GENERAL

our god chris tomlin piano chords

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

For worship leaders, musicians, and home practice enthusiasts alike, mastering the piano chords of a beloved worship anthem can be both a rewarding and spiritually enriching experience. One such anthem that has resonated with millions around the world is Chris Tomlin's "Our God." This timeless piece, known for its soaring chorus and heartfelt lyrics, has become a staple in churches, worship services, and personal devotionals. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through everything you need to know to play "Our God" on the piano, from the basic chord progression to advanced voicing techniques, transposition tips, and practice routines. Whether you're a seasoned pianist or a beginner looking to add a new worship classic to your repertoire, this article will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to bring this powerful worship experience to life on the keys.

About Chris /Tomlin and the Impact of "Our /God"

Chris /Tomlin, a prolific contemporary worship musician, has shaped modern praise with his melodic sensibilities and scriptural depth. With albums such as *Arriving* and *Worship*, Tomlin has earned multiple awards and a dedicated following. "Our /God," first released on the 2014 album *Worship*, quickly climbed the charts and became a favorite in churches worldwide. Its simple yet profound declaration—"Our God is an awesome God"—provides a powerful reminder of divine strength and grace. The song's accessibility, both lyrically and musically, makes it an ideal choice for worship teams looking to deepen their congregants' connection to God through music.

Song Overview: Structure and Key Elements

Key Signature and Tempo

The original recording of "Our God" is set in the key of G major with a moderate tempo of 80 BPM. This key is comfortable for most vocalists and offers a bright, uplifting tonal palette. If you find G major challenging on the piano, the song can be transposed to other keys using the chord progression provided below.

Song Structure

1. Intro (4 measures)
2. Verse /1 (8 measures)
3. Pre Chorus (4 measures)
4. Chorus (8 measures)
5. Verse /2 (8 measures)
6. Pre Chorus (4 measures)
7. Chorus (8 measures)
8. Bridge (8 measures)
9. Final Chorus (8 measures)
10. Outro (4 measures)

This structure allows for a dynamic build up, making it perfect for both small gatherings and large worship services.

Piano Chords for "Our /God"

Basic Chord Progression

Below is the standard chord progression for “Our God” in the key of G major. These chords are the foundation for the entire song and can be played in various inversions to suit your style.

- G – C – Em – D
- G – C – Em – D
- Am – D – G – C
- Em – Bm – C – D

When you first start, focus on playing these chords cleanly and evenly. Once you’re comfortable, experiment with voicings and rhythmic variations.

Chord Voicings and Fingerings

Below are suggested fingerings for each chord. These voicings provide a balanced sound and are easy to transition between.

- G major: Root position – G (1), B (3), D (5)
- C major: Root position – C (1), E (3), G (5)
- Em (E minor): Root position – E (1), G (3), B (5)
- D major: Root position – D (1), F# (3), A (5)
- Am (A minor): Root position – A (1), C (3), E (5)
- Bm (B minor): Root position – B (1), D (3), F# (5)

For a richer sound, try playing the chords in second inversion (e.g., D/F#). This adds a smooth bass line and keeps the chords sounding full.

How to Play “Our /God” on the Piano: Step by Step Guide

1. Warm Up and Finger Stretching

Before you dive into the song, warm up with simple scales or arpeggios in G major. This improves finger strength and ensures a comfortable playing experience.

2. Master the Intro

The intro uses a gentle arpeggiated pattern that sets a reflective mood. Play the G major arpeggio in a syncopated rhythm to capture the original feel. Practice slowly, then gradually increase speed.

3. Verse Rhythm

The verse rhythm is steady and supportive. Use a simple block chord pattern: play the chord with the left hand on the beat and the right hand on the off beat. This creates a steady foundation for the vocals.

4. Pre Chorus Dynamics

In the pre chorus, increase the intensity by playing the chords with a stronger attack. Add a short arpeggiated fill between the Am and D chords to build anticipation.

5. The Anthemic Chorus

The chorus is the emotional highlight. Play the chords in a sustained, full voiced manner. Consider adding a soft pedal to sustain the sound, especially on the G major chord. This will give the chorus a soaring quality.

6. Bridge Variation

The bridge introduces a slight key change. Use the Em and Bm chords to create a sense of tension before

resolving back to G major in the final chorus.

7. Outro and Fade Out

End the piece with a gentle fade out. Slow down the tempo and let the chords ring out naturally. This provides a calm conclusion that reflects the song's spiritual message.

Tips for Beginners

- Start Slow: Begin by playing each chord once per measure, then gradually build up to the full rhythm.
- Use a Metronome: Maintain a steady beat, especially during transitions.
- Practice Hands Separately: Master the left hand chords before adding the right hand accompaniment.
- Record Yourself: Listening back helps identify timing issues or chord clashes.
- Stay Relaxed: Tension in your hands or shoulders can affect tone. Keep your wrists loose.

Advanced Piano Techniques for "Our /God"

Dynamic Swells

Incorporate dynamic swells by gradually increasing volume on the chorus chords. Use the piano's sustain pedal to blend the chords, creating a lush, resonant sound.

Chord Substitutions

Replace the D major with a D7 (adding a C) for a jazzy feel. Similarly, substitute the Em with Em7 to add color. These substitutions keep the arrangement fresh while maintaining the original harmony.

Arpeggiated Bass Lines

Introduce an arpeggiated bass line in the left hand during the verse. Play the root, third, and fifth in quick succession to add rhythmic interest.

Pedal Usage

Use the sustain pedal sparingly to avoid muddiness. In the chorus, hold the pedal from the first G major chord until the final chord, then release just before the outro.

Transposing "Our /God" to Different Keys

Transposing the song is useful when working with vocalists who need a different range. The chord progression remains the same; only the key changes. For example, to transpose to C major, replace:

- G !' C
- C !' F
- Em !' Am
- D !' G
- Am !' Dm
- Bm !' Em

Use a capo on the guitar or simply adjust the piano chords accordingly.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

- Over Pedaling: Excessive use of the sustain pedal can blur chords. Release the pedal after each chord change.
- Uneven Rhythm: Keep the rhythm consistent by counting beats aloud or using a metronome.

- Ignoring Dynamics: The song's emotional impact relies on dynamic contrast. Use softer passages during verses and louder dynamics in the chorus.
- Skipping Practice: Mastery comes with repetition. Practice each section separately before playing the full song.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I practice "Our /God" if I'm a beginner?

Start by learning the chord progression in isolation. Once you're comfortable, add the rhythm and then the melody. Use a metronome to keep time.

Can I play this song on a keyboard with fewer keys?

Yes, but you'll need to transpose it to a key that fits your instrument. The chord progression remains the same; only the notes shift.

What if I want a more modern arrangement?

Introduce electronic pads, synth pads, or a drum machine. Keep the core chords but add contemporary instrumentation.

How do I keep the song engaging for the congregation?

Vary the dynamics, add vocal harmonies, and encourage congregational singing during the chorus.

Conclusion

Mastering the piano chords for "Our God" opens up a world of worshipful expression. By understanding the song's structure, practicing the chord progression, and applying dynamic techniques, you can bring this powerful anthem to life for your congregation or personal devotion. Whether you're playing in a church setting, a small gathering, or at home, the combination of heartfelt lyrics and uplifting harmonies will resonate deeply with listeners. Keep practicing, stay patient, and let the music reflect the awe inspiring nature of the One who "is an awesome God." Happy playing!

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