

Sixteen Tons

Fred Hellerman (with The Weavers) Key

Merle Travis

Medium [Tennessee Ernie Ford 1955] ($\text{♩} = 140$)

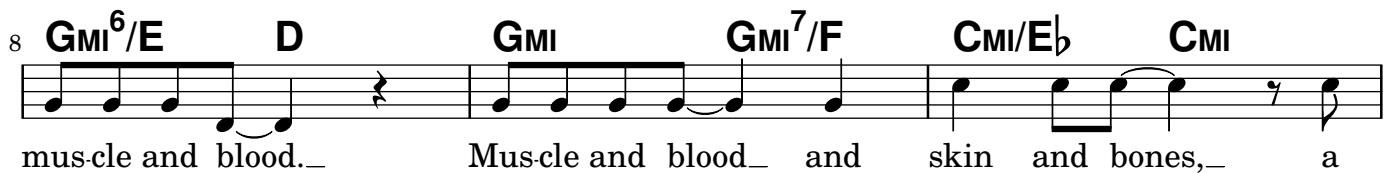
Intro

N.C.



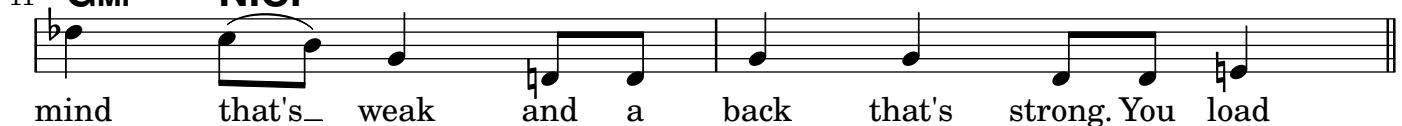
Verse

N.C.



11 **GMI**

N.C.



Chorus

GMI

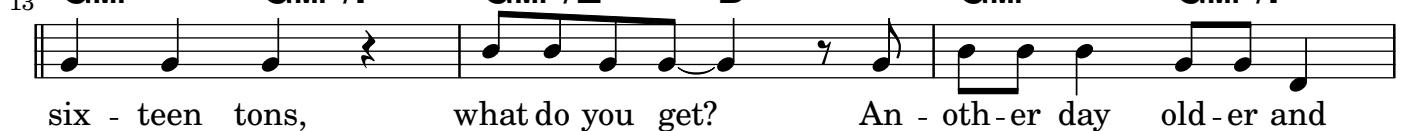
GMI7/F

GMI6/E

D

GMI

GMI7/F



To Coda Last Time

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GMI6/E

D

GMI

GMI7/F

CMI/Eb

CMI

GMI

N.C.



20

N.C.

N.C.

N.C.



Sixteen Tons

∅ Coda

The musical score for the Coda section begins at measure 25. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of common time. The vocal line starts with a G major chord (G, B, D) followed by a rhythmic pattern labeled 'rit.'. This is followed by a C major chord (C, E, G) and a section labeled 'N.C.' (No Chorus) with the instruction 'freely'. The melody continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a three-measure repeat sign. The lyrics 'Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go...' are written below the staff. Measures 30 and 31 show a return to the 'N.C.' section with the instruction 'a tempo'. The melody continues with a D7 chord (D, G, B, F#) and a G major chord (G, B, D). The lyrics 'to the company store.' are written below the staff.

Verse 1 Some people say a man is made out of mud
A poor man's made out of muscle and blood
Muscle and blood and skin and bones
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

Chorus You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter, don't you call me, 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store

Verse 2 I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine
I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine
I loaded sixteen tons of number 9 coal
And the straw boss said, Well a-bless my soul!

Chorus

Verse 3 I was born one mornin', it was drizzlin' rain
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name
I was raised in the canebrake by an old mama lion
Can't no high-toned woman make me walk the line

Chorus

Verse 4 If you see me comin' better step aside
A lot of men didn't, a lot of men died
One fist of iron, the other of steel
If the right one don't getcha, then the left one will

Chorus You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter, don't you call me, 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store