

California Dreamin'

Words and Music by John Phillips (1935-2001) and Michelle Phillips (b. 1944)
Arranged for SAB chorus by Roger Emerson (b. 1950)

Background

California Dreamin' was a song by the 1960s folk-rock group *The Mamas and the Papas*. *California Dreamin'*, along with *Monday, Monday* were the group's two biggest hits. The group was known for the sound of its four-part vocal harmonies.

Recordings

Mamas and the Papas version: [Californina Dreamin'](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-aK6JnyFmk)
[\[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-aK6JnyFmk\]](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-aK6JnyFmk)

Publisher provided recording of this arrangement: [California Dreamin'](http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/search.jsp?keywords=california+dreamin%27+emerson%27)
[\[http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/search.jsp?keywords=california+dreamin%27+emerson%27\]](http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/search.jsp?keywords=california+dreamin%27+emerson%27)

Analysis

Key: E minor

Meter: 4/4 – medium rock beat

Form: Modified Pop Song – Intro Verse Verse Bridge Verse Coda

Melody: four equal four measure phrases

The arranger has made minor adjustments from the original *Mamas and the Papas* version. Among them include changing the key from C# minor to e minor, adding harmony on the second verse (which had originally been done as a solo), and creating vocal parts for the bridge, which had originally been an instrumental.

SECTION	MEASURE	EVENT AND SCORING
Intro	1-4	Piano only, based on original guitar solo
Verse 1	4-20	Melody is in alto line – each half phrase is responded to by sopranos and baritones repeating the text in harmony, ie – <i>all the leaves are brown – all the leaves are brown</i> , etc.
Verse 2	20-36	Identical in setting to ms. 4-20 – melody needs to watch rhythm
Bridge	37-44	Sung on nonsense syllables – singers basically outlining harmonic progression
Recap Verse 1 + coda	44-66	Melody in alto line as before in 4-16; at Ms. 55 sopranos pick up the melody on “California dreamin’” with altos in thirds below, men echoing text; coda begins at 58 – sopranos sing “on such a

		winter's day", A/B respond with "California Dreamin'" 2x; third time all sing together in harmony, final cadence on e minor
--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------