

## 9. BASIC STRUMMING .....

Begin by slowly counting out loud from one to four repeatedly: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on. For the first rhythm, strum a chord, let's say **C**, as you say 1. Hold the chord so it rings while you count the rest of the beats. This step is very important as it will prepare you to strum and sing at the same time.

Once this feels comfortable, transition to another chord during beat 4 so that the next strum on 1 sounds different. Be careful to keep your count steady and start with easier chords, such as **C6**, **C** or **Am**. Later you can come back to work on the trickier chords like **F** and **G**.

For the second rhythm, strum only on beats 1 and 3, eventually transitioning to another chord during beat 4.

The third and final rhythm has you strumming on all 4 beats: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4. Try to switch quickly, as you only have the time between beat 4 and beat 1 to get to the next chord. Do these exercises slowly at first, keeping your count steady.

1.                      strum  
                              ↓  
Count: **1**    2    3    4    1    2    3    4 ...

2.                      ↓                      ↓                      ↓                      ↓                      ↓                      ↓  
Count: **1**    2    3    4    1    2    3    4 ...

3.                      ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓    ↓  
Count: **1**    2    3    4    1    2    3    4 ...

**S** = switch chords