

## Don McLean - American Pie

G D Em  
A long long time ago  
Am C Em D  
I can still remember how that music used to make me smile  
G D Em  
And I knew if I had my chance  
Am C  
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 deliver  
C G Am  
Bad news on the doorstep  
C D  
I couldn't take one more step  
G D Em  
I can't remember if I cried when I  
Am D  
Read about his widowed bride  
G D Em  
But something touched me deep inside  
C D7 G  
The day the music died

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  
And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
Em A7  
Singing this'll be the day that I die  
Em D7  
This'll be the day that I die

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

Well, I know that you're in love with him  
 'cause I saw you dancing in the gym  
 You both kicked off your shoes  
 Man, I dig those rhythm and blues  
 I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck  
 With a pink carnation and a pickup truck  
 But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died  
 I started singing

Bye, bye Miss American Pie  
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry  
 And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
 Singing this'll be the day that I die  
 This'll be the day that I die

Now, for ten years we've been on our own  
 And moss grows fat on a rolling stone  
 But that's not how it used to be  
 When the Jester sang for the king and queen  
 In a coat he borrowed from James Dean  
 And a voice that came from you and me  
 Oh and while the king was looking down  
 The Jester stole his thorny crown  
 The courtroom was adjourned  
 No verdict was returned

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

*Repeat Chorus*

G Am  
 Helter skelter in a summer swelter  
 C Am  
 The birds (Byrds?) flew off with a fallout shelter  
 Em D  
 Eight miles high and falling fast  
 G D Em  
 As it landed foul on the grass  
 Am C  
 The players tried for a forward pass  
 Em A7 D  
 With the Jester on the sidelines in a cast  
 Em D  
 Now the half-time air was sweet perfume  
 Em D  
 While sergeants played a marching tune  
 C G A7  
 We all got up to dance  
 C D7  
 Oh, but we never got the chance  
 G D Em  
 Cause the players tried to take the field  
 Am C  
 The marching band refused to yield  
 G D Em C D7 G C  
 Do you recall what was revealed the day the music died  
 G D  
 We started singing

*Repeat Chorus*

G Am  
 Oh, and there we were all in one place  
 C Am  
 A generation lost in space  
 Em D  
 With no time left to start again

G D Em  
 So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick  
 Am C  
 Jack Flash sat on a candlestick  
 Em A7 D  
 'Cause fire is the devil's only friend  
 Em D  
 And as I watched him on the stage  
 Em D  
 My hands were clenched in fists of rage  
 C G A7  
 No angel born in hell  
 C D7  
 Could break that Satan's spell  
 G D Em  
 And as the flames climbed high into the night  
 Am C  
 To light the sacrificial rite  
 G D Em C D7 G C  
 I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died  
 G D  
 He was singing

*Repeat Chorus*

G D Em  
 I met a girl who sang the blues  
 Am C Em D  
 And I asked her for some happy news  
 Em D  
 But she just smiled and turned away  
 G D Em  
 I went down to the sacred store  
 Am C  
 Where I'd heard the music years before  
 Em C D  
 But the man there said the music wouldn't play  
 Em Am Em Am  
 And in the streets the children screamed  
 Em Am  
 The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed  
 C G Am  
 But not a word was spoken  
 C D  
 The church bells all were broken  
 G D Em  
 And the three men I admire most  
 Am D  
 The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

G D Em  
 They caught the last train for the coast  
 C D7 G  
 The day the music died  
 D  
 And they were singing

G C G D  
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie  
 G C G D  
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry  
 G C G D  
 And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
 Em A7  
 Singing this'll be the day that I die  
 Em D7  
 This'll be the day that I die  
 D7  
 They were singing

G C G D  
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie  
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 And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
 C D7 G C G  
 Singing this'll be the day that I die

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