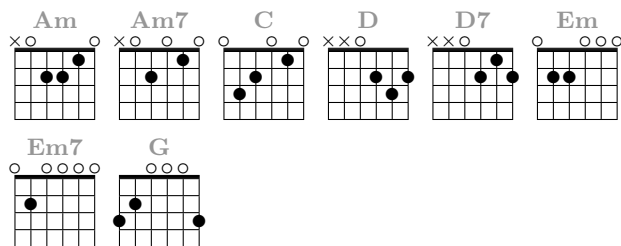


# Don Mclean - American Pie



A long, long time ago,  
 I can still remember how that  
 music used to make me smile  
 And I know if I had my chance,  
 That I could make those people dance and  
 maybe they'd be happy for awhile  
 But February made me shiver,  
 with every paper I'd deliver  
 Bad news on the doorstep,  
 I couldn't take one more step  
 I can't remember if I cried when I  
 read about his widowed bride  
 Something touched me deep inside  
 The day the music died

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So bye, bye Miss American Pie  
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
 And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
 Singin' this will be the day that I die,  
 this will be the day that I die

Did you write the book of love  
 And do you have faith in god above,  
 if the bible tells you so?  
 Do you believe in rock and roll  
 Can music save your mortal soul and  
 can you teach me how to dance real slow?  
 Well I know that you're in love with him cause I  
 saw you dancin' 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 singin'

[Chorus]

Now for ten years we've been on our own,  
 and moss grows fat on a rolling stone but [Em]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 in a  
 voice that came from you and me  
 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'

[Chorus]

<sup>G</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 Helter skelter in a summer swelter  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 the birds flew off with a fallout shelter,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 eight miles high and fallin' fast  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 It landed foul on the grass  
<sup>Am7</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
 the players tried for a forward pass,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>A7</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 with the jester on the sidelines in a cast  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 Now at halftime there was sweet perfume,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 while sergeants played a marching tune  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>A7</sup>  
 We all got up to dance,  
<sup>D7</sup>  
 but we never got the chance  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 'Cuz the players tried to take the field,  
<sup>Am</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
 the marching band refused to yield  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 Do you recall what was the feel  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>D7</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>C</sup> <sup>G</sup>  
 the day the music died, we started singin'

[Chorus]

<sup>G</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 And there we were all in one place,  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 a generation lost in space,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 with no time left to start again  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 So come on Jack be nimble,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>Am7</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
 Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candle  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>A7</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 stick, cause fire is the devil's only friend  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 And as I watched him on the stage,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 my hands were clenched in fists of rage  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>A7</sup>  
 No angel born in Hell  
<sup>D7</sup>  
 could break that Satan's spell  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 And as the flames climbed high into the night  
<sup>Am</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
 to light the sacrificial rite  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 I saw Satan laughing with delight  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>D7</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>C</sup> <sup>G</sup>  
 the day the music died, he was singin'

[Chorus]

<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 I met a girl who sang the blues  
<sup>Am</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
 And I asked her for some happy news,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 but she just smiled and turned away  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 I went down to the sacred store  
<sup>Am</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
 Where I'd heard the music years before,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>C</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 but the man there said the music wouldn't play  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 But in the streets the children screamed,  
<sup>Em</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 the lovers cried and the poets dreamed  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>Am</sup>  
 But not a word was spoken,  
<sup>C</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
 the church bells all were broken  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 And the three men I admire most,  
<sup>Am7</sup> <sup>C</sup> <sup>D7</sup>  
 the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>Em</sup>  
 They caught the last train for the coast  
<sup>Am7</sup> <sup>D7</sup> <sup>G</sup>  
 the day the music died,  
<sup>D7</sup>  
 And they were singin'

[Chorus]

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