**John Henry (Traditional / Pete Seeger version) Key C**

**C**

**BARITONE**

When John Henry was a little baby

**Bb F G**

Sittin' on his dad-dy's knee

**C F7**

He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel

**C**

Said hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord

**G7 C**

Hammer's gonna be the death of me



C

**C**

Well the captain said to John Henry

**Bb F G**

Gonna bring me a steam drill 'round

**C F7**

Gonna bring me a steam drill out on the job

**C**

Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down



Bb



G

**G7 C**

Gonna whup that steel on down

**C**

John Henry said to his Captain

**Bb F G**

A man ain't nothin' but a man

**C F7**

But before I let that steam drill beat me down

**C**

F



I'll die with a hammer in my hand

**G7 C**

Oh Lord I'll die with a hammer in my hand

**C**

John Henry called to his Shaker

**Bb F G**

Man, why don’t you sing?

**C F7**

‘Cause I’m swingin’ thirty pounds from my hips on down,



G7

**C**

Just listen to that cold steel ring, Lord, Lord

**G7 C**

Just listen to that cold steel ring

**C**

Now the Captain said to John Henry,



F7

**Bb F G**

I believe that mountain’s caving in

**C F7**

John Henry said right back to the Captain,

**C**

Ain’t nothin’ but my hammer sucking wind,

**G7 C**

Ain’t nothin’ but my hammer sucking wind

**C**

C



Now the man who invented that steam drill,

**Bb F G**

Man, he thought he was migh-ty fine,

**C F7**

But John Henry drove fifteen feet

**C**

And the steam drill only made nine



Bb

**G7 C**

The steam drill only made nine

**C**

John Henry hammered in the mountains,

**Bb F G**

His hammer was stri-king fire,

**C F7**



G

But he hammered so hard he broke his heart

**C**

And he laid down his hammer and died

**G7 C**

Oh Lord he laid down his hammer and died

**C**



F

Now John Henry had a little woman

**Bb F G**

Her name was Pol - ly Ann

**C F7**

Whenever he took sick and had to go to bed,

**C**

Polly Ann drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord

**G7 C**

Polly Ann drove steel like a man,



G7

**C**

Well every Monday morning

**Bb F G**

When the bluebirds be - gin to sing

**C F7**

You can hear John Henry a mile or more

**C**

You can hear John Henry's hammer ring

**G7 C**

Lord, Lord you can hear John Henry's hammer ring



F 7

**C**

They took John Henry to the graveyard

**Bb F G**

And the buried him in the sand

**C F7**

And every locomotive comes a-roaring by

**C**

Says there lies a steel driving man

**G7 C**

Oh Lord there lies a steel driving man

**John Henry (Traditional / Pete Seeger version) Key D**

**BARITONE**

**D**

When John Henry was a little baby

**C G A**

Sittin' on his daddy's knee

**D G7**

He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel

**D**

Said hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord

**A7 D**

Hammer's gonna be the death of me



D

**D**

Well the captain said to John Henry

**C G A**

Gonna bring me a steam drill 'round

**D G7**

Gonna bring me a steam drill out on the job

**D**

Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down



C



G

**A7 D**

Gonna whup that steel on down

**D**

John Henry said to his Captain

**C G A**

A man ain't nothin' but a man

**D G7**



A

But before I let that steam drill beat me down

**D**

I'll die with a hammer in my hand

**A7 D**

Oh Lord I'll die with a hammer in my hand

**D**

John Henry called to his Shaker

**C G A**

Man, why don’t you sing?

**D G7**

‘Cause I’m swingin’ thirty pounds from my hips on down,



G7

**D**

Just listen to that cold steel ring, Lord, Lord

**A7 D**

Just listen to that cold steel ring

**D**

Now the Captain said to John Henry,



A7

**C G A**

I believe that mountain’s caving in

**D G7**

John Henry said right back to the Captain,

**D**

Ain’t nothin’ but my hammer sucking wind,

**A7 D**

Ain’t nothin’ but my hammer sucking wind

**D**

Now the man who invented that steam drill,



D

**C G A**

Man, he thought he was migh-ty fine,

**D G7**

But John Henry drove fifteen feet

**D**

And the steam drill only made nine

**A7 D**

The steam drill only made nine

C



**D**

John Henry hammered in the mountains,

**C G A**

His hammer was stri-king fire,

**D G7**

But he hammered so hard he broke his heart



G

**D**

And he laid down his hammer and died

**A7 D**

Oh Lord he laid down his hammer and died

**D**

Now John Henry had a little woman

**C G A**



A

Her name was Pol-ly Ann

**D G7**

Whenever he took sick and had to go to bed,

**D**

Polly Ann drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord

**A7 D**

Polly Ann drove steel like a man,



G7

**D**

Well every Monday morning

**C G A**

When the bluebirds be - gin to sing

**D G7**

You can hear John Henry a mile or more

**D**

You can hear John Henry's hammer ring

**A7 D**

Lord, Lord you can hear John Henry's hammer ring



**D**

They took John Henry to the graveyard

**C G A**

And the buried him in the sand

**D G7**

And every locomotive comes a-roaring by

**D**

Says there lies a steel driving man

**A7 D**

Oh Lord there lies a steel driving man

**John Henry (Traditional / Pete Seeger version) Key G**

**BARITONE**

**G**

When John Henry was a little baby

**F C D**

Sittin' on his daddy's knee

**G C7**

He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel

**G**

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Hammer's gonna be the death of me



G

**G**

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Gonna bring me a steam drill 'round

**G C7**

Gonna bring me a steam d rill out on the job

**G**

Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down

F



C

**D7 G**

Gonna whup that steel on down

**G**

John Henry said to his Captain

**F C D**

A man ain't nothin' but a man

**G C7**



C7

But before I let that steam drill beat me down

**G**

I'll die with a hammer in my hand

**D7 G**

Oh Lord I'll die with a hammer in my hand

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The steam drill only made nine

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**D7 G**

Oh Lord he laid down his hammer and died

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**D7 G**

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D7

**G**

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**F C D**

And the buried him in the sand

**G C7**

And every locomotive comes a-roaring by

**G**

Says there lies a steel driving man

**D7 G**

Oh Lord there lies a steel driving man