

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas

Gayla Peevey

Key: C • Time: 4/4

INTRO

[C] [A7] [D7] [G7] (x2 – bright swing feel)

VERSE 1

[C] I want a hippopotamus for **[A7]** Christmas

[D7] Only a hippopotamus will **[G7]** do

[C] Don't want a doll, no dinky Tinker **[A7]** toy

[D7] I want a hippopotamus to **[G7]** play with and enjoy

VERSE 2

[C] I want a hippopotamus for **[A7]** Christmas

[D7] I don't think Santa Claus will mind **[G7]** you

[C] He won't have to use our dirty chimney **[A7]** flue

Just **[D7]** bring him through the front door,

That's the **[G7]** easy thing to do

CHORUS

[F] I can see me now on Christmas **[C]** morning,

[C] Creeping down the **[G7]** stairs

[F] Oh what joy and what **[C]** surprise

When I open up my **[D7]** eyes

To see a hippo **[G7]** hero standing there!

VERSE 3

[C] I want a hippopotamus for **[A7]** Christmas

[D7] Only a hippopotamus will **[G7]** do

[C] No crocodiles, no rhinoceroses **[A7]**

I **[D7]** only like hippopotamuses

And **[G7]** hippopotamuses like me **[C]** too!

INSTRUMENTAL

[C] [A7] [D7] [G7] (x2 – cheeky swing strum)

CHORUS

[F] I can see me now on Christmas **[C]** morning,

[C] Creeping down the **[G7]** stairs
[F] Oh what joy and what **[C]** surprise
When I open up my **[D7]** eyes
To see a hippo **[G7]** hero standing there!

FINAL VERSE

[C] I want a hippopotamus for **[A7]** Christmas
[D7] Only a hippopotamus will **[G7]** do
[C] No crocodiles, no rhinoceroses **[A7]**
I **[D7]** only like hippopotamuses
And **[G7]** hippopotamuses like me **[C]** too!

OUTRO

[C] [A7] [D7] [G7] [C] (final grin and ring out)

Ukulele Tips: Chords: **C, A7, D7, G7, F** – classic major swing shapes, easy and bright.

Strumming: *down-chuck-up-up-chuck* or *down-down-up-up-down-up* at ~115 bpm with a bouncy feel.

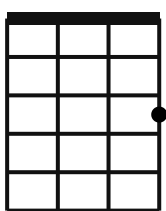
Keep your right hand loose and snappy — accent beats 2 and 4.

Throw in comic pauses between lines for full novelty effect.

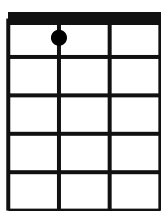
Vocals: playful and exaggerated — channel your inner 1950s radio star.

Smile while you sing — that's the real hook.

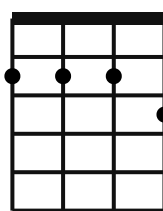
CHORD DIAGRAMS



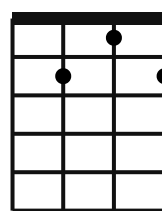
C



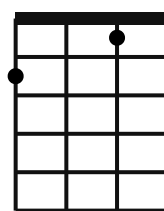
A7



D7



G7



F