

# American Pie (Don McLean, ca. 1971) (G)

## American Pie by Don McLean (1971) (G)

4/4 – 138 BPM

**G D Em Am C Em D | D**  
A long, long time ago, I can still re-member, how that music used to make me smile.

**G D Em Am C**  
And I knew if I had my chance that I could make those people dance

**Em C D**  
And maybe they'd be happy for a while.

**Em Am Em Am**  
\_\_ But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd de-liver.

**C G Am C D**  
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step.

**G D Em Am7 D**  
I can't re-member if I cried, when I read about his widowed bride

**G D Em C D G C | D7**  
But something touched me deep inside the day the music died.

### Chorus

**G C G D**  
So bye, bye Miss American Pie.

**G C G D**  
Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry.

**G C G D**  
Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye,

**Em A7 Em D7 | D7**  
Singing this'll be the day that I die. This'll be the day that I die.

**G Am C Am**  
\_\_ Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in God above?

**Em D | D G D Em**  
\_\_ If the Bible tells you so. Now do you be-lieve in rock and roll?

**Am7 C Em A7 D | D**  
Can music save your mortal soul? And \_\_ can you teach me how to dance real slow?

**Em D Em D**  
Well, I know that you're in love with him 'cause I saw you dancing in the gym.

**C G Am C D7**  
You both kicked off your shoes. Man, I dig those rhythm and blues.

**G D Em Am C**  
I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck.

**G D Em C D7 G C G D7**  
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died. I started singin' **Chorus**

**G Am C Am**  
Now for ten years we've been on our own and moss grows fat on a rolling stone

**Em D | D G D Em**  
But \_\_ that's not how it used to be. When the jester sang for the king and queen

**Am C Em A7 D | D**  
In a coat he borrowed from James Dean and a voice that came from you and me.

**Em D Em D**  
Oh, and \_\_ while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown,

**C G Am C D**  
The courtroom was ad-journed, no verdict was re-turned.

**G D Em Am C**  
And while Lenin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park

**G D Em C D7 G C G D7**  
And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died. We were singin' **Chorus**

G Am C Am  
 Helter-skelter in a summer swelter, the birds flew off for the fallout shelter  
 Em D | D G D Em  
 \_ Eight miles high and falling fast. Landed foul on the grass,  
 Am C Em A7 D | D  
 The players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the side-lines in a cast.  
 Em D Em D  
 Now the half time air was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching tune.  
 C G Am C D  
 We all got up to dance, oh, but we never got the chance.  
 G D Em Am C  
 'Cause the players tried to take the field, the marching band re-fused to yield.  
 G D Em C D7 G C G D7  
 Do you re-call what was revealed the day the music died? We started singin' **Chorus**

G Am C Am  
 Oh, and there we were all in one place, a generation lost in space  
 Em D | D G D Em  
 With no time left to start a-gain. So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,  
 Am C Em A7 D | D  
 Jack Flash sat on a candlestick 'cause fire is the devil's only friend.  
 Em D Em D  
 Oh and as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clenched in fists of rage.  
 C G Am C D  
 No angel born in hell could break that Satan's spell.  
 G D Em Am C  
 And as the flames climbed high in-to the night to light the sacri-ficial rite  
 G D Em C D7 G C G D7  
 I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died. He was singin' **Chorus**

**“Freely”**

G D Em7 Am C  
 \_ I met a girl who sang the blues and I asked her for some happy news,  
 Em D | D | G D Em  
 But she just smiled and turned away. I went down to the sacred store  
 Am G C Em C D | D  
 Where I'd heard the music years before, but the man there said the music wouldn't play.  
 Em Am Em Am  
 And in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets dreamed.  
 C G Am C D  
 But not a word was spoken; the church bells all were broken.  
 G D Em G C D7  
 And the three men I ad-mire most, the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost,  
 G D Em C Dm7 D7 G C G D7  
 They caught the last train for the coast the day the mu - sic died. And they were singin' **Chorus**

**Outro**

D7 G C G D  
 They were singin' bye, bye Miss American Pie.  
 G C G D  
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry.  
 G C G D  
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye,  
 C D7 G C G  
 Singing this'll be the day that I die.

# American Pie (Don McLean, ca. 1971) (C)

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**C G Am Dm F Am G | G**  
A long, long time ago, I can still re-member, how that music used to make me smile.  
**C G Am Dm F**  
And I knew if I had my chance that I could make those people dance  
**Am F G**  
And maybe they'd be happy for a while.  
**Am Dm Am Dm**  
\_\_ But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd de-liver.  
**F C Dm F G**  
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step.  
**C G Am Dm7 G**  
I can't re-member if I cried, when I read about his widowed bride  
**C G Am F G C F | G7**  
But something touched me deep inside the day the music died.

