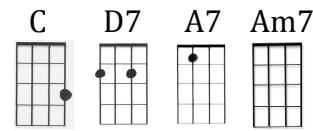


American Pie
by Don McLean



Sparse & rhythmically loose

G D Em7 Am C Em D F# EF#
 A long, long time ago, I can still re-mem-ber how that music used to make me smile
 G D Em7
 And I know if I had my chance,
 Am C Em C D F#F#G F# E F#
 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 C D7 G GF#GF#E F# G
 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 old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye F# EF#GF#EF#
 Em* * - strum once A7* Em* D7 (8)
 Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

Last time C D7 G C G
 play chorus twice Singin' this will be the day that I die.

A little rockier

G Am
 Did you write the book of love
 C Am Em D(8)
 And do you have faith in god above, if the bible tells you so?
 G(2) D(2) Em
 Do you believe in rock and roll
 Am7 C Em A7 D(8)
 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(2) G(2) A7 C D7
 You both kicked off your shoes, man I dig those rhythm and blues
 G(2) D(2) Em Am C
 I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck
 G(2) D(2) Em C D7 G(2) C(2) G(4)
 But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singin'

[Chorus] Rock it up good from here on out (until the last verse)

G Am
 Now for ten years we've been on our own,
 C Am Em D(8)
 and moss grows fat on a rolling stone but that's not how it used to be
 G(2) D(2) Em
 When the jester sang for the king and queen
 Am7 C Em A7 D(8)
 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(2) G(2) A7 C D7
 The courtroom was ad-journed, no ver-dict was re-turned
 G(2) D(2) Em Am C
 And while Lenin read a book on Marx, the quartet prac-ticed in the park
 G(2) D(2) Em C D7 G(2) C(2) G(4)
 And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin'

[Chorus]

G Am
Helter skelter in a summer swelter
C Am Em D(8)
the birds flew off with a fallout shelter, 8 miles high and fallin' fast
G(2) D(2) Em
It landed foul o-o-n the grass
Am7 C Em A7 D(8)
the players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the sidelines in a cast
Em* D* Em* D*
Now the halftime air was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching tune
C(2) G(2) A7 C D7
We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance
G(2) D(2) Em Am C
'Cuz the players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to yield
G(2) D(2) Em C D7 G(2) C(2) G(4)
Do you re-call what was the feel the day the music died, we started singin'

[Chorus]

G Am
And there we were all in one place,
C Am Em D(8)
a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again
G(2) D(2) Em Am7 C
So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candlestick
Em A7 D(8)
'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(2) G(2) A7 C D7
No angel born in Hell could break that Satan's spell
G(2) D(2) Em Am C
And as the flames climbed high in-to the night to light the sacri-ficial rite
G(2) D(2) Em C D7 G(2) C(2) G(4)
I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singin'

[Chorus]

G D Em
I met a girl who sang the blues
Am C Em D(8)
And I asked her for some happy news, but she just smiled and turned away
G(2) D(2) Em
I went down to the sacred store
Am C Em C D
Where I'd heard the music years before, but the man there said the music 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(2) D(2) Em Am7 C D7
And the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost
G(2) D(2) Em Am7 D7 G
They caught the last train for the coast the day the music died,
N.C.
And they were singin'

[Chorus] play chorus twice. The second time finish with "last time" ending

Sparse and free, again