



AMERICAN PIE

Don Mclean

A [G] long, long [D] time ago
 I [Am] can still re[C]member
 how that [Em] music used to make me [D] smile
 [G] And I knew if I [D] had my chance
 that [Am] I could make those [C] people dance
 and [Em] maybe they'd be [C] happy for a [D] while.

But [Em] February [Am] made me shiver
 with [Em] every paper [Am] I'd deliver.
 [C] Bad news on the [G] doorstep.
 I [Am] couldn't take just [C] one more [D] step.
 [G] I can't remember [D] if I cried
 when I [Em] read about his [Am] widowed bride.
 [G] Something [D] touched me [Em] deep inside
 the [C] day, the [D7] music died. [G] [C] [G]

Chorus - slow to start :

So [G] bye [C] bye, Miss [G] American [D] Pie.
 Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levee but the [G] levee was [D] dry,
 and them [G] good ole [C] boys were drinkin' [G] whiskey and [D] rye,
 singing [Em] this'll be the day that I [A7] die,
 [Em] this'll be the day that I [D7] die...

[G] Did you write the [Am] book of love
 and do [C] you have faith in [Am] God above?
 If the [Em] Bible [D] tells you so.....
 Now do [G] you believe in [D] rock and roll?
 Can [Am] music save your [C] mortal soul?
 And [Em] can you teach me how to dance real [D7] slow?

Well I [Em] know that you're in [Am] love with him
 'cause I [Em] saw you dancing in [Am] the gym,
 You [C] both kicked off your [G] shoes,
 man I [A7] dig those rhythm and [D7] blues!
 I was a [G] lonely [D] teenage [Em] broncin' buck,
 with a [Am] pink carnation and a [C] pick-up truck.
 But [G] I knew [D] I was [Em] out of luck
 the [C] day, the [D7] music died. [G] [C] [G]

I started [D7] singing

Chorus

Now for [G] ten years, we've been [Am] on our own
 and [C] moss grows fat on a [Am] rolling stone,
 But [Em] that's not how it [D] used to be....
 Cause when the [G] jester sang for the [D] King & Queen
 in a [Am] coat he borrowed from [C] James Dean
 and a [Em] voice that came from you and [D7] me.

Oh and [Em]while the king was [Am] looking down
 the [Em] jester stole his [Am] thorny crown.
 The [C] court room was [G] adjourned,
 no [A7] verdict was returned. [D7]
 And while [G] Lennon [D] read a [Em] book on [Am] Marx
 the [Am] quartet practiced in the [C] park
 and [G] we sang [D] dirges in [Em] the dark
 the [C] day, the music [D7] died [G] [C] [G]

I started [D7] singing

Chorus

And [G] there we were all [Am] in one place,
 A [C] generation [Am] lost in space.
 With [Em] no time left, to start [D] again.
 So come on, [G] Jack be nimble, [D] Jack be quick,
 [Am] Jack flash sat on a [C] candlestick....
 'Cause [Em] fire is the [A7] devil's only [D7] friend.

And [Em] as I watched him [Am] on the stage
 my [Em] hands were clenched in [Am] fists of rage.
 No [C] angel born in [G] hell,
 could [A7] break that satan's [D7] spell
 And as the [G] flames climbed [D] high in [Em]to the [Am] night
 to [Am] light the sacrificial [C] rite
 I saw [G] Satan [D] laughing with [Em] delight,
 the [C] day, the [D7] music died [G] [C] [G]

we were [D7] singing

Chorus

[G] I met a [D] girl who [Em] sang the blues so
 I [Am] asked her for some [C] happy news
 [Em] but she just smiled, and turned away [D].
 I [G] went down to the [D] sacred store....
 [Em] Where I heard the music [Am] years [C] before
 But the [Em] man there said the music wouldn't [D7] play.

And [Em] in the streets the [Am] children screamed,
 the [Em] lovers cried and the [Am] poets dreamed.
 But [C] not a word was [G] spoken.
 The [A7] church bells all were [D7] broken.
 And the [G] three men [D] I ad[Em]mire [Am] most:
 the [Am] father, Son and the [C] Holy Ghost
 [G] They caught the [D] last train [Em] for the coast
 the [C] day, the [D7] music died [G] [C] [G]

And they were [D7] singing

Chorus, pause, end on single [G]