

The Letter

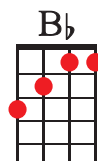


Nashville songwriter Wayne Carson Thompson wrote this after his father gave him the line "Give me a ticket for an aeroplane." Thompson gave this to The Box Tops on the recommendation of his friend, Chips Moman, who ran ARS Studios and liked the sound of an unnamed band headed by then-16-year-old Alex Chilton, who auditioned for him in 1967. Thompson played guitar on the recording. He didn't like the singing, believing the lead vocal was too husky, and wasn't fond of the production either. The addition of the jet sound "didn't make sense" to him. When the group recorded this they still did not have a name. One band member suggested, "Let's have a contest and everybody can send in 50 cents and a box top." Producer Dan Penn then dubbed them The Box Tops. At 1:58, the Box Tops' version of this was the last #1 hit to be shorter than two minutes in length. Cover versions were US hits for 2 other artists, The Arbors (#20 in 1969) and Joe Cocker (#7 in 1970).

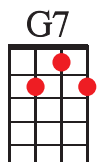
The Box Tops



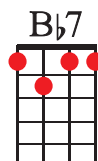
Dm **Bb**
Give me a ticket for an airplane



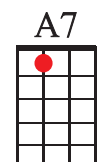
Dm **G7**
Ain't got time to take a fast train



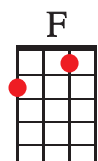
Dm **Bb7**
Lonely days are gone, I'm a-goin home



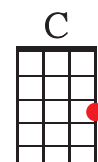
A7 **Dm**
My baby just wrote me a letter



Dm **Bb**
I don't care how much money I gotta spend



Dm **G7**
Got to get back to by baby



Dm **Bb7**
Lonely days are gone, I'm a-goin home

A7 **Dm**
My baby just wrote me a letter

F **C** **Bb** **F** **C**
Well she wrote me a letter, said she couldn't live without me no more.

F **C** **Bb** **F** **C** **A7**
Listen Mister, can't you see I got to get back to my baby once more, anyway...

Dm **Bb**
Give me a ticket for an airplane

Dm **G7**
Ain't got time to take a fast train.

Dm **Bb7**
Lonely days are gone, I'm a-goin home

A7 **Dm**
My baby just wrote me a letter