## Chorus

**C F C G**  
So bye, bye Miss American Pie.  
**C F C G**  
Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry.  
**C F C G**  
Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye,  
**Am D7 Am G7 | G7**  
Singing this'll be the day that I die. This'll be the day that I die.

**C Dm F Dm**  
\_\_ Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in God above?  
**Am G | G C G Am**  
\_\_ If the Bible tells you so. Now do you be-lieve in rock and roll?  
**Dm7 F Am D7 G | G**  
Can music save your mortal soul? And \_\_ can you teach me how to dance real slow?  
**Am G Am G**  
Well, I know that you're in love with him 'cause I saw you dancing in the gym.  
**F C Dm F G7**  
You both kicked off your shoes. Man, I dig those rhythm and blues.  
**C G Am Dm F**  
I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck.  
**C G Am F G7 C F C G7**  
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died. I started singin' **Chorus**

**C Dm F Dm**  
Now for ten years we've been on our own and moss grows fat on a rolling stone  
**Am G | G C G Am**  
But \_\_ that's not how it used to be. When the jester sang for the king and queen  
**Dm F Am D7 G | G**  
In a coat he borrowed from James Dean and a voice that came from you and me.  
**Am G Am G**  
Oh, and \_\_ while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown,  
**F C Dm F G**  
The courtroom was ad-journed, no verdict was re-turned.  
**C G Am Dm F**  
And while Lenin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park  
**C G Am F G7 C F C G7**  
And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died. We were singin' **Chorus**

**C** **Dm** **F** **Dm**  
 Helter-skelter in a summer swelter, the birds flew off for the fallout shelter  
**Am** **G** | **G** **C** **G** **Am**  
 \_\_\_ Eight miles high and falling fast. Landed foul on the grass,  
**Dm** **F** **Am** **D7** **G** | **G**  
 The players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the side-lines in a cast.  
**Am** **G** **Am** **G**  
 Now the half time air was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching tune.  
**F** **C** **Dm** **F** **G**  
 We all got up to dance, oh, but we never got the chance.  
**C** **G** **Am** **Dm** **F**  
 'Cause the players tried to take the field, the marching band re-fused to yield.  
**C** **G** **Am** **F** **G7** **C F C** **G7**  
 Do you re-call what was revealed the day the music died? We started singin' **Chorus**

**C** **Dm** **F** **Dm**  
 Oh, and there we were all in one place, a generation lost in space  
**Am** **G** | **G** **C** **G** **Am**  
 With no time left to start a-gain. So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,  
**Dm** **F** **Am** **D7** **G** | **G**  
 Jack Flash sat on a candlestick 'cause fire is the devil's only friend.  
**Am** **G** **Am** **G**  
 Oh and as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clenched in fists of rage.  
**F** **C** **Dm** **F** **G**  
 No angel born in hell could break that Satan's spell.  
**C** **G** **Am** **Dm** **F**  
 And as the flames climbed high in-to the night to light the sacri-ficial rite  
**C** **G** **Am** **F** **G7** **C F C** **G7**  
 I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died. He was singin' **Chorus**

**“Freely”**

**C** **G** **Am7** **Dm** **F**  
 \_ I met a girl who sang the blues and I asked her for some happy news,  
**Am** **G** | **G** | **C** **G** **Am**  
 But she just smiled and turned away. I went down to the sacred store  
**Dm** **C** **F** **Am** **F** **G** | **G**  
 Where I'd heard the music years before, but the man there said the music wouldn't play.  
**Am** **Dm** **Am** **Dm**  
 And in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets dreamed.  
**F** **C** **Dm** **F** **G**  
 But not a word was spoken; the church bells all were broken.  
**C** **G** **Am** **C** **F** **G7**  
 And the three men I ad-mire most, the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost,  
**C** **G** **Am** **F** **Gm7** **G7** **C F C** **G7**  
 They caught the last train for the coast the day the mu - sic died. And they were singin' **Chorus**

**Outro**

**G7** **C** **F** **C** **G**  
 They were singin' bye, bye Miss American Pie.  
**C** **F** **C** **G**  
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry.  
**C** **F** **C** **G**  
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye,  
**F** **G7** **C F C**  
 Singing this'll be the day that I die.