

## **American Pie (Don McLean)**

### **Verse 1 (hold each chord):**

A [G] long [D] long [Em7] time ago...  
[Am] I can still re-[C]member  
How that [Em] music used to make me [D] smile  
And [G] I knew [D] 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

[Em] But February [Am] made me shiver  
[Em] With every paper [Am] I'd deliver  
[C] Bad news [G] on the [Am] doorstep;  
I [C] couldn't take one [D] more step

I [G] can't re-[D]member if I [Em] cried  
When I [Am7] read about his [D] widowed bride,  
But [G] something [D] touched me [Em] deep inside  
The [C] day the [D7] Music [G] Died [C] [G], so...

### **CHORUS:**

<p>[G] Bye [C] bye Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levy but the [G] levy was [D] dry And them [G] good old [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey and [D] rye Singin' [Em hold] this'll be the day that I [A7 hold] die [Em hold] This'll be the day that I [D7 riff] die</p>
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### **Verse 2 (w/ Folk Strum):**

[G] Did you write the [Am] book of love  
And do [C] you have faith in [Am] God above?  
[Em] If the Bible [D] tells you so [D riff]  
Do [G] you be-[D]lieve in [Em] Rock 'n 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 hold] know that you're in [D hold] love with him  
'cause I [Em hold] saw you dancin' [D hold] in the gym  
You [C] both kicked [G] off your [D] shoes,  
Man, I [C] dig those [G] rhythm and [D7] blues

I was a [G] lonely [D] teenage [Em] broncin' buck  
With a [Am] pink carnