

CAT'S IN THE CRADLE

words & music by Harry Chapin(1974)

05/24

nominated for 1975 Grammy Award and inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2011

Key: D **Start Note:** G **Time:** 4/4 **Strum:** D _ du du du

Intro: D /// C /// F / Am / D ///

1. My child arrived just the other day
He came to the world in the usual way
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay
...He learned to walk while I was away
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, Dad,
You know I'm gonna be like you.

CHORUS:

*And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon
"When you comin' home Dad?... "I don't know when,
But we'll get to-gether then... Son,
You know we'll have a good time then."*

Interlude: D /// C /// F / Am / D ///

2. My son turned ten just the other day
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play,
Can you teach me to throw?" I said, "Not today,
I got a lot to do, "he said, "That's OK."
And he walked a-way but his smile never dimmed

/ F / Am / D
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah,
F / Am / D D
You know I'm gonna be like him."

CHORUS:

D C
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
F G
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon
D C
"When you comin' home Dad?... "I don't know when,
F / Am / D
But we'll get to-gether then... Son,
F / Am / D
You know we'll have a good time then."

Interlude: D /// C /// F / Am / D ///

D F
3. Well, he came from college just the other day
G D
So much like a man I just had to say,
D F
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for while?"
G D
He shook his head, and said with a smile,
C / G / Am / G /
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys,
F D D
..See you later, can I have them please?"

CHORUS:

D C
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
F G
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon
D C
"When you comin' home Son?... "I don't know when,
F / Am / D
But we'll get to-gether then.... Dad,
F / Am / D
You know we'll have a good time then."

Break:

Bb /// C / Am / D /// D /// Bb /// C / Am / D /// D ///

4. I've long since retired, my son's moved away
 ...I called him up just the other day
 I said, I'd like to see you, if you don't mind"
 He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time,
 You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the flu,
 But it's sure nice talking to you", Dad
 It's been sure nice talking to you."
 And as I hung up the phone it oc-cured to me
 He's grown up just like me
 My boy was just like me.

CHORUS:

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
 Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon
 "When you comin' home Son?... "I don't know when,
 But we'll get to-gether then...Dad,

OUTRO: (slowly) You know we'll have a good time then."