**Some People’s Lives** (Janis Ian & Kye Fleming)

Often times the simple song is the better one, because of the way it allows the listener to ‘feel’ what’s going on without too much other noise. Some People’s Lives is a good example. Nothing else is needed besides a guitar and voice.

This exemplifies Janis Ian and Kye Fleming as the great songwriters they are and Michael’s reputation as a balladeer first and foremost.

Michael could have played this song in various ways. But his picking pattern resembling a ticking clock, and the descending pitch in the melody suggesting a progression from youth through to old age adds that little extra to the overall mood of the song. This interplay between the music and lyric results in a ‘sum greater than its parts.’

The song is played in a 3/4 waltz (I think?) and the ‘general’ tempo at 88 bpm with the beat on each count. And though there seems to be a lot of chord charts on the lyric sheets a good number of these simply involve movement of a finger or two.

I don’t go in for labels; beginner, novice, advanced sort of thing. Mechanically the song is not that difficult to play, maybe a few awkward hand positions and stretches we may not be used to.

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

Enjoy,

Dale Dickson

*April 2019
Amended September 2020*

Some People's Lives (Janis Ian & Kye Fleming)

In instrumental, Michael Johnson

Tuning - Std
Capo - 2
Tempo - 88

1. Some people's lives run down like clocks
One day they stop that's all they've got

2. Some people's lives wear out like old tennis shoes
No one can use, it's sad but it's true

Didn't anybody tell them? Didn't anybody see?

Didn't anybody love them like you love me?

2. Some people's lives fade like their dreams
Too tired to rise too tired to sleep

And some people laugh when they need to cry,
And they ne..............ver know why

Didn't anybody tell them, didn't anybody see?

Didn't anybody love them like you love me?

Some people ask, “if the tears have to fall,

Then why take your chances? Why both.............er at all?”

And some people’s lives are as cold as their lips

They just need to be kissed.
SOME PEOPLE'S LIVES - 3

Doesn't anybody tell them? Doesn't anybody see?

Doesn't anybody love them like you love me?

'Cause that's all they need

Tablature Below
Some people's lives run down like clocks one day they stop
Some people's lives fade like their dreams too tired to rise

that's all they've got to sleep and some lives wear out like
too tired to sleep and some people laugh when they

old tennis shoes no one can use it's need to
cry they sad but it's never know true why
didn't anybody tell them didn't anybody see didn't anybody

love them like you love me?

Go to second verse above

Some people ask if the tears have to fall
Some People's Lives (EADGBe)

by Janis Ian & Kye Fleming

arr. Michael Johnson

Tempo 88

Slowly...

then why take your chances, why bother at all?

Some people's lives are as cold as their lips

need to be kissed. does not anybody tell them does not anybody

see does not anybody love them like you love me?

'cause that's all they need.