

AMERICAN PIE

Words and Music by
DON MCLEAN

Freely

G D/F# Em7 Am C

A long, long time a - go I can still re - mem - ber how that

mp

Em D

mu - sic used to make me smile. And

G D/F# Em7 Am C

I knew if I had my chance that I could make those peo - ple dance and

Em C D

may - be they'd be hap - py for a while.

Em Am Em Am

But Feb - ru - ar - y made me shiv - er with ev - 'ry pa - per I'd de - liv - er.

C G/B Am C D

Bad news on the door - step I could - n't take one more step I

G D/F# Em Am7 D

can't re - mem - ber if I cried when I read a - bout his wid - owed bride,

G D/F# Em C D7 G C

Some-thing touched me deep in - side the day the mu - sic died.

Moderately

G C G D

So bye - bye, Miss A - mer - i - can Pie Drove my

G C G D

Chev - y to the lev - ee but the lev - ee was dry. Them

G C G D To Coda

good ole boys were drink - in' whis - key and rye Sing - in'

Em A7

this - 'll be the day that I die,

Em D7

This - 'll be the day — that I — die.

G Am

1. Did you — write the book of love — and do you —
2.-4. See additional lyrics

C Am Em

— have faith in God a - bove? — If the Bi - ble tells —

D G D/F#

— you so — Now do you — be - lieve — in

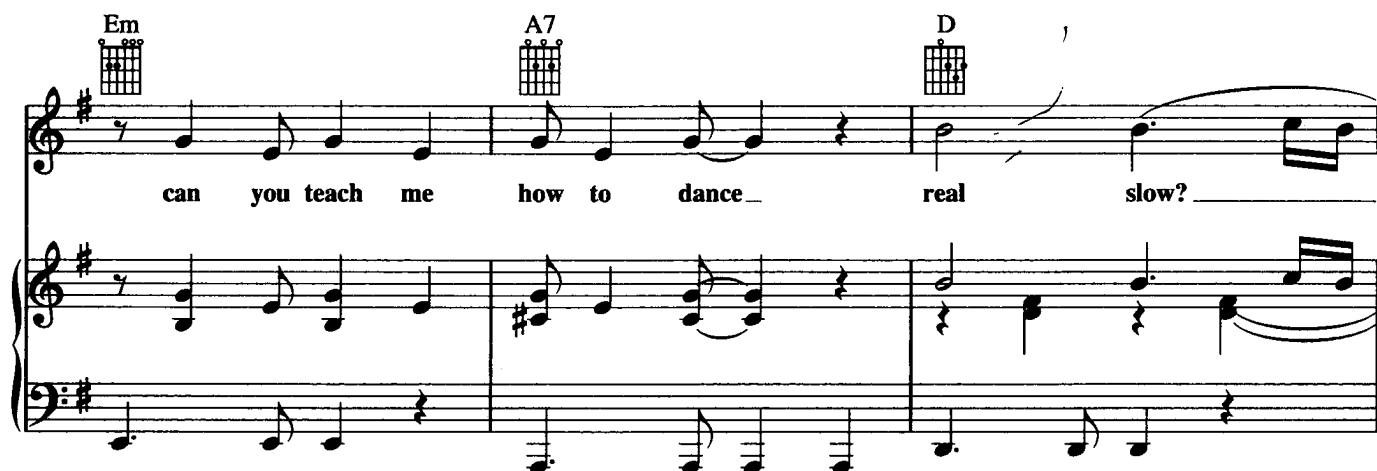
Em Am7 C

rock and roll. — Can mu - sic save your mor - tal soul — and



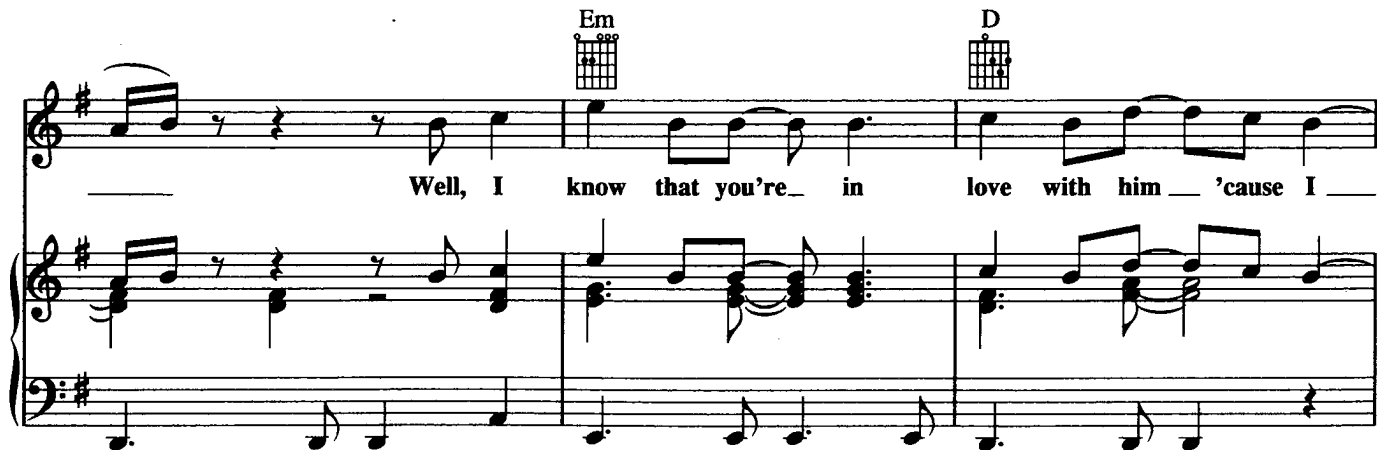
Em A7 D

can you teach me how to dance — real slow? —



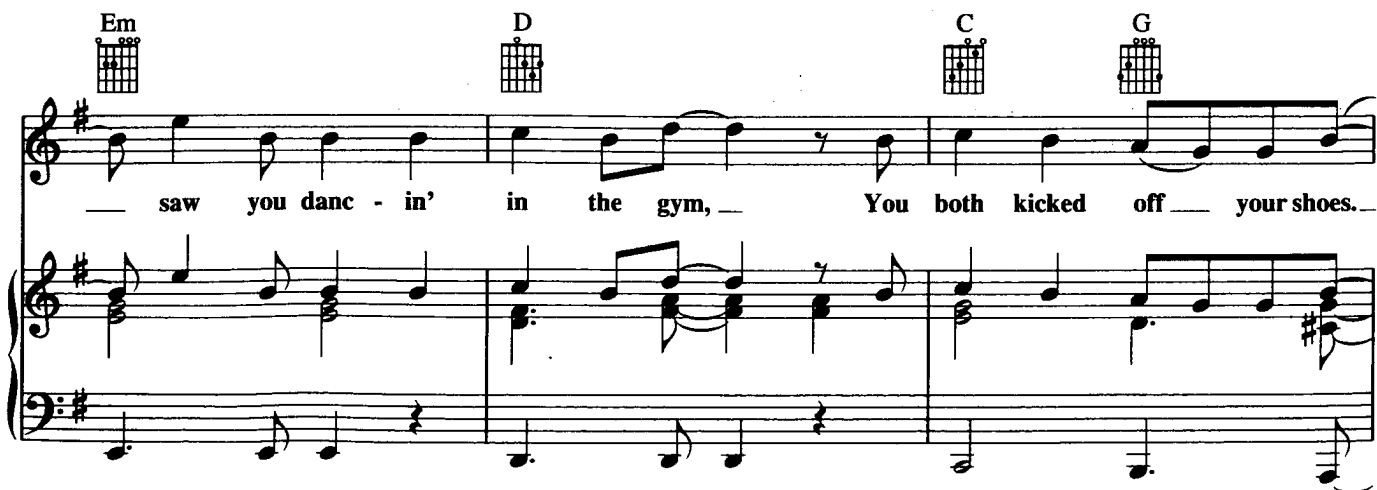
Em D

Well, I know that you're — in love with him — 'cause I —



Em D C G

— saw you danc - in' in the gym, — You both kicked off — your shoes. —



A7 C D7

Man, I dig those rhy - thm and blues. I was a

G D/F# Em Am

lone - ly teen - age bronc - in' buck with a pink car - na - tion and a

C G D/F# Em

pick - up truck. But I knew I was out of luck the day -

C D7 G C

the mu - sic died.

1,2,3 G D7 4 G D7 G C

I start - ed sing - ing He was sing - in' bye - bye, Miss A -

G D G C G D

mer - i - can Pie__ Drove my Chev - y to the lev - ee but the lev - ee was dry.__ Them

G C G D

good ole boys__ were drink - in' whis - key and rye__ Sing - in'

Em A7 Em

this -'ll be the day__ that I__ die, This -'ll be the day__ that I__

D7




die.


rit.

Freely


G




D/F#




Em



Am




C




I met a girl who sang the blues and I asked her for some happy news, But

Em




D




she just smiled and turned away.


G




D/F#



Em




G




Am



G/B



C



