

## Don Mclean - American Pie

G D Em7  
A long, long time ago,

Am C Em D  
I can still remember how that music used to make me smile

G D Em7  
And I know if I had my chance,

Am C Em C D  
That I could make those people dance and maybe they'd be happy for a while

Em Am Em Am  
But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd deliver

C G Am C D  
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step

G D Em Am7 D  
I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride

G D Em  
Something touched me deep inside

C D7 G C G  
The day the music died

### CHORUS

G C G D  
So bye, bye Miss American Pie

G C G D  
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry

G C G D  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye

Em A7 Em D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

## VERSE

G Am  
Did you write the book of love

C Am Em D  
And do you have faith in god above, if the bible tells you so?

G D Em  
Do you believe in rock and roll

Am7 C Em A7 D  
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 'cuz I saw you dancin'  
in the gym

C G A7 C D7  
You both kicked off your shoes, man I dig those rhythm and blues

G D Em Am C  
I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup  
truck

G D Em C D7 G C G  
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singin'

## CHORUS

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Em A7 Em D7  
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## VERSE

G Am  
Now for ten years we've been on our own,  
C Am Em D  
and moss grows fat on a rolling stone but that's not how it used to be  
G D Em  
When the jester sang for the king and queen  
Am7 C Em A7 D  
in a coat he borrowed from James Dean in a voice that came from you and me  
Em D Em D  
And while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown  
C G A7 C D7  
The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned  
G D Em Am C  
And while Lenin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park  
G D Em C D7 G C G  
And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin'

## CHORUS

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And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye

Em A7 Em D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

## VERSE

G Am  
Helter skelter in a summer swelter  
C Am Em D  
the birds flew off with a fallout shelter, eight miles high and fallin';  
fast  
G D Em  
It landed foul on the grass  
Am7 C Em A7 D  
the players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the sidelines in  
A cast  
Em D Em D  
Now at halftime there was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching  
Tune  
C G A7 C D7  
We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance  
G D Em Am C  
'Cuz the players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to  
yield  
G D Em C D7 G C G  
Do you recall what was the feel the day the music died, we started singin';

## CHORUS

G C G D  
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G C G D  
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
G C G D  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
Em A7 Em D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

## VERSE

G Am  
And there we were all in one place,  
C Am Em D  
a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again  
G D Em Am7 C  
So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candle  
Em A7 D  
stick, 'cuz fire is the devil's only friend  
Em D Em D  
And as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clenched in fists of rage  
C G A7 C D7  
No angel born in Hell could break that Satan's spell  
G D Em Am C  
And as the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial rite  
G D Em C D7 G C G  
I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singin';

## CHORUS

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Em A7 Em D7  
Singin'; this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

## LAST VERSE

G D Em  
I met a girl who sang the blues

Am C Em D  
And I asked her for some happy news, but she just smiled and turned away

G D Em  
I went down to the sacred store

Am C Em C  
Where I'd heard the music years before, but the man there said the music  
D  
wouldn't play

Em Am Em Am  
But in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets  
dreamed

C G Am C D  
But not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken

G D Em Am7 C D7  
And the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost

G D Em Am7 D7 G  
They caught the last train for the coast the day the music died,

D7  
And they were singin';

#### FINAL CHORUS

G C G D  
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G C G D  
And them good old boys were drinkin'; whiskey and rye

C D7 G C G  
Singin'; this will be the day that I die.