Play at least **A B A B C A B**, end on open C chord or chimes

Notes:

1. Tab by Dale Cotton, 2010. Please report any corrections to me at webmaster@daystarvisions.com.
2. For this composition the guitar is tuned to open C tuning. The 2nd string is half a tone higher, from B to C, The 4th string a whole tone lower, from D to C, the 5th string is down from A to G. The 6th string is down two whole tones from E to C.
3. The notes on the 4th, 5th, 6th strings create the alternating bass line, are played with the thumb, and always fall strictly on the beat. Notes on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings are plucked with the middle or index fingers. If one of these notes is shown directly above a bass note, it's plucked simultaneously with that bass note (called a pinch). If the note falls between bass notes it's slipped in between beats (called a roll).
4. The double lines with stars indicate that the **A** theme is composed of bars 1 through 4 played twice, followed by bars 5 through 8 played twice.
5. The **B** theme, bars 9 through 12, is played twice, but with 12b replacing 12a the second time through.
6. Bars 13 and 14 or the **C** theme are repeated three times before going on to bars 15 and 16.
7. John Fahey recorded this composition multiple times and each version has a different mix of small flourishes in the **A** theme. The variation shown for bars 3 and 4 doesn't necessarily go together with the variation in bars 7 and 8. Mix them in to taste.
8. The notes in parentheses can be played or left out to taste.
9. The **C** theme is played fortissimo. As always, listen to a recording for timing, phrasing, and emphasis.
10. A drop-D version of Sunflower can be found here:
http://daystarvisions.com/Music/Sunflower_River_Blues-drop_D-tab.txt