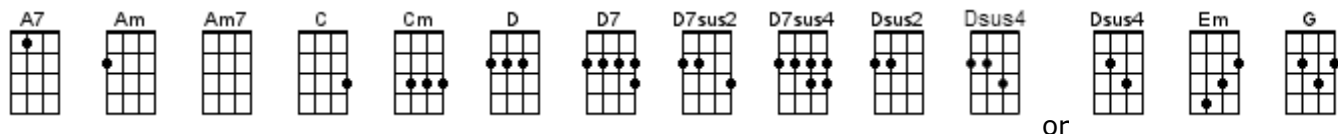


American Pie

Don McLean 1971



INTRO: / 1 2 3 4 /

A [G]↓ long [D]↓ long [Em]↓ time ago
[Am]↓ I can still re-[C]↓member
How that music [Em]↓ used to make me [D] smile [Dsus4] [D] [Dsus2] [D]
And [G]↓ I knew if [D]↓ I had [Em]↓ my chance
That [Am]↓ I could make those [C]↓ people dance
And [Em]↓ maybe they'd be [C]↓ happy for a [D] while [Dsus4] [D] [Dsus2] [D]

[Em]↓ But February [Am]↓ made me shiver
[Em]↓ With every paper [Am]↓ I'd deliver
[C]↓ Bad news [G]↓ on the [Am]↓ doorstep
I could-[C]↓n't take one more step [D]↓

I [G]↓ can't re-[D]↓member if I [Em]↓ cried
When I [C]↓ read about his [D]↓ widowed bride
But [G]↓ something [D]↓ touched me [Em]↓ deep inside
The [C]↓ day the [D]↓ music [G]↓ died 2 3 4 / 1 2 3 4

CHORUS:

So [G] bye [C] bye, Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levee but the [G] levee was [D] dry
And them [G] good ole [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey 'n [D] rye
Singin' [Em]↓ this'll be the day that I [A7]↓ die
[Em]↓ This'll be the day that I [D7] die [D7sus2] [D7] [D7sus4] [D7] [D7sus2] [D7]

Did [G] you write the [Am] book of love
And do [C] you have faith in [Am] God above
[Em] If the Bible [D] tells you so? [D]
Now do [G] you be-[D]lieve in [Em] rock and roll?
Can [Am7] music save your [C] mortal soul?
And [Em] can you teach me [A7] how to dance [D] real slow? [D]

Well, I [Em]↓ know that you're in [D]↓ love with him
'Cause I [Em]↓ saw you dancin' [D]↓ in the gym
You [C] both kicked [G] off your [Am] shoes
Man, I [C] dig those rhythm and [D7] blues

I was a [G] lonely teenage [Em] broncin' buck
With a [Am] pink carnation and a [C] pickup truck
But I [G] knew I was [Em] out of luck
The [C] day the [D7] music [G] died [C] / [G] I started [D] singing

CHORUS:

[G] Bye [C] bye, Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levee but the [G] levee was [D] dry
And them [G] good ole [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey 'n [D] rye
Singin' [Em]↓ this'll be the day that I [A7]↓ die
[Em]↓ This'll be the day that I [D7] die [D7]

Now for [G] ten years we've been [Am] on our own
And [C] moss grows fat on a [Am] rollin' stone
[Em] But that's not how it [D] used to be / [Dsus4] [D] [Dsus2] [D]
When the [G] jester sang for the [Em] king and queen
In a [Am7] coat he borrowed [C] from James Dean
And a [Em] voice that came [Am] from you and [D] me [D]

Oh, and [Em]↓ while the king was [D]↓ looking down
The [Em]↓ jester stole his [D]↓ thorny crown
The [C] courtroom [G] was ad-[A7]joined
[C] No verdict was re-[D7]turned

And while [G] Lennin read [D] a book [Em] on Marx
The [Am] quartet practiced [C] in the park
And [G] we sang [D] dirges [Em] in the dark
The [C] day the [D7] music [G] died, [C] / [G] we were [D] singing

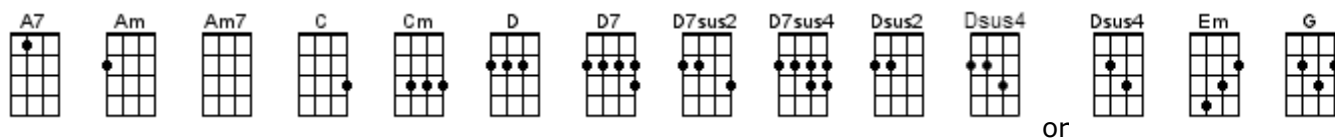
Chorus:

[G] Bye [C] bye, Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levee but the [G] levee was [D] dry
And them [G] good ole [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey 'n [D] rye
Singin' [Em]↓ this'll be the day that I [A7]↓ die
[Em]↓ This'll be the day that I [D7] die [D7]

[G] Helter skelter in a [Am] summer swelter
The [C] birds flew off with a [Am] fallout shelter
[Em] Eight miles high and [D] falling fast [D]
It lan-[G]ded [D] foul on [Em] the grass
The [Am7] players tried for a [C] forward pass
[Em] With the jester on the [A7] sidelines in a [D] cast [D]

