

# THE CIRCLE GAME - Joni Mitchell

C                    F                    C  
Yesterday a child came out to wonder.  
C                    F                    G  
Caught a dragonfly inside a jar  
C                    F                    Em  
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder.  
F                    G                    C  
And tearful at the falling of a star

## CHORUS:

C                    F                    C  
And the seasons they go round and round  
C                    F                    C  
And the painted ponies go up and down  
F                    C  
We're captive on the carousel of time.  
F  
We can't return we can only look  
Em                    F  
Behind from where we came.  
Em                    F                    G  
And go round and round and round  
C  
In the circle game

Then the child moved ten times round the seasons.  
Skated over ten clear frozen streams  
Words like when you're older must appease him  
And promises of someday make his dreams

CHORUS: And the seasons they go round and round  
And the painted ponies go up and down  
We're captive on the carousel of time. We can't return we can only look  
Behind from where we came. And go round and round and round  
In the circle game

Sixteen springs and sixteen summers gone now  
Cartwheels turn to car wheels thru the town  
And they tell him take your time it won't be long now  
Till you drag your feet to slow the circles down

CHORUS:

And the seasons they go round and round  
And the painted ponies go up and down  
We're captive on the carousel of time. We can't return we can only look  
Behind from where we came. And go round and round and round  
In the circle game

So the years spin by and now the boy is twenty  
Though his dreams have lost some grandeur coming true  
There'll be new dreams maybe better dreams and plenty  
Before the last revolving year is through.

CHORUS:

And the seasons they go round and round  
And the painted ponies go up and down  
We're captive on the carousel of time. We can't return we can only look  
Behind from where we came. And go round and round and round  
In the circle game  
Add: And go round and round and round In the circle game

Buffy Sainte-Marie was the first to record this song, including it on her 1967 album **Fire & Fleet & Candlelight**. Soon after, Sainte-Marie's manager, Elliot Roberts, took on Joni Mitchell as a client after seeing her perform. Roberts got Mitchell a record deal with Reprise in 1968; her solo career took off and she became one of most acclaimed singer-songwriters of her generation.