I Need Your Light (Michael Johnson & Jim Varsos)

I have derived the chords and tablature for this phenomenal tune from listening to Michael’s audio recording of the song. 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. For the tablature, I have just written the tab for the first verse 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.

It should be kept in mind that while music needs to be structured, it mustn’t be ‘rigid.’ There is a difference. With this in mind you can use the tempo as a guideline for pacing; meaning you don’t need to play strictly to the metronome. Play it your way while keeping true to the original.

Also, because of my total lack of formal training in musical theory it’s likely I have not used the ‘coda’ and ‘sign’ notations correctly, but you will be able to follow along while listening to Michael’s recording.

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

Enjoy,

Dale Dickson
December 2018
Amended May 2020

https://youtu.be/eTFIVtGmlpc
I NEED YOUR LIGHT (Michael Johnson & Jim Varsos)

1. I am down, weary of the thunder and the storm
2. When I rise and I try to find some comfort in the dawn

1. I find myself believing I won’t ever get warm
2. But the troubles of the day keep coming on and on

1. And I am lost, fading like a shadow in the dark
2. Without you, oh I wonder how I’d make it on my own

1. I could never find my way without a spark
2. I’d be wandering with no direction home

(Chorus) I need your light to shine on me

I need your tender com........pany

And I need all your love to see me through the night

I need your light
Repeat chorus and end

END ⇒

Tablature Below
I Need Your Light
by Michael Johnson & Jim Varsos

(EADGBE) \( \frac{4}{4} \) capo 0 tempo 73

Michael Johnson

I am down and I am \( \begin{array}{c} \text{weary of the thunder and the storm} \\ \text{and I try and find some comfort in the dawn} \end{array} \)
but the troubles of the day keep coming

I find my... self believin... I won't
2. rise and I am lost without you

and I am \( \begin{array}{c} \text{fadin'} like a shadow} \\ \text{in the dark} \end{array} \)

oh I won... der how I'd make it on my own

I could ne... ver find my way without a spark (chorus) I need your light to shine on me

I'd be wan... dering with no direction home

I need your ten... der com... pany and I need all your love to

see me through the night I need your li... ght

second time through to coda, then repeat chorus from \( \text{S3} \) to coda and end as below.

When I

li... ght your li... ght