GENERAL

i surrender all true worshippers chords

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Discovering the Full Chord Experience of “I Surrender All” by True Worshippers

When a worship song becomes a staple in churches, homes, and live concerts, it’s no surprise that musicians worldwide seek a deeper understanding of its musical architecture. One such anthem that has resonated with countless congregations is “I Surrender All” as performed by the contemporary group **True Worshippers**. Whether you’re a seasoned guitarist, a budding worship leader, or simply a fan wanting to play along, this article offers an exhaustive guide to the **i surrender all true worshippers chords** and everything that surrounds them.

Why “I Surrender All” Remains a Worship Staple

Originally written in 1906 by Judson W. Van DeVenter and Ira H. Miller, “I Surrender All” has stood the test of time, evolving from a hymn to a modern worship staple. True Worshippers brought a fresh, contemporary arrangement that blends traditional reverence with modern instrumentation. This blend has made the song accessible to both older and younger audiences, ensuring its continued popularity on worship playlists.

Key Themes and Lyrics

The song’s lyrics emphasize complete surrender, devotion, and a heart that seeks only God’s presence. Phrases such as “All my heart, all my might, all my mind, all my sight” echo a total commitment that many worshippers find deeply moving. When paired with the rich chords, the emotional impact is amplified, making the song a powerful worship experience.

The Musical Structure of the Song

Understanding the song’s structure is essential before diving into the chords. The arrangement follows a classic verse chorus pattern, with a bridge that introduces a subtle modulation. Below is a quick breakdown:

- Intro: 8 bars of a gentle arpeggiated pattern.
- Verse 1: 8 bars, establishes the main theme.
- Chorus: 8 bars, the emotional high point.
- Verse 2: Similar to Verse 1 but with a slight melodic variation.
- Bridge: 4 bars that modulate to a relative minor.
- Final Chorus + Outro: Repeats the chorus with an extended outro.

Each section is built upon a simple yet powerful chord progression that allows for expressive dynamics while keeping the focus on the lyrical message.

Key and Chord Overview

The original True Worshippers arrangement is in the key of **D Major**. This key offers a bright, uplifting tonality that complements the theme of surrender. Below is a list of the primary chords used throughout the song:

- D – I chord, the harmonic home base.
- A – V chord, providing tension that resolves back to D.

- Bm – vi chord, adding a gentle, introspective feel.
- G – IV chord, used in the bridge for a subtle shift.
- E – V/V (secondary dominant) to intensify the pull towards A.
- F#m – ii chord, giving a sense of longing in the bridge.

These chords are arranged in a progression that repeats throughout the song, giving it a cyclical, meditative quality.

Chord Progression by Section

1. Intro & Verse: D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G
2. Chorus: D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G
3. Bridge: Em – A – D – G – Em – A – D – G

Notice how the bridge introduces Em (vi in the key of G) and A, creating a brief modulation that heightens emotional intensity before returning to the main progression.

Playing the Basic Chords

Below are the standard open chord shapes for the primary chords in the song. These shapes are ideal for beginners and provide a solid foundation for more advanced techniques.

Open Chord Fingerings

- D Major: xx0232 – Place the index finger on the second string, second fret; middle finger on the third string, third fret; ring finger on the fourth string, third fret.
- A Major: x02220 – Index finger on the second string, second fret; middle finger on the third string, second fret; ring finger on the fourth string, second fret.
- B minor: x24432 – Barre the second, third, and fourth strings at the second fret with the index finger; place the ring finger on the fourth string, fourth fret; pinky on the third string, fourth fret; middle finger on the second string, third fret.
- G Major: 320003 – Index finger on the second string, third fret; middle finger on the first string, second fret; ring finger on the third string, third fret.
- E Major: 022100 – Index finger on the fourth string, second fret; middle finger on the third string, second fret; ring finger on the second string, second fret.
- F# minor: 244222 – Barre the second, third, and fourth strings at the second fret with the index finger; place the ring finger on the fourth string, fourth fret; pinky on the third string, fourth fret; middle finger on the second string, third fret.

Barre Chords and Advanced Shapes

Once you’re comfortable with the open chords, you can explore barre chord versions to add variety and ease transitions, especially when playing in a live worship setting.

Barre Chord Variations

- D Major (Barre): xx0232 remains the same, but you can shift to a xx0232 shape for a higher position if needed.
- A Major (Barre): 577555 – Barre the first fret across all strings with the index finger, then form an A major shape.
- B minor (Barre): x24432 can be moved to x24432 or x24432 (same shape).
- G Major (Barre): 355433 – Barre the third fret across the first four strings and form a G major shape.
- E Major (Barre): 777655 – Barre the second fret across all strings and form an E major shape.
- F# minor (Barre): 244222 – Barre the second fret across all strings and form an F# minor shape.

Using barre chords can help maintain a consistent tone throughout the song and make transitions smoother during live performances.

Strumming Patterns and Rhythm

The strumming pattern for “I Surrender All” is designed to maintain a steady, contemplative pace that allows the congregation to focus on the words. A typical pattern could be:

- Down Down Up Up Down Up – This pattern keeps a steady 4/4 beat and adds subtle rhythmic variation.

For a more acoustic feel, try a gentle arpeggio in the intro, then switch to the strumming pattern for the verses and chorus. The bridge can shift to a slightly syncopated rhythm to emphasize the lyrical change.

Arpeggio Intro

In the intro, use a fingerpicking pattern that emphasizes the bass notes on the low D string, then arpeggiate the chord tones. A common pattern is:

- Play the root note (D) on the low E string, then pick the third string, second string, and high E string in that order.

This creates a gentle, flowing texture that sets the tone for the worship experience.

Full Chord Chart

Below is a consolidated chord chart you can use to play the entire song. Each section is labeled for clarity.

Section	Chord Progression
Intro	D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G
Verse 1	D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G
Chorus	D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G
Verse 2	D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G
Bridge	Em – A – D – G – Em – A – D – G
Final Chorus + Outro	D – A – Bm – G – D – A – Bm – G

How to Play the Intro

To capture the essence of the intro, follow these steps:

1. Position the Pick: Place the pick slightly off-center for a warmer tone.
2. Fingerpicking Pattern: Use the index finger for the root note on the low E string, then use the middle, ring, and pinky fingers for the higher strings.
3. Chord Transition: Smoothly move from D to A by shifting the index finger to the second string, second fret, while maintaining the rest of the fingers in place.
4. Maintain Dynamics: Keep the volume soft, allowing the congregation to hear the words clearly.

Playing the Verse and Chorus

The verse and chorus share the same chord progression, making it easy to memorize. Focus on the lyrical phrasing and let the chords support the message.

1. Verse Rhythm: Use a steady down down up up down up pattern.
2. Chorus Dynamics: Increase volume slightly on the chorus to emphasize the call to surrender.

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