

# Sixteen Tons

## Bass for Standard Key

Merle Travis

Medium [Tennessee Ernie Ford 1955] (♩ = 140)

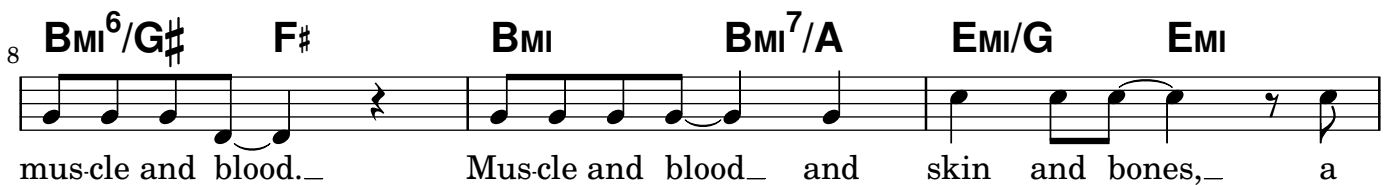
**Intro**

**N.C.**



**Verse**

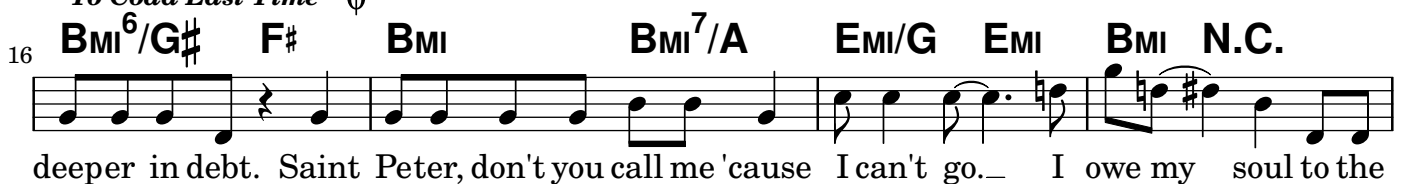
**N.C.**



**Chorus**



*To Coda Last Time* ⌘



Sixteen Tons

⌘ Coda

25 **Bm** *rit.* **Em** **N.C.** *freely*

Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go. I owe my soul to the compa-ny store.

30 *a tempo* **N.C.** **F#7** **Bm**

**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