House of the Rising Sun by The Animals

Chords needed

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If the F gives you a hard time, use this 3-finger version (leave high-E string open).

Am C D F

Am E Am E

Verse

"There is a house in New Orleans..."

Am C D F

"They call the rising sun..."

Am C E E

"It's been the ruin of many..."

Am C D F

"And God, I know I'm one"

Am E Am E

How to play the arpeggios

Here's a simple way to approach the arpeggio sound you hear in The Animals version of the song. Quite simply, during the first 3 beats of each 6-beat measure, play the lowest 3 notes of the chords you're on with downstrums. For the final 3 notes, play the highest three strings (starting with the thinnest) using upstrums. Here's the tab for the first 4 chords — use this same style for all other chords.

\[ v = \text{downstrum} \quad ^{\wedge} = \text{upstrum} \]

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To truly capture the sound of The Animals version, you'll need to start with this approach — but use a smooth downstrum "rake" of the strings between the 2nd and 3rd beats of the measure, after you start with the low bass note. Head's up, this can be tricky! Start with what's above, take it slow, and slowly work on the "rake" technique while keeping in time. See my video lesson for reference and a demonstration.
Lyrics w/ chords

INTRO
Am  C  D  F  Am  E  Am  E

VERSE
Am  C  D  F  Am  C  E
Am  C  D  F  Am  E  Am  E
There is a house in New Orleans... they call the Rising Sun
And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy... and God I know I'm one

[ play intro x1 between each verse ]
[ use same chord progression for each verse ]

My mother was a tailor... she sewed my new bluejeans
My father was a gambling man... down in New Orleans

Now the only thing a gambler needs... is a suitcase and trunk
And the only time he's satisfied... is when he's on, a drunk

Oh mother tell your children... not to do what I have done
Spend your lives in sin and misery... in the House of the Rising Sun

Well, I got one foot on the platform... the other foot on the train
I'm going back to New Orleans... to wear that ball and chain

Well, there is a house in New Orleans... they call the Rising Sun
And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy... and God I know I'm one

Strum patterns
At its simplest, you want to accent the "1" and "4" beats within a 6 beat measure. Start with
downstrums only. From there, you can add in
additional downstrums or upstrums as desired – just keep these accents. Maintain 6 counts
per measure.

SIMPLE STRUM
D  D

MEDIUM STRUM
D  d  d  D  d  d
>  >

FULL STRUM
D  d u d u D  d u d u
>  >