

Roll Over Beethoven First draft 29/03/20

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Written and performed by Chuck Berry

This is a pretty stripped-down version, with "woo"s borrowed from The Beatles version and a little subversive nod towards the ELO version on the outro (and intro?)

https://youtu.be/kKlzUKLOm_U (in Eb, so play along: capo VI; but the outro is completely different)

Boring but safe intro: [A*]

Alternative, ELO-influenced, Beethoven's fifth style intro:

A4 A4 A4 A0 A2 A2 A2 E4 x2

Well, I'm gonna [A*] write a little letter
Gonna [D*] mail it to my local D [A*] J
It's a [D*] rockin' little record
I want my jockey to [A*] play
Roll [E7] over Beethoven
Gotta [D7] hear it again to- [A*] day

You know my [A*] temperature's risin'
And the [D*] jukebox blows a [A*] fuse
My [D*] heart beatin' rhythm
And my soul keeps a-singing the [A*] blues
Roll [E7] over Beethoven
And [D7] tell Tchaikovsky the [A*] news

I got the [A*] rockin' pneumonia
I [D*] need a shot of rhythm and [A*] blues (woo)
I caught the [D*] rollin' arthritis
Sittin' down at a rhythm re- [A*] vue
Roll [E7] over Beethoven
We're [D7] rockin' in two by [A*] two

Well, if you [A*] feel it and like it
Well, get your lover and reel and rock it
Roll it over and [D*] move on up just
A trifle further and [A*] reel and rock with ... one another,
Roll [E7] over Beethoven
[D7] Dig them rhythm and [A*] blues

Solo over verse chords?? Although I'm tempted to replace it with a chorus of:

Roll over Beet- [A*] hoven
Roll over Beet- [A*] hoven
Roll over Beet- [D*] hoven
Roll over Beet- [A*] hoven
Roll [E7] over Beethoven
And [D7] tell Tchaikovsky the [A*] news

Well [A*] early in the morning,
I'm a [D*] giving you the warning
Don't you [A*] step on my blue suede shoes
[D*] Hey diddle diddle, I'll play my fiddle
[A*] ... Ain't got nothing to lose
Roll [E7] over Beethoven
And [D7] tell Tchaikovsky the [A*] news

You know she [A*] wiggle like a glow worm
[D*] Dance like a spinning [A*] top
She's got a [D*] crazy partner
You oughta see them reel and [A*] rock
Long as [E7] she got a dime
The [D7] music will never [A*] stop

Outro (this is the nod towards ELO):

Roll over Beet- [A] hoven
Roll over Beet- [G] hoven
Roll over Beet- [F] ho-o-oven
Roll over Beet- [D7] hoven
Roll over Beet- [A] hoven
Roll over Beet- [G] hoven
Roll over Beet- [F] ho-o-oven
Roll over Beet- [D7] hoven
Dig that rhythm and [A*] blues
A6 A7 A6 (slight ral...) A A6 A7

Hints:

Mostly it's the standard blues riff, so:

[A*] is A = 2100, A6 = 2120, A7 = 2130 and A6 = 2120;
[D*] is D = 2220, D6 = 2222, D7 = 2223 and D6 = 2222