I went down to the sacred store where I heard the music years before But the

Em C D

man there said the mu - sic would - n't play. _____ And

Em Am Em Am

in the streets the chil - dren screamed, the lov - ers cried and the po - ets dreamed. But

C G/B Am C D G D/F# Em G/B

not a word was spo - ken the church bells all were bro - ken. And the three men I ad - mire most, the

C D7 G D/F# Em

Fa - ther, Son and the Ho - ly Ghost, They caught the last train for the coast the

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The score is divided into two main sections. The first section contains the lyrics 'day the music died. And they were sing - in'.' The second section is a CODA with the lyrics 'This - 'll be the day - that I - die. -'. Above the vocal line, guitar chord diagrams are provided for C, Am7, D7, G, and D7. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a treble line with various chords and melodic lines.

C Am7 D7 G D7 D.S. al Coda

day the mu - sic died. And they were sing - in'.

CODA

This - 'll be the day - that I - die. -

Additional Lyrics

2. Now for ten years we've been on our own,
And moss grows fat on a rollin' 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
And while Lenin read a book on Marx
The quartet practiced in the park
And we sang dirges in the dark
The day the music died
We were singin'... bye-bye... etc.
3. Helter-skelter in the summer swelter
The birds flew off with a fallout shelter
Eight miles high and fallin' fast,
it landed foul on the grass
The players tried for a forward pass,
With the jester on the sidelines in a cast
Now the half-time air was sweet perfume
While the sergeants played a marching tune
We all got up to dance
But we never got the chance
'Cause the players tried to take the field,
The marching band refused to yield
Do you recall what was revealed
The day the music died
We started singin'... bye-bye... etc.
4. And there we were all in one place,
A generation lost in space
With no time left to start again
So come on, Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Jack Flash sat on a candlestick
'Cause fire is the devil's only friend
And as I watched him on the stage
My hands were clenched in fists of rage
No angel born in hell
Could break that Satan's spell
And as the flames climbed high into the night
To light the sacrificial rite
I saw Satan laughing with delight
The day the music died
He was singin'... bye-bye... etc.