

# American Pie

Don McClean

## Key/Chords

| Key:   | Chords: | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII      | No. # or b |
|--------|---------|---|----|-----|----|---|----|----------|------------|
| G / Em |         | G | Am | Bm  | C  | D | Em | F#m7(b5) | 1          |

## Verse #1

**G D Em C Am Em D...**  
A long long time ago, I can still remember how that music used to make me smile  
**G D Em C Am**  
And I knew if I had my chance, I could make those people dance,  
**Em A7 D**  
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 C Am**  
I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride  
**G D Em C D G...**  
But something touched me deep inside the day the music died

## Chorus

**G C G D G C G D**  
So bye, bye Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
**G C G D**  
And them good ol' boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
**Em A Em D**  
Singing "This'll be the day that I die, This'll be the day that I die"

## Verse #2

[ pick up tempo ]  
**G Am C Am**  
Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in God above  
**Em D**  
If the Bible tells you so  
**G D Em C Am**  
Now do you believe in rock and roll, can music save your mortal soul  
**Em A7 D**  
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 Bm Am C D**  
You both kicked off your shoes Lord I dig them rhythm and blues - ooo  
**G D Em C Am**  
I was a lonely teenage bronkin' buck with a pink carnation and pickup truck  
**G D Em C D G - C - G**  
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singing

## CHORUS

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## Verse #3

**G** **Am** **C** **Am**  
Now for ten years we've been on our own, and moss grows fat on a rolling stone

**Em** **D**  
But that's not how it used to be

**G** **D** **Em** **C** **Am**  
When The Jester sang for the King and Queen in a coat he borrowed from James Dean

**Em** **A7** **D**  
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** **Bm** **Am** **C** **D**  
The courtroom was adjourned, No verdict was returned

**G** **Am** **C** **Am**  
And while Lennon read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the parks

**G** **D** **Em** **C** **D** **G - C - G**  
And we sang dirges in the dark, the day the music died we were singing

## Chorus

**G** **C** **G** **D** **G** **C** **G** **D**  
Bye, bye Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry

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

**Em** **A** **Em** **D**  
Singing "This'll be the day that I die, This'll be the day that I die"

## Verse #4

**G** **Am** **C** **Am**  
Hel-ter Skel-ter in a summer swelter the birds flew off for the fallout shelter

**Em** **D**  
Eight miles high and falling fast

**G** **D** **Em** **C** **Am**  
It landed foul o-on the grass the players tried for a forward pass

**Em** **A7** **D**  
With the Jester... on the sidelines... in a cast...

**Em...** **D...** **Em** **D**  
Now the halftime air was sweet perfume while the sergeants played a marchin tune

**C** **Bm** **Am** **C** **D**  
We all got up to dance, Oh but we never got the chance

**G** **D** **Em** **G** **C** **Am**  
The players tried to take the field The marching band refused to yield

**G** **D** **Em** **C** **D** **G - C - G**  
Do you recall what was the feel the day the music died we started singing...

## CHORUS

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## Verse #5

**G** **Am** **C** **Am**  
And there we were all in one place, a generation lost in space  
**Em** **D**  
With no time left to start again  
**G** **D** **Em** **C** **Am**  
So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick Jack flash sat on candle stick  
**Em** **A7** **D**  
Cause 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** **Bm** **Am** **C** **D**  
No angel born in hell, could break that Satan's spell  
**G** **D** **Em** **C** **Am**  
And as the flames climbed high in to the night to light the sacrificial rite  
**G** **D** **Em** **C** **D** **G - C - G**  
I saw Satan laughing with delight, the day the music died, he was singing

## CHORUS

## Verse #6

[ slow down tempo ]  
**G** **D** **Em** **C** **Am**  
I met a girl who sang the blues and I asked her for some happy news  
**Em** **D**  
but she just smiled and turned away  
**G** **D** **Em** **Am** **C**  
I went down to the sacred store where I'd heard the music years before  
**Em** **C** **D**  
but the man there said the music wouldn't play  
**Em** **Am** **Em** **Am**  
And 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** **C** **Am**  
And the three men I admire most the Father, Son and Holy Ghost  
**G** **D** **Em** **C** **D** **G...**  
They caught the last plane for the coast the day the Music Died and they were singin'

## Chorus

[ pick it up a bit before a final slow down ]  
**G** **C** **G** **D** **G** **C** **G** **D**  
Bye, bye Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
**G** **C** **G** **D**  
And them good ol' boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
**C** **D** **G - C - G**  
Singing "This'll be the day that I die..."