

Oklahoma Stray (Hugh Prestwood)

I have derived the tablature for this song from listening to and watching Michael's performance at the house concert in 2006. I never got a chance to see him perform personally and I am the poorer for that. But through MJBLUE his music lives on, and I do my best.

I have endeavoured to be as accurate as possible so this is pretty much how the notes play. I have written the tab for the first verse, bridge and choruses to give a good idea on how to perform the entire song. Michael rarely played the same verses, or entire songs the same way twice anyway, as has been noted elsewhere. And in this version Michael has his guitar tuned a half step down.

Notes follow on page 2 outlining the progression through the tablature using (I hope correctly) standard musical symbols as well as plain English directions. Hopefully you can understand it.

It should be kept in mind that while music needs to be structured, it mustn't be 'rigid.' There is a difference. I have indicated a well paced tempo to give a general guideline of how fast to play BUT I note that this song particularly alters tempo quite a lot, to overall great effect.

If you haven't tried this song yet, or if you have and got stuck somewhere give it a go. I don't profess to know all the intricacies, nor do I go in for labels; beginner, novice, advanced sort of thing. I have been playing for a lot of years and am still learning.

And of course my thanks to Paul Ashley who gave me the idea to do this for you.

Enjoy,

Dale Dickson

January 2019



Oklahoma Stray

by Hugh Prestwood

(Drop D)

4/4

capo X
tempo 68

Michael Johnson

tabature by Dale Dickson

1 of 2

♯

1. Baby Once in O.....kla.ho...ma I took in a stray cat I came home from work one day there she sat
 swear no...body chooses to live a life a...lone but I guess trust just drains aw...ay when hearts cut to the bone
 once in O.....kla.ho...ma I took in a stray and then one night I found her on the road...side where she lay

someone long be...fore me I had in...jured her so much although I fed her for a year never did we touch
 God for...bid I lose you 'cause ba...by on that day I swear I will be just an...other Okla..homa stray
 then at last I held her and then I dug a grave I cried for her and cried for all the hearts love could not save.

Some hearts tru....ly! may...be some hearts tru....ly!

tru....ly break. 2. Oh, I Nothing is more

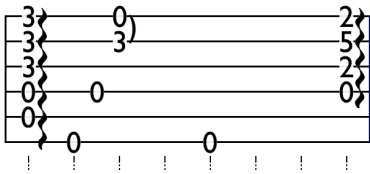
gen.....tle nothing is more fra.....gile! nothing more in

dan....ger nothing more cour.....geous than an open heart 3. Baby

♯ (slowly)

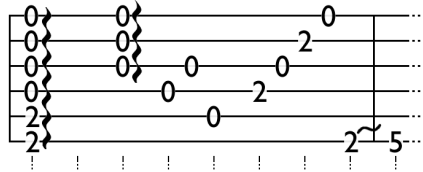
may...be some hearts tru....ly!

may...be some hearts tru....ly! tru....ly break.



NOTES:

play this for bar 4 in verses 2 & 3



Song progression...

play first verse to end of bar 15 1,

play second verse from bar 1, skipping bar 15 playing bar 16 2, then

continue from bar 17 to end of bar 24, then back to beginning for 3rd verse,

the D.S. al \oplus at bar 24 means go to the 'sign' \otimes in this case at bar 1, play to the coda \oplus end of bar 8, then instead of continuing to bar 9, you play from the next coda \oplus at bar 25 and play to the end.