Oklahoma Stray (Hugh Prestwood)

I have derived the chord charts and 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 video 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
Amended May 2020

https://youtu.be/GuSmPwQ4BlM 1:23:45 mark (video)
OKLAHOMA STRAY (Hugh Prestwood)

Baby once in Oklahoma I took in a stray cat

I came home from work one day and there she sat

Someone long before me had injured her so much

Although I fed her for a year, never did we touch

Some hearts truly

Maybe some hearts truly

truly break

Well I swear nobody chooses to live a life alone
But I guess trust just drains away when hearts cut to the bone
God forbid I lose you 'cause baby come that day
I swear I will be just another Oklahoma stray
OKLAHOMA STRAY - 2

Chorus

Nothing is more gentle

Nothing is more fragile

Nothing more in danger

Nothing more courageous than an open heart

Baby once in Oklahoma I took in a stray
Then one night I found her on the roadside where she lay
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

(first line instrumental)

Maybe some hearts truly

Maybe some hearts truly

truly break
Oklahoma Stray

(DADGBE) 4

by Hugh Prestwood

capo 0
tempo 68

arr. Michael Johnson

1. Baby

Once in O....kla.ho...ma I took in a stray cat
swear no...body chooses to live a life a...lone
I camè home from work one day
but I guess truet just drains aw...ay
there she sat

I took in a stray
and then one night I found her on the road...side where she lay

someone long be...fore me
God for...bid I lose you 'cause ba...by on that day
had in..._ured her so much
and then I dug a grave

although I fed her for a year
I swear I will be just an...other
never did we touch

I cried for her
and cried for all the hearts
Oklahoma stray

love could not save.

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

tru.....ly break.

2. Oh, I

Nothing is more
gem............tie
nothing is more fra..............gile
nothing more in
dan....ger
nothing more coura......geous
than an open heart

3. Baby

(slowly)

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

tru.....ly break.
Oklahoma Stray by Hugh Prestwood

\[ \text{(DADGBE)} \]
\[ \frac{4}{4} \]
capo 0
tempo 68

Michael Johnson
arrangement by Dick Robertson
\[ \text{2 of 2} \]

**NOTES:**

play this for bar 4 in verses 2 & 3

Song progression...
play first verse to end of bar 15, play second verse from bar 1, skipping bar 15 playing bar 16, then continue from bar 17 to end of bar 24, then back to beginning for 3rd verse.
the D.S. at bar 24 means go to the 'sign' in this case at bar 1, play to the coda of bar 8, then instead of continuing to bar 9, you play from the next coda at bar 25 and play to the end.