

Key: G  
tempo: 140

Update: 2012, Nov 2

**AMERICAN PIE** **Don McLean**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAsV5-Hv-7U>

INTRO (AND OUTRO):

**G - D/F# - Em / Am - C / Em - D**

A long long time ago / I can still remember / How that music used to make me smile

**G - D/F# - Em / Am - C / Em - C - D**

And I knew if I had my chance / That I could make those people dance / And maybe they'd be happy for a while

**Em - A / E - Am / C - G/B - Am**

But February made me shiver / With every paper I'd deliver / Bad news on the doorstep

**C - D**

I couldn't take one more step

**G - D/F# - Em / Am - C**

I can't remember if I cried / When I read about his widowed bride

**G - D/F# - Em / Cmaj7 - D6 - G**

But something touched me deep inside / The day the music died

CHORUS:

**G - C - G - D**

So bye bye Miss American Pie

Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry

And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye

**Em A / Em Dm**

Singing this'll be the day that I die / This'll be the day that I die

VERSE 1:

**G - Am / C - Am / Em - D**

Did you write the book of love / And do you have faith in God above / If the Bible tells you so?

**G - D/F# - Em / Am - C / Em - Am - D**

Now do you believe in rock and roll? / Can music save your mortal soul? / And can you teach me how to dance real slow?

**Em - D / Em - D**

Well, I know that you're in love with him / 'cause I saw you dancing in the gym

**C - G/B - Am / C - D7**

You both kicked off your shoes / Man, I dig those rhythm and blues

**G - D/F# - Em / Am - C**

I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck / With a pink carnation and a pickup truck

**G - D/F# - Em / Cmaj7 - D6 - G / (tag: G-C-G - D7)**

But I knew I was out of luck / The day the music died / (I started singing)

CHORUS AFTER EACH VERSE

VERSE 2:

Now, for ten years we've been on our own / And moss grows fat on a rolling stone

But 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

And a voice that came from you and me

Oh 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 singing

VERSE 3:

Helter skelter in a summer swelter / The birds flew off with a fallout shelter  
Eight miles high and falling fast  
Oh, it landed foul on the grass / The players tried for a forward pass  
With the Jester on the sidelines in a cast  
Now the half-time air was sweet perfume / While sergeants played a marching tune  
We all got up to dance / Oh, but we never got the chance  
'Cause the players tried to take the field / The marching band refused to yield  
Do you recall what was revealed / The day the music died?  
We started singing

VERSE 4:

Oh, and there we were all in one place / A generation lost in space  
With no time left to start again  
So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick / Jack Flash sat on a candlestick  
'Cause fire is the devil's only friend  
And as I watched him on the stage / My hands were clenched in fists of rage  
No angel born in hell / Could break that Satan's spell  
And as the flames climbed high into the night / To light the sacrificial rite  
I saw Satan laughing with delight / The day the music died  
He was singing

OUTRO VERSE:

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

LAST CHORUS

**SLOW WITH DRUMS; grinding rock feel for first half, until "This'll be the day that I die"  
-- when Chorus repeats, back to fast tempo of song, and *ritard* the END LINE:**

END LINE:

**C            D            G - C - G**  
...singing This'll be the day that I die