

The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face (Ewan MacColl)

Musical score for mandolin in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin staff (labeled T and B). Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The first system has chords Bm, E7, A, and A. The second system has chords F#m, C#m, C#m, and D. The third system has chords A, E7, E7, A, A, and A. The fourth system has chords G, G, A, and A. The mandolin staff shows fret numbers and includes a triplet in the first system.

The First Time Ever

The first time ever I saw your face
I thought the sun rose in your eyes—
And the moon and the stars were the gifts you gave
To the dark and the endless skies.

And the first time ever I kissed your mouth
I felt the earth move in my hand—
Like the trembling heart of a captive bird
That was there at my command, my love.

And the first time ever I lay with you
I felt your heart so close to mine—
And I knew our joy would fill the earth
And last 'til the end of time my love.

Composed in 1957 by Ewan MacColl for his third wife Peggy Seeger. They said it was written over a period of seven or eight minutes during a transatlantic telephone call. MacColl himself never sang the song again, but it has been covered by many, including Roberta Flack, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.



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