

# City of New Orleans (Steve Goodman, ca. 1971) (D)

Version of [City of New Orleans](#) by Willie Nelson (D @ 152)

[The Highwaymen](#) (D @ 151) – [Arlo Guthrie](#) (C# @ 146)

## Intro

A | A | A | A |

A E A | A | F#m D A | A  
Ridin' on the City of New Orleans, Illinois Central \_ Monday mornin' rail.

E A | A F#m E A | A  
Fifteen cars and fif-teen restless riders, three conductors and twenty-five sacks of mail.

F#m C#m  
All a-long the southbound Odyssey, the train pulls out of Kankakee,

E B | B | F#m  
And rolls along past houses, farms, and fields. Passing trains that have no names,

C#m E E7 A | A  
And freight yards full of old black men, and the graveyards of the rusted auto-mobiles.

## Chorus

D E A | A | F#m D A  
Good morning A-merica how are ya? Say don't you know me \_ I'm your native son?

E A E F#m F#m7 B7  
I'm the train they call the "City of New Orleans,"

G Gmaj7 E A | A | A | A  
\_ And I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

E A | A | F#m D A | A  
Dealing cards with the old man in the club car. Penny a point ain't no one keeping score.

E A | A | F#m E A | A  
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle, feel the wheels rumblin' 'neath the floor.

F#m C#m  
And the sons of Pullman porters, and the sons of engineers

E B | B | F#m  
Ride their fathers' magic carpet made of steel. Mothers with their babes a-sleep,

C#m E E7 A | A |  
Rocking to the gentle beat, and the rhythm of the rails is all they feel. **Chorus**

## Optional Instrumental Chorus

E A | A | F#m D A | A  
Nighttime on the City of New Orleans. Changing cars in Memphis, Tennessee.

E A | A | F#m  
Halfway home and we'll be there by mornin', through the Mississippi darkness

E A | A | F#m  
Rollin' down to the sea. But all the towns and people seem

C#m E B | B  
To fade into a bad dream, and the steel rail still ain't heard the news

F#m C#m  
The con-ductor sings his songs again, the passengers will please refrain.

E E7 A | A  
This train has got the disap-pearin' railroad blues. **Chorus**

## Optional Instrumental Verse (to fade)

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