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Life In The Air Age - Be Bop Deluxe  
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Tabbed by: twilightcapers

Tuning: EADGBE

| / slide up  
| \ slide down  
| h hammer-on  
| p pull-off  
| ~ vibrato  
| + harmonic  
| x Mute note  
| (6) optional note  
| F/A chord/bass note  
| (x534x) chord shape  
| b bend  
| r release bend  
| ^ quarter tone bend  
| pb pre-bend

This is my attempt at transcribing this Be Bop favourite, from the Sunburst Finish and Live! In The Air Age recordings. It's mostly the live version with some studio parts.

Any corrections gratefully received. Apologies for any errors, I will update accordingly.

There are some drums and muted wah rhythm parts before the tab begins on both recorded versions.

Intro, first section:

Electric guitar, heavily phased or flanged, with emphasis on the bass notes...

\_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_ C D \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_ (+harmonics+) \_\_\_\_\_  
e|-----|-----|  
B|-----0-----0-----|-----|  
G|---0---0---0---0---0---|---5---7-/12-----+12+---|  
D|-5-----4-----0-----0-----|---5---7---/12-----+12+-----|  
A|-----3-----0-----0-2--|-3-----5-----/10-----|  
E|-----3-----|-----|

\_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_ Bb C \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_ (+harmonics+) \_\_\_\_\_  
e|-----|-----|  
B|-----0-----0-----|-----|  
G|---0---0---0---0---0---|---3---5-----+12+---|  
D|-5-----4-----0-----0-----|---3---5-----+12+-----|  
A|-----3-----0-----0-2--|-1---3-----|  
E|-----3-----|-----3-----|

Repeat first intro section.

The next few bars are funkier than the tab suggests - to keep it simple I have just given the basic chords and rhythm but the song 'swings' a bit more than this. If you're familiar with the track you'll know what I mean. I have tabbed the solo parts below the appropriate bars, but these parts are a little crowded with notes so I have had to stretch some of the bars - Hope this doesn't confuse!

Intro, second section:

```

      G                Cadd9                D
(Rhythm guitar...)
e|-----3-----3-----|-----0-----2-----|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----|
G|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----2-----|
D|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----0--0-----|
A|-----x-----x-----|-3-----|
E|-3-----3--3-----|-----|
(Lead guitar)
e|-----15b17-15-12h15p12--12-----|
B|-----15--15p12--12-----|
G|-----14--15-14-|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

```

      G                Cadd9                D
(Rhythm guitar...)
e|-----3-----3-----|-----0-----2-----|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----|
G|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----2-----|
D|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----0--0-----|
A|-----x-----x-----|-3-----|
E|-3-----3--3-----|-----|
(Lead guitar)
e|-----|
B|-----14^~~~~~14^r14-----|
G|-12h14p12~~~~~12-14^~~~~~14^r14-12--12~~~~|
D|-----12h14-12-----14-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

```

      Em7      D      G      A7sus4      D      G      Cadd9
(Rhythm guitar...)
e|-3-----2-----3--3-----|-2-----3--3-----|
B|-3-----3-----3--3-----|-3-----3--3-----|
G|-0-----2-----0--2-----|-2-----0--0-----|
D|-2-----0-----0--2-----|-0-----0--x-----|
A|-2-----x-----0-----|-x-----3-----|
E|-0-----3-----3-----|-3-----|
(Lead guitar)
e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----|
D|/14-----12-----|-----12h14-|
A|-----pb14r12---10~~~~~|---10h12/14-12~---12h14-|
E|-----10h12-----12h14-----|

```

Em7 D G A7sus4 D G Cadd9  
 (Rhythm guitar...)  
 e|-3-----2-----3--3-----| -2-----3--3-----|  
 B|-3-----3-----3--3-----| -3-----3--3-----|  
 G|-0-----2-----0--2-----| -2-----0--0-----|  
 D|-2-----0-----0--2-----| -0-----0--x-----|  
 A|-2-----x-----0-----| -----x--3-----|  
 E|-0-----3-----| -----3-----|  
 (Lead guitar)  
 e|-----12-----| -----|  
 B|-----12--15p12--12-----| -----|  
 G|-14b16-----14--15p14p12--14p12-----| -----|  
 D|-----14-14p12--14p12--14p12--12-----| -----|  
 A|-----14--12b14r12-----| -----|  
 E|-----| -----|