Now the [Em]↓ half-time air was [D]↓ sweet perfume
While the [Em]↓ sergeants played a [D]↓ marching tune
[C] We all got [G] up to [A7] dance
Oh, but [C] we never got the [D7] chance

'Cause the [G] players [D] tried to [Em] take the field
The [Am] marching band re-[Cm]fused to [C] yield
[G] Do you re-[D]call what [Em] was revealed
The [C] day the [D7] music [G] died? [C] / [G] We started [D] singing



CHORUS:

[G] Bye [C] bye, Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levee but the [G] levee was [D] dry
And them [G] good ole [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey 'n [D] rye
Singin' [Em]↓ this'll be the day that I [A7]↓ die
[Em]↓ This'll be the day that I [D7] die [D7]

Oh, and [G] there we were all [Am] in one place
A [C] generation [Am] lost in space
With [Em] no time left to [D] start again [Dsus4] [D] [Dsus2] [D]
So come on, [G] Jack be [D] nimble, [Em] Jack be quick
[Am7] Jack Flash sat on a [C] candlestick
'Cause [Em] fire is the [A7] devil's only [D] friend [D]

Oh, and [Em]↓ as I watched him [D]↓ on the stage
My [Em]↓ hands were clenched in [D]↓ fists of rage
[C] No angel [G] born in [A7] Hell
Could [C] break that Satan's [D7] spell

And as the [G] flames climbed [D] high into [Em] the night
To [Am] light the sacri-[C]ficial rite
I saw [G] Satan [D] laughing [Em] with delight
The [C] day the [D7] music [G] died, [C] / [G] he was [D] singing

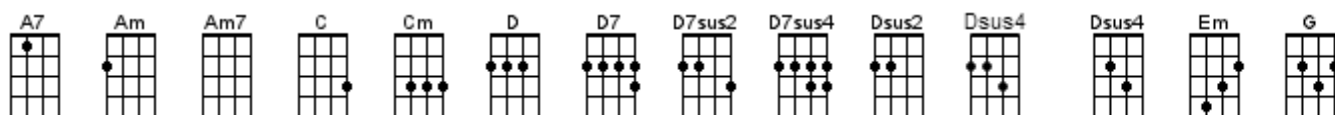
CHORUS:

[G] Bye [C] bye, Miss A-[G]merican [D]Pie
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levee but the [G] levee was [D] dry
And them [G] good ole [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey 'n [D] rye
Singin' [Em]↓ this'll be the day that I [A7]↓ die
[Em]↓ This'll be the day that I [D7]↓ die 2 3 4 / 1 2 3 4 / <SLOWER >

[G] I met a [D] girl who [Em] sang the blues
And [Am] I asked her for some [C] happy news
But [Em] she just smiled and [D] turned away
[G] I went down [D] to the [Em] sacred store
Where [Am] I'd heard the mu-[C]sic years before
But the [Em] man there said the [C] music wouldn't [D] play

And [Em]↓ in the streets, the [Am]↓ children screamed
The [Em]↓ lovers cried and the [Am]↓ poets dreamed
But [C]↓ not a [G]↓ word was [Am]↓ spoken
The [C]↓ church bells all were [D]↓ broken

And the [G] three men [D] I admire [Em] most
The [C] Father, Son and the [D] Holy Ghost
[G] They caught the [D] last train [Em] for the coast
The [C] day the [D] music [G]↓ died, and they were singing

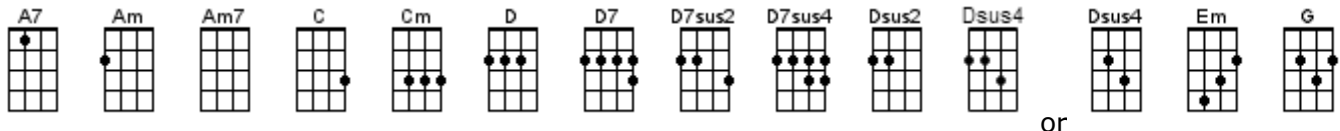


CHORUS:

[G] Bye **[C]** bye, Miss A-**[G]**merican **[D]** Pie
Drove my **[G]** Chevy to the **[C]** levee but the **[G]** levee was **[D]** dry
And them **[G]** good ole **[C]** boys were drinking **[G]** whiskey 'n **[D]** rye
Singin' **[Em]**↓ this'll be the day that I **[A7]**↓ die
[Em]↓ This'll be the day that I **[D7]** die **[D7sus2]** **[D7]** **[D7sus4]** **[D7]** **[D7sus2]** **[D7]**

They were singing

[G] Bye **[C]** bye, Miss A-**[G]**merican **[D]** Pie
Drove my **[G]** Chevy to the **[C]** levee but the **[G]** levee was **[D]** dry
Them **[G]** good ole **[C]** boys were drinking **[G]** whiskey 'n **[D]** rye
And singin' **[C]** this'll be the **[D7]** day that I **[G]**↓ die **[C]**↓ **[G]**↓



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