

# Sixteen Tons

## Standard Key for Viola

Merle Travis

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

**Intro**

N.C.

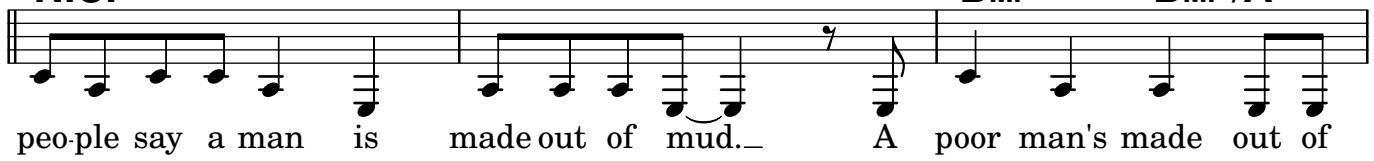


**Verse**

5 N.C.

B<sub>MI</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub><sup>7</sup>/A



8 B<sub>MI</sub><sup>6</sup>/G<sub>#</sub>

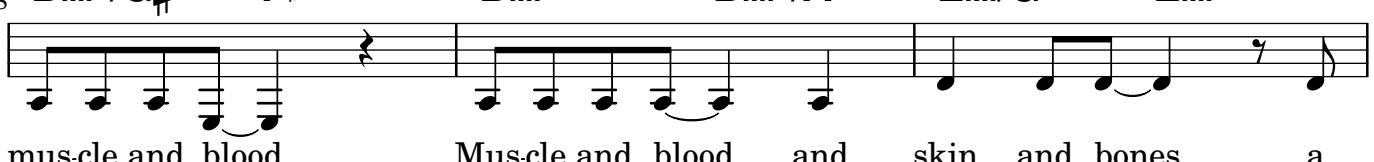
F<sub>#</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub>

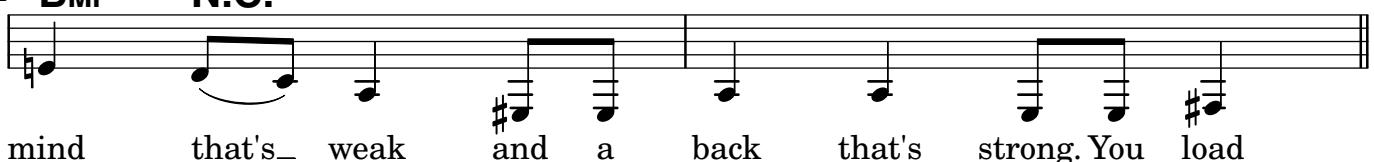
B<sub>MI</sub><sup>7</sup>/A

E<sub>MI</sub>/G

E<sub>MI</sub>



11 B<sub>MI</sub> N.C.



**Chorus**

13 B<sub>MI</sub>

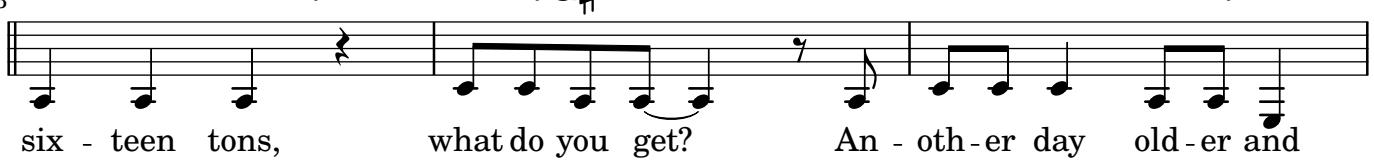
B<sub>MI</sub><sup>7</sup>/A

B<sub>MI</sub><sup>6</sup>/G<sub>#</sub>

F<sub>#</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub><sup>7</sup>/A



To Coda Last Time  $\oplus$

16 B<sub>MI</sub><sup>6</sup>/G<sub>#</sub>

F<sub>#</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub><sup>7</sup>/A

E<sub>MI</sub>/G

E<sub>MI</sub>

B<sub>MI</sub> 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 B major (two sharps), and a time signature of common time. The lyrics "Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go..." are followed by a measure of rests and then "I owe my soul". The music then transitions to a tempo of N.C. (No Command) at measure 30, indicated by a bracket above the staff. The lyrics "to the company store." are shown below the staff. The chords B major, E major, N.C., F#7, and B major are labeled above 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