Eric Clapton’s laid-back classic "Wonderful Tonight" is from his hit 1977 album, *Slowhand*, and was written in just a few hours as he waited for his wife to make up her mind about which dress to wear for a party. The song opens with its hook - the string-bending soulful guitar part in the first four measures - and then moves into the verse. However, since this is a beginner lesson, we’ll just stick with the strumming, and show you a simplified version of the chords, and show you how to work the strumming pattern. As you progress as a guitarist, you can learn the full version - and in fact, you might be able to figure it out by listening to Clapton’s recording and playing along.

The Intro and Verse to this song use just four chords: G, C, D and Em (E minor). Those first three major chords are some of the most commonly used in rock music, and the minor chord, Em, gives the song that wistful feeling that leads into the melody’s resolution.

Here is the strumming pattern to use for this song. In this diagram, the □ means "downstroke," and the △ means "upstroke." Strum down for the downstroke, and up for the upstroke. Thus, for this song, your strumming pattern will be down, down-up, down, down:

If you have trouble at first, start by practicing switching between each pair of chords, one at a time. That is, first practice switching between the G and the D, then the D and the C, and so on. When you’ve made progress doing that, then it’s time to try to string them all together to make a song. Remember to follow the chords names above the staff to know where to change chords!
Wonderful Tonight
Words and Music by Eric Clapton

Intro
Moderately

Verse
1. It's late in the evening;
   she's won-d'ring what clothes to wear.
   She puts on her make-up and brushes her long blonde hair.
   And then she asks me, "Do I look all right?"

   And I say, "Yes, you look wonderful to-night."

   And I say, "Yes, you look wonderful to-night."