

The Circle Game
Joni Mitchell
(1970)

Key: C
Capo: None

[Intro]: CM7 FM7 CM7 FM7

[Verse 1]

CM7 FM7 CM7 FM7
Yesterday a child came out to wonder
CM7 FM7 Bb G
Caught a dragon-fly inside a jar
CM7 FM7 Em
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder
F C G7 CM7 FM7
And tearful at the falling of a star.

[Chorus]

CM7 Em Dm C
And the seasons, they go 'round and 'round
Em Dm C
And the painted ponies go up and down.
F C CM7 C7
We're captive on the carousel of time.
F Em
We can't return, we can only look behind
F
from where we came
Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7 CM7 FM7
And go 'round and 'round and 'round in the circle game.

[Verse 2]

CM7 FM7 CM7 FM7
Then the child moved ten times 'round the seasons
CM7 FM7 Bb G
Skated over ten clear frozen streams
CM7 FM7 Em
Words like, when you're older, must appease him
F C G7 CM7 FM7
And promises of some day make his dreams.

[Chorus]

[Verse 3]

CM7 FM7 CM7 FM7
Sixteen springs and sixteen summers gone now
CM7 FM7 Bb G
Cartwheels lost to car wheels through the town.
 CM7 FM7 Em
And you tell him: Take your time. It won't be long now
 F C G7 CM7 FM7
'til you drag your feet to slow the circles down.

[Chorus]

[Verse 4]

 CM7 FM7 CM7 FM7
So the boy who dreamed tomorrow is now twenty
 CM7 FM7 Bb G
Though his dreams have lost some grandeur coming true.
 CM7 FM7 Em
There'll be new dreams, maybe better dreams and plenty
 F C G7 CM7 FM7
Before the last revolving year is through.

[Chorus]

 CM7 Em D C
And the seasons, they go 'round and 'round
 Em D C
And the painted ponies go up and down.
F C CM7 C7
We're captive on the carousel of time.
F Em
We can't return, we can only look behind
 F
from where we came
 Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7 CM7 FM7
And go 'round and 'round and 'round in the circle game.