

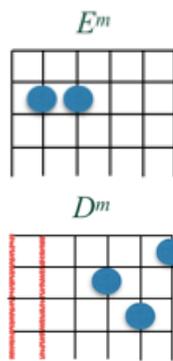
# Turn, Turn, Turn

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, music by Pete Seeger, arranged by the Byrds, Ecclesiastes lyric modifications by Rick Larson

*G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 To everything, turn, turn, turn,  
           *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 There is a season, turn, turn, turn,  
           *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 And a time to every purpose under heaven.

*G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 To everything, turn, turn, turn,  
           *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 There is a season, turn, turn, turn,  
           *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 And a time to every purpose under heaven.

*G*                    *C*  
 A time to be born, a time to die.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time to plant, a time to reap.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time to kill, a time to heal.  
           *F* *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 A time to laugh, a time to weep.



*G*                    *C*  
 A time of love, a time of hate.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time of war, a time of peace.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time you may embrace.  
           *F* *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 A time to refrain from embracing.

*G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 To everything, turn, turn, turn,  
           *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 There is a season, turn, turn, turn,  
           *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 And a time to every purpose under heaven.

*G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 To everything, turn, turn, turn,  
           *C*    *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *G* *no high F*  
 There is a season, turn, turn, turn,  
           *F*    *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 And a time to every purpose under heaven.

*G*                    *C*  
 A time to build up, a time to break down.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time to dance, a time to mourn.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time to cast away stones.  
           *F* *E*<sup>m</sup>    *D*<sup>m</sup>    *G*<sup>7</sup>    *C*  
 A time to gather stones together.

*G*                    *C*  
 A time to gain, a time to lose.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time to rend, a time to sew.  
           *G*                    *C*  
 A time to love, a time to hate.  
           *F* *E*<sup>m</sup>  
 A time for peace,  
           *D*<sup>m</sup> *G*<sup>7</sup>                    *C*  
 The highway's made straight!

# History

The original lyrics for “**Turn, Turn, Turn**” were written by King Solomon of Israel in Ecclesiastes, in the Bible’s Old Testament. He reigned from 970 to 931 BC.

Pete Seeger’s lyrics were taken from a portion of **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**. They were rearranged and paired



Detail from a color sketch by Edward Poynter for his 1890 painting “The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon”

Photograph from Wikipedia

with Seeger's music to make the song. In a 1988 interview with Paul Zollo, Seeger explained: "I don't read the Bible that often. I leaf through it occasionally and I'm amazed by the foolishness at times and the wisdom at other times. I call it the greatest book of folklore ever given. Not that there isn't a lot of wisdom in it. You can trace the history of people poetically.”

Seeger added: "I got a letter from my publisher, and he says, 'Pete, I can't sell these protest songs you write.' And I was angry. I sat down with a tape recorder and said, 'I can't write the kind of songs you want. You gotta go to somebody else. This is the only kind of song I know how to write.' I pulled out this slip of paper in my pocket and improvised a melody to it in fifteen minutes. And I sent it to him. And I got a letter from him the next week that said, ‘Wonderful! Just what I'm looking for.’ Within two months

he'd sold it to the Limelighters and then to the Byrds. I liked the Byrds' record very much, incidentally. All those clanging, steel guitars - they sound like bells." (this appears in Zollo's book *Songwriters on Songwriting*)



Pete Seeger  
Photograph from Wikipedia



The Byrds: David Crosby (guitar, vocals) 1964-1967, Chris Hillman (bass, vocals) 1964-1968, Gene Clark (vocals, tambourine, guitar) 1964-1966, Michael Clarke (drums) 1964-1967, and Roger McGuinn (guitar, vocals) 1964-1973.

Photograph from [www.purpleclover.com/](http://www.purpleclover.com/)

“**Turn, Turn, Turn**” was the second #1 hit for the Byrds. Before he recorded this song with The Byrds, Jim McGuinn (who later went by Roger) played acoustic 12-string guitar on Judy Collins' 1964 version, which appears on her album **Judy Collins #3**. He also worked up the arrangement with Collins. When The Byrds started working on this song, McGuinn and David Crosby devised a new arrangement of Seeger's original. It took the band over 50 tries to get the sound right.

from [www.songfacts.com/](http://www.songfacts.com/)