

# BIRD ON THE WIRE

Slow relaxed ballad tempo

Words and Music  
by LEONARD COHEN

F C

Like a bird on the wire, — Like a  
ba - by still - born, — Like a

F F7 Bb F

drunk in a mid-night choir, — I have tried  
beast with his horn, — I have torn

To Coda

C F Bb

in my way to be free.  
ev-ery - one who reached out for me.

F C F C

Like a worm on a hook, —  
But I swear by this song, —

F F7 Bb F

Like a knight from some old-fash-ioned book, I have saved  
And by all that I've done— wrong, I will make

C F Bb

saved all my rib-bons— just for thee.  
I will make— it all up to thee.

F F7 Bb

Oh, if I, if I  
I saw a beg-gar lean-ing

F F7

have been un-kind, Oh, I  
on his wood-en crutch; He

Bb F

hope that you Can just let it go by.  
said to me, "You must not ask— for so much."

F7 Bb

And if I, —  
And if a pret-ty — wo-man

F

if I have been un-true,  
lean - ing in her dark-ened door,

F7 Gm

Well, I hope you'll know it was nev-er to  
She cried to — me, "Hey why not ask for

C Bb F 1 C7 2 C7 D  $\frac{3}{4}$  al Coda  
(vs 1)

you, more?" Like a Like a

♩ CODA F Bb F C7 F

free.