Cadd9 (x3x033)  
 (Rhythm guitar...)  
 e|-----3-----2-----0-----2-----3--| -----3-----2-----0-----2-----3--|  
 B|-----3-----3-----3-----3-----| -----3-----3-----3-----3-----|  
 G|-----0-----0-----0-----0-----| -----0-----0-----0-----0-----|  
 D|-----| -----|  
 A|-3-----| -3-----|  
 E|-----| -----|  
 (Lead guitar)  
 e|-----| -----|  
 B|-----| -----|  
 G|-----| -----|  
 D|-----| -----|  
 A|-10~~~~~\3-| -----|  
 E|-----| -----|

Verse:

Cadd9 (x3x033)  
 "...Beneath the stars there are the bars that serve the bitter drink..."  
 e|-----3-----2-----0-----2-----3--| -----3-----2-----0-----2-----3--|  
 B|-----3-----3-----3-----3-----| -----3-----3-----3-----3-----|  
 G|-----0-----0-----0-----0-----| -----0-----0-----0-----0-----|  
 D|-----| -----|  
 A|-3-----| -3-----|  
 E|-----| -----|

Cadd9 (x3x033)  
 "...The barman smiles at me, his wife she gives a secret..."  
 e|-----3-----2-----0-----2-----3--| -----3-----2-----0-----2-----3--|  
 B|-----3-----3-----3-----3-----| -----3-----3-----3-----3-----|  
 G|-----0-----0-----0-----0-----| -----0-----0-----0-----0-----|  
 D|-----| -----|  
 A|-3-----| -3-----|  
 E|-----| -----|

A D D A D D Cadd9

"..wink..."

```

e|-0-----2-----2-----0--|-----2-----2-----3--|
B|-2-----3-----3-----2--|-----3-----3-----3--|
G|-2-----2-----2-----2--|-----2-----2-----0--|
D|-2-----0-----0-----2--|-----0-----0-----x--|
A|-0-----0-----0-----0--|-----0-----0-----3--|
E|-----|-----|
(lead guitar...)
e|-----|-----|
B|-----|-----|
G|-----4b5r4-----4b5r4-----|
D|-----4-----4-----|
A|-0-----0-----3-----|
E|-----|-----|

```

Cadd9 (x3x033)

".....They listen patiently to me, my story I unfold..."

```

e|----3----2----0----2----3--|----3----2----0----2----3--|
B|----3----3----3----3----3--|----3----3----3----3----3--|
G|----0----0----0----0----0--|----0----0----0----0----0--|
D|-----|-----|
A|-3-----|-----3-----|
E|-----|-----|

```

Cadd9 (x3x033)

".....I see their faces change the lights grow dim I'm losing..."

```

e|----3----2----0----2----3--|----3----2----0----2----3--|
B|----3----3----3----3----3--|----3----3----3----3----3--|
G|----0----0----0----0----0--|----0----0----0----0----0--|
D|-----|-----|
A|-3-----|-----3-----|
E|-----|-----|

```

G G/F# Em7 Cadd9 A7sus4 D

"..hold....."

```

e|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----2--|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----3--|
G|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----0-----2--|
D|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----2-----2-----0--|
A|-----x-----x-----|-----2-----3-----0-----|
E|-3-----2-----2-----|-0-----|
(Lead guitar)
e|-----|-----|
B|-----|-----|
G|-----14b16r14p12h14~~~~~|
D|-----|-----|
A|-----|-----|
E|-----|-----|

```

G G/F# Em7 Cadd9\_A7sus4 D

(Rhythm guitar...)

```

e|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----2--|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----3--|
G|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----0-----2--|
D|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----2-----2-----0--|
A|-----x-----x-----|-----2-----3-----0-----|
E|-3-----2--2-----|-0-----|

```

(Lead guitar)

```

e|-----10h12h14-|
B|-----10-12h13-10h12-13-----|
G|-12-p11-h12--11h12p11--9-11-12-9h11h12-----|
D|-----12-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

(Lead guitar continued...)

```

e|-10h12h14/15b17--15-14h15p14p12~~~~~|
B|-----|
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

F F C C Eb Eb F F

(Rhythm guitar...)

```

e|-1-----1--0-----0--|-x-----x--x-----x--|
B|-1-----1--1-----1--|-4-----4--6-----6--|
G|-2-----2--0-----0--|-3-----3--5-----5--|
D|-3-----3--2-----2--|-5-----5--7-----7--|
A|-----3-----3--|(6)----- (6) - (8) ----- (8) -|
E|-----|

```

(Lead guitar)

```

e|-12~~~~~|
B|-----15--12h15p12~~~~~14b15-----|
G|-----14b15^r14p12h14--12h14p12-----|
D|-----14p12-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

(Lead guitar continued...)

```

e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|-12b14r12p10----10~~~~~|
E|-----12-----|

```



Em7 D G A7sus4 D G Cadd9  
 (Rhythm guitar...)  
 e|-3-----2-----3--3-----| -2-----3--3-----|  
 B|-3-----3-----3--3-----| -3-----3--3-----|  
 G|-0-----2-----0--2-----| -2-----0--0-----|  
 D|-2-----0-----0--2-----| -0-----0--x-----|  
 A|-2-----x-----0-----| -x-----3-----|  
 E|-0-----3-----| -3-----|  
 (Lead guitar)  
 e|-----17b19~~~~~|  
 B|-----12-17h20-15h17-----|  
 G|-----12h14-----16-----|  
 D|-----12-14-----|  
 A|-12^-----10-----10-12-14-----|  
 E|-----12-----|

Em7 D G A7sus4 D G Cadd9  
 (Rhythm guitar...)  
 e|-3-----2-----3--3-----| -2-----3--3-----|  
 B|-3-----3-----3--3-----| -3-----3--3-----|  
 G|-0-----2-----0--2-----| -2-----0--0-----|  
 D|-2-----0-----0--2-----| -0-----0--x-----|  
 A|-2-----x-----0-----| -x-----3-----|  
 E|-0-----3-----| -3-----|  
 (Lead guitar)  
 e|-17-15-14-15-14--12-----|  
 B|-----15--15---12h15p12-----|  
 G|-----14b16~~~14p12h14--12~~~~~|  
 D|-----|  
 A|-----|  
 E|-----|

Cadd9 (x3x033)  
 (Rhythm guitar...)  
 e|----3----2----0----2----3--| ----3----2----0----2----3--|  
 B|----3----3----3----3----| ----3----3----3----3----|  
 G|----0----0----0----0----| ----0----0----0----0----|  
 D|-----|  
 A|-3-----| -3-----|  
 E|-----|  
 (Lead guitar)  
 e|-----|  
 B|-----|  
 G|-12~~~~~\-----|  
 D|-----|  
 A|-----3-----/5-----/7-----/9-----/10-----|  
 E|-----|

Repeat Verse section until:

G G/F# Em7 Cadd9\_A7sus4 D

"..alone....."

```

e|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----2--|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----3--|
G|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----0-----2--|
D|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----2-----2-----0--|
A|-----x-----x-----|-----2-----3-----0-----|
E|-3-----2--2-----|-----0-----|
(Lead guitar)
e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----14b16r14p12h14~~~12p11-|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

G G/F# Em7 Cadd9\_A7sus4 D

```

e|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----2--|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----3-----3--|
G|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----0-----2--|
D|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----2-----2-----0--|
A|-----x-----x-----|-----2-----3-----0-----|
E|-3-----2--2-----|-----0-----|
(Lead guitar)
e|-----10h12h14---12-14-15-14-12-|
B|-----10h12h13p12p10h12h13-----15-----|
G|-12p11--10-11-12-10-11-12-----|
D|-----12-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

(Lead guitar continued...)

```

e|---12-14-15-14-12-----12-----|
B|-15-----15b17r15b17~~-15p12----12-|
G|-----14b16---|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```



F F C C Eb Eb F F

(Rhythm guitar...)

```

e|-1-----1---0-----0--|-x-----x---x-----x--|
B|-1-----1---1-----1--|-4-----4---6-----6--|
G|-2-----2---0-----0--|-3-----3---5-----5--|
D|-3-----3---2-----2--|-5-----5---7-----7--|
A|-----3-----3--|(6)----- (6) - (8)----- (8) -|
E|-----|-----|

```

(Lead guitar)

```

e|-----12-----12-----|
B|-----12--15p12-----12-----12--15p12-----12-----|
G|-14b16~~~~-14b16----14b16~~~~-14b16--14b15r14-|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

(Lead guitar continued...)

```

e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-14^12---12-----|
D|-----14-12-14-12-----10-|
A|-----14-12\10h12p10-10h12p10--10---12/14----|
E|-----12-----|

```

G G G G F/A G/B

(Rhythm guitar...)

```

e|-3----3----3-----| -3----5----7-----7--7-----|
B|-3----3----3-----| -3----6----8-----8--8-----|
G|-4----4----4-----4-5-4-----| -4----5----7-----7--7-----|
D|-5----5----5-----5-----5--| -5----7----9-----9--9-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

(Lead guitar)

```

e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-12----12----12~~~~~| -12----14----16\-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

" You can..."

G D Cadd9 D G

"..leave me in the air age if you...like..."

```

e|-3-----2-----3-----2-----|
B|-3-----3-----3-----3-----|
G|-0-----2-----0-----2-----|
D|-0-----0-----2-----0-----|
A|-x-----3-----| 2p1h2--5p4h5-----|
E|-3-----| -3p2h3-----|

```

" but I'd..."

Cadd9 G D/F# G D/F# Cadd9

"..dearly..love to go back.....to my.....own.....time..."

```

e|-3-----3-----2-----| -3-----2-----3-----|
B|-3-----3-----3-----| -3-----3-----3-----|
G|-0-----0-----2-----| -0-----2-----0-----|
D|-2-----0-----0-----| -0-----0-----2-----|
A|-3-----2-----0-----| -2-----0-----3-----|
E|-----3-----2-----| -3-----2-----|

```

Chorus:

```

      D              Cadd9              G              A7sus4
" ..Life...in the air age..isn't...all the brochures say..."
e|-----2-----3-----|-----3-----3-----|
B|-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----|
G|-----2-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
D|-0-----2-----|-----0-----2-----|
A|-----3--3-----|-2-----0--0-----|
E|-----|-----|

```

Studio version has these two lines simultaneously.

```

(Lead guitar, studio version...)
e|-3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3--3-3--(etc)-|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
(Lead guitar, studio version...)
e|-----|
B|-3~~~~~5~~~~~7~~~~~8~~~~~|
G|-5b7~~~~~7b9~~~~~9b11~~~~~10b12~~~~~|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

Repeat until: "...airships crashing every day into the..."

```

      G      G      C              G      G      C
" ..bay..."
e|-3----3----3-----| -3----3----3-----|
B|-3----3----3-----| -3----3----3-----|
G|-0----0----0-----| -0----0----0-----|
D|-0----0----2-----| -0----0----2-----|
A|-2----2----3-----| -2----2----3-----|
E|-3----3----x-----| -3----3----x-----|
(Lead guitar, studio version...)
e|-----|
B|-18b20-18b20-17b20r19r17p15~~~17--p15h17p15p13-|
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
(Lead guitar, studio version...)
e|-----|
B|-----15---12-----|-----13-----|
G|-15b17--14^--12--12~~~14b16----14p12~~~|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

```

Repeat chorus section then:

G  
 (let ring and fade away...)  
 e|-3-----|-----|  
 B|-3-----|-----|  
 G|-0-----|-----|  
 D|-0-----|-----|  
 A|-x-----|-----|  
 E|-3-----|-----|

G  
 (+harmonics+...)  
 e|-----|-----|  
 B|-----+12+-----|-----+5+-----|  
 G|-----+12+-----|-----+5+-----|  
 D|+12+-----|+5+-----|  
 A|-----|-----|  
 E|-----|-----|

Repeat to end.

Lyrics:

Beneath the stars there are the bars  
 That serve the bitter drink...  
 The barman smiles at me,  
 His wife she gives a secret wink...  
 They listen patiently to me,  
 My story I unfold...  
 I see their faces change,  
 The lights grow dim I'm losing hold...

I used to be a boy,  
 My heart was young and supple then  
 But now it's stony cold,  
 I'm old and I could use a friend...  
 My world is not like yours,  
 I come from somewhere long ago...  
 But now there's no way back,  
 I'm lost and I feel so alone...

You can leave me in the air age if you like  
 But I'd dearly love to go back to my own time....

Life in the air age, isn't all the brochures say...  
 Life in the air age, it's too dangerous to stay...  
 Life in the air age, airships crashing every day into the bay...

Life in the air age, it's all highways in the sky...  
 Life in the air age, all the oceans have run dry...  
 Life in the air age, it's grim enough to make a robot cry...

Words and music by Bill Nelson.