

American Pie by Don McLean (1971)

[Verse 1] Single Strum

A **G** long, **D/F#** Long **Em7** time ago

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

And **G** I knew **D/F#** if I had **Em7** 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, **Em** with every paper I'd **Am** deliver

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

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

G Something **D/F#** touched me **Em** deep inside

The **C** day the **D7** music **G** died

[Chorus]

So **G** bye, **C** bye Miss **G** American **D** Pie

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

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

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

[Verse 2]

G Did you write the **Am** book of love

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

G Do you **D/F#** believe in **Em** rock and roll

Can **Am7** music save your **C** mortal soul and **Em** can you teach me **A7** how to dance **D** real slow?

Well I **Em*** know that you're in **D*** love with him 'cuz I **Em*** saw you dancin' **D*** in the gym

You **C** both kicked **G/B** off your **Am** shoes, man I **C** dig those rhythm and **D7** blues

I was a **G** lonely **D/F#** teenage **Em** bronckin' buck with a **Am** pink carnation and a **C** pickup truck

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

[Chorus]

[Verse 3]

Now for **G** ten years we've been **Am** on our own

and **C** moss grows fat on a **Am** rolling stone **Em** but that's not how it **D** used to be

When the **G** jester **D/F#** sang for the **Em** king and queen

in a **Am7** coat he borrowed **C** from James Dean in a **Em** voice that came **A7** from you and **D** me

Oh, and **Em*** while the king was **D*** looking down, the **Em*** jester stole his **D*** thorny crown

The **C** courtroom **G/B** was **A7** adjourned, **C** no verdict was **D7** returned

And while **G** Lennon read **D/F#** a book **Em** on Marx, the **Am** quartet **C** practiced in the park

And **G** we sang **D/F#** dirges **Em** in the dark the **C** day the **D7** music **G** died, **C G** we were **D** singin'

[Chorus]

[Verse 4]

G Helter skelter in a **Am** summer swelter

C the birds flew off with **Am** a fallout shelter, **Em** eight miles high and **D** fallin' fast

It **G** landed **D/F#** foul on the **Em** grass

the **Am7** players tried for a **C** forward pass, **Em** with the jester on the sidelines **A7** in a **D** cast

Now the **Em*** half-time air was **D*** sweet perfume, while **Em*** sergeants played a **D*** marching tune

C We all got **G/B** up to **A7** dance, but **C** we never got the **D7** chance

'Cuz the **G** players **D/F#** tried to **Em** take the field, the **Am** marching band **Cm** refused to **C** yield

G Do you **D/F#** recall what **Em** was revealed the **C** day the **D7** music **G** died, **C G** we started **D** singin'

[Chorus]

[Verse 5]

And **G** there we were all **Am** in one place

a **C** generation **Am** lost in space, **Em** with no time left to **D** start again

So come on **G** Jack be **D/F#** nimble, **Em** Jack be quick, **Am7** Jack Flash sat on a **C** candle
stick, **Em** 'cuz fire is the **A7** devil's only friend **D**

And as **Em*** I watched him on **D*** the stage, my **Em*** hands were clenched in **D*** fists of rage

No **C** angel **G/B** born in **A7** Hell could **C** break that Satan's **D7** spell

And as the **G** flames climbed **D/F#** high into **Em** the night to **Am** light the sacrificial **C** rite

I saw **G** Satan **D/F#** laughing with **Em** delight the **C** day the **D7** music **G** died, **C G** he was **D**
singin'

[Chorus]

[Verse 6] Single Strum

I **G** met a **D/F#** girl who **Em** sang the blues

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

I **G** went down **D/F#** to the **Em** sacred store

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

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

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

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

They **G** caught the **D/F#** last train for **Em** the coast the **C** day the **D7** music **G** died,

N.C.

And they were singin'

[Chorus] X2 Last Line:

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