

Time To Ring Some Changes

Song written by Richard Thompson, first released by the Albion Band in 1978 and later included on Thompson's solo album Small Town Romance from a [solo performance](#) at the Bottom Line in NYC in 1982. We are basing our version on the latter and adding the last verse lyrics from a later soundtrack album for a 1990 BBC documentary [Hard Cash](#).

Chords bolded above the lyrics, further notes on the music and arrangement below.

Sing along chorus bolded in italics.

(instrumental intro)

E **A** **E**
This old house is a tumbling down
 B **E**
The walls are gone but the roof is sound
 A **E**
The landlord's deaf, he can never be found
 B **E**
It's time to ring some changes
 B **E**

(short instrumental)

They'll arrest you son if you just stand still
They'll ask you to pose with your hand in the till
They'll ask you to die when you've written your will
It's time to ring some changes

Chorus:

A
Time to ring some changes
E
Time to ring some changes
A
Time to ring some changes
E **B** **E**
Time to ring some changes

(instrumental)

You earn your money for your daily bread
But the bread's gone up so you need more money
But the money's gone down, better borrow instead

It's time to ring some changes
(short instrumental)

Now the politicians, they look so smug
They say tell the truth, then they give you a shrug
You might find the truth swept under the rug
It's time to ring some changes

(Chorus)

(instrumental)

Oh, you fall in love with the girl you've seen
Diamond-studded on a TV screen
But the change in your pocket won't buy you a dream
It's time to ring some changes

(short instrumental)

Oh, you steal a car and you go for a ride
You end up sleepin' with some girl guide
Everything you do leaves you empty inside
It's time to ring some changes

(Chorus)

(instrumental)

(solos)

Now listen here to a self made man
He says why can't you if I can
Can't you push buttons, can't you make plans
It's time to ring some changes

***Well I'm gonna tear this mansion down
Get my feet back on the ground
Penny for penny and pound for pound
It's time to ring some changes***

(Chorus) x 2

(instrumental end)

Notes on the music:

We will be using the verse chord progression for the instrumentals and solos. Intro adds the short instrumental turnaround from between verses and a 2 bar vamp on E before the first verse starts.

Other Links:

The Albion Band version [here](#).

The song was also covered by the Celtic rock band Tears for Beers, Spotify link [here](#).