The Cosmic Distance Ladder *by Andy "Dijon" French.*
Based upon Stairway to Heaven by Led Zeppelin.

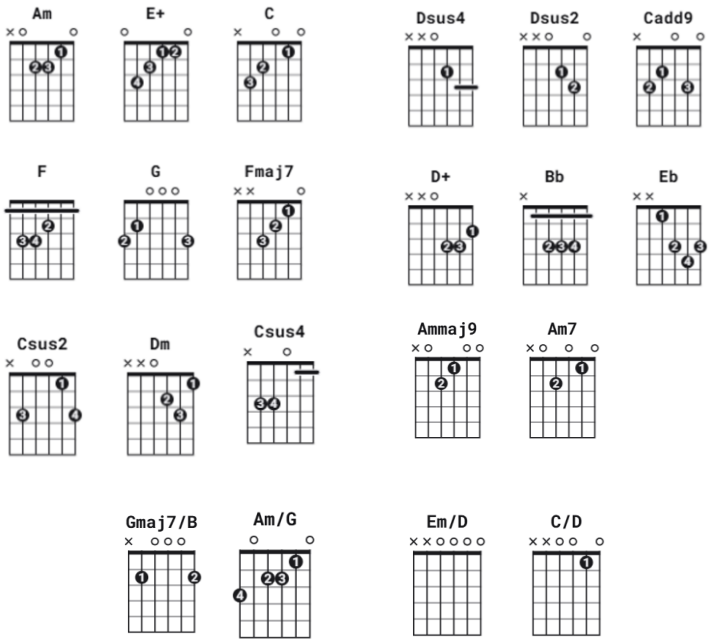
Intro (pick chords slowly)
Am Ammaj9 Am7 D Fmaj7 … G-Am
Am Ammaj9 Am7 D Fmaj7 … G -Am
C D Fmaj7 Am C G Dsus4 D
C D Fmaj7 Am C D Fmaj7

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e|-------5-7-----7-|-8-----8-2-----2-|-0---------0-----|----------------|
B|-----5-----5-----|---5-------3-----|---1---1-----1---|-0-1-1----------|
G|---5---------5---|-----5-------2---|-----2---------2-|-0-2-2----2-----|
D|-7-------6-------|-5-------4-------|-3---------------|----------------|
A|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-2-0-0----0-/8-7-|
E|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|

e|---------7-----7-|-8-----8-2-----2-|-0---------0-----|----------------|
B|-------5---5-----|---5-------3-----|---1---1-----1---|-0-1-1----------|
G|-----5-------5---|-----5-------2---|-----2---------2-|-0-2-2----------|
D|---7-----6-------|-5-------4-------|-3---------------|----------------|
A|-0---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-2-0-0-------0-2-|
E|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|

e|-------0-2-----2-|-0-----0---------|---------3-----3-|-3p2-2-2---------|
B|-----------3-----|---1-----0h1-----|-1-----1---0-----|-----3-3---------|
G|-----0-------2---|-----2-------2---|---0---------0---|-----2-2---------|
D|---2-----0-------|-3---------------|-----2-----------|-0---0-0---------|
A|-3---------------|---------0---0-2-|-3---------------|-----------0-2-|
E|-----------------|-----------------|---------3-------|----------------|

e|---------2-----2-|-0-----0---------|---------------2-|-0-0-0-----------|
B|-------1---3-----|---1-----0h1-----|-------1-----3---|-1-1-1-----------|
G|-----0-------2---|-----2-------2---|-----0-----2-----|-2-2-2-----------|
D|---2-----0-------|-3---------------|---2-----0-------|-3-3-3-----------|
A|-3---------------|---------0---0-2-|-3---------------|----------------|
E|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
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Am Ammaj9 Am7 D
There's a man that's called Tao, who is best at maths now
Fmaj7 G Am
And he tells of a ladder, to hea--ven
Am Ammaj9 Am7 D
(See) Three, Blue-one-brown, has won much renown
Fmaj7 G Am
In two videos, it goes cosmic distances
C D Fmaj7 Am C G
On You-ooo Tu---------oobe, he is building a ladder to
Dsus4-D
Hea----ven

C D Fmaj7 Am
It all starts with the Earth, how to measure its girth
C D Fmaj7
First you pace Alexandria to Syene
Am Ammaj9 Am7 D
Eratosthenes, was really quite pleased
Famj7 G Am
To know the arc of this circle is eight degrees

Am Ammaj9 Am7 D Fmaj7 … G-Am

G-Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Ooh, it makes me wonder …
Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Oohooooooooh, and it's full of wonder …

C G Am
A lunar eclipse, gets you the next step
C G Fmaj7 Am
The Moon is just thirty Earth girths away
C G Am
And on the same night, measure our satellite
C G Fmaj7 Am
It's a tennis ball next to a basket--ball

C G

Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Ooh, it makes me wonder …
Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Oohooooooooh, and it's full of wonder …

C G
From New to Half Moon,
Am
Sixteen minutes to soon
C G Fmaj7 Am
From the trig you can find the Earth-Sun gap
C G Am
In a solar eclipse, the Moon it just fits
C G Fmaj7 Am
And so the Sun is 109 Earths wide

C G
Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D

C G Am
Then comes Kepler and his three laws
Am
Proved by Newton
C G Am Am
It's all ellipses and inverse squares
C G Am
From planet periods, you can find out,
Am
how far they are now
C G Am
And comets and exoplanets too

C G

Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Ooh, it makes me wonder …
Am7 D Am7 Em/D D C/Dx2 D
Oohooooooooh, and it's full of wonder …

C G Am Am
Over half a year, near stars, will shift in angle
C G Am
Find distances up to, ten k parsecs
C G Am
Beyond that you'll need a Hertzsprung Russell diagram
C G Am
For galaxies, a Cepheid variable

Dsus2 D Dsus4 Dsus2 D Dsus4
Dsus2 D Dsus4 Dsus4 D
C-Cadd9 C-Cadd9
Dsus2 D Dsus4 Dsus2 D Dsus4
Dsus2 D Dsus4 Dsus4 D C-Cadd9 Gmaj7/B

Solo over: Am Am/G Fmaj7 x10

(Rock on! Now power chords)

Am G Fx3 F-G
As we reach the grandest scales
Am G Fx3 F-G
Doppler shifts are the tool
Am G Fx3 F-G
The Universe is expanding
Am G Fx3 F-G
Edwin Hubble found a rule
Am G Fx3 F-G
From the geodesy of Greeks
Am G Fx3 F-G
Cosmic objects we can seek
Am G Fx3 F-G
We're just a tiny pale blue dot
Am G F Fmaj7
But it's home and all we've got ….

Solo over: Am G F F-G x3
Am G F Fmaj7 ……

Am
And we're building a ladder, to heaven.

Andy "Dijon" French. November 2026.

Note BPM is about 82, but actually it starts at about 71 and rises to 103 by the end!