

99 Red Balloons

Nena

Key: C • Time: 4/4

INTRO

[C] [Am] [F] [G] (x2 – light, bouncy strums or picked single notes)

VERSE 1

[C] You and I in a **[Am]** little toy shop
[F] Buy a bag of balloons with the **[G]** money we've got
[C] Set them free at the **[Am]** break of dawn
[F] 'Til one by one, they **[G]** were gone
[C] Back at base, bugs in the **[Am]** software
[F] Flash the message, "something's **[G]** out there"
[C] Floating in the **[Am]** summer sky
[F] 99 red **[G]** balloons go by

CHORUS

[C] 99 red **[G]** balloons
[Am] Floating in the **[F]** summer sky
[C] Panic bells, it's **[G]** red alert
[Am] There's something here from **[F]** somewhere else
[C] The war machine springs **[G]** to life
[Am] Opens up one **[F]** eager eye
[C] Focusing it **[G]** on the sky
[Am] As ninety-nine **[F]** red balloons go by

INSTRUMENTAL

[C] [Am] [F] [G] (x2)

VERSE 2

[C] 99 **[Am]** decision street
[F] 99 **[G]** ministers meet
[C] Worry, worry, **[Am]** super-scurry
[F] Call the troops out in a **[G]** hurry
[C] This is what we've **[Am]** waited for
[F] This is it boys, this is **[G]** war
[C] The president is **[Am]** on the line
[F] As ninety-nine **[G]** red balloons go by

CHORUS

[C] 99 [G] dreams I have had
[Am] In every one a [F] red balloon
[C] It's all over and [G] I'm standing pretty
[Am] In this dust that was [F] a city
[C] If I could find a [G] souvenir
[Am] Just to prove the [F] world was here
[C] And here is a [G] red balloon
[Am] I think of you and [F] let it go

OUTRO

[C] [Am] [F] [G] (repeat softly and fade)

Ukulele Tips: Chords: **C, Am, F, G** — bright, punchy, and easy to switch at speed.

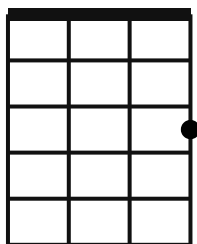
Keep tempo around 120–125 bpm for that tight, new-wave energy.

Use a percussive **down-down-up-up-down-up** strum with a light chuck on beats 2 and 4.

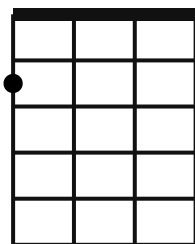
Play with a smile but lean into the irony — it's bubblegum apocalypse.

For extra flair, pick the intro chords one note at a time to mimic the synth line. Finish by letting the final **C** ring like the last balloon drifting off into silence.

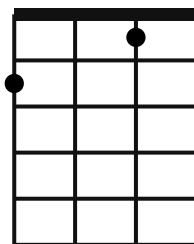
CHORD DIAGRAMS



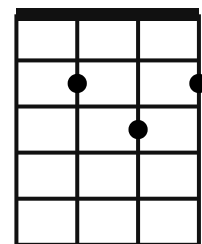
C



Am



F



G