**Hallelujah**

Jeff Buckley

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8AWFf7EAc4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8AWFf7EAc4)  
  
Well I heard there was a secret chord  
that David played and it pleased the Lord  
But you don't really care for music, do you?  
Well it goes like this:  
The fourth, the fifth,  
The minor fall and the major lift  
The baffled king composing Hallelujah  
  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...  
  
Your faith was strong but you needed proof  
You saw her bathing on the roof  
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you  
She tied you to her kitchen chair  
She broke your throne and she cut your hair  
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah  
  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...  
  
Baby I've been here before  
I've seen this room and I've walked this floor (you know)  
I used to live alone before I knew you  
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch  
and love is not a victory march  
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah  
  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...  
  
There was a time when you let me know  
What's really going on below  
But now you never show that to me, do you?  
But remember when I moved in with you  
And the holy dove was moving too  
And every breath we drew was Hallelujah  
  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...  
  
Maybe there's a God above  
all I've ever learned from love  
Was how to shoot somebody who outdrew you  
And it's not a cry that you hear at night  
It's not somebody who's seen the light  
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah  
  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

**Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen song)**

"**Hallelujah**" is a song written by Canadian singer-songwriter [Leonard Cohen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_Cohen), originally released on his [studio album](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studio_album) [*Various Positions*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Various_Positions) (1984). Achieving little initial success, the song found greater popular acclaim through a cover by [John Cale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cale), which later formed the basis for a cover by [Jeff Buckley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Buckley). In recent years several [cover versions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cover_version) have been performed by a large number and broad range of artists, both in recordings and in concert.

"Hallelujah", in its original version, is a song in "12/8 feel", which evokes the styles of both [waltz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waltz) and [gospel music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_music). Written in the key of [C major](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C_major), the [chord progression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_progression) follows the [lyric](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyrics) "*it goes like this, the* [*fourth*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdominant)*, the* [*fifth*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominant_(music))*, the* [*minor fall*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Submediant)*, and the major lift*": C, F, G, A minor, F.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0)

Cohen's original version contains several [biblical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible) references, most notably evoking the stories of [Samson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samson) and traitorous [Delilah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delilah) from the [Book of Judges](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Judges) as well as the adulterous [King David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David) and [Bathsheba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bathsheba)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-1): "she cut your hair" and "you saw her bathing on the roof, her beauty in the moonlight overthrew you".[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0)

Following his original 1984 studio-album version, Cohen performed the original song on his world tour in 1985, but live performances during his 1988 and 1993 tours almost invariably contained a quite different set of lyrics with only the last [verse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verse_(popular_music)) being common to the two versions. Numerous artists mix lyrics from both versions, and occasionally make direct lyric changes, such as [Rufus Wainwright](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rufus_Wainwright), a Canadian-American singer, substituting "holy dark" and [Allison Crowe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allison_Crowe), a Canadian singer-songwriter, substituting "[Holy Ghost](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit)" for "holy dove".

Cohen's lyrical poetry and his view that "many different [hallelujahs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah) exist" is reflected in wide-ranging covers with very different intents or tones of speech, allowing the song to be "melancholic, fragile, uplifting [or] joyous" depending on the performer:[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0) The Welsh singer-songwriter [John Cale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cale), the first person to record a cover version of the song in 1991, promoted a message of "soberness and sincerity" in contrast to Cohen's dispassionate tone;[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0) The cover by [Jeff Buckley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Buckley), an American singer-songwriter, is more sorrowful and was described by Buckley as "a hallelujah to the orgasm";[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-2) Crowe interpreted the song as a "very sexual" composition that discussed relationships;[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0) Wainwright offered a "purifying and almost liturgical" interpretation to the song;[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0) and [Guy Garvey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Garvey) of the British band [Elbow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbow_(band)) [anthropomorphised](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropomorphism) the hallelujah as a "stately creature" and incorporated his religious interpretation of the song into his band's recordings.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallelujah_(Leonard_Cohen_song)#cite_note-bbc.co.uk-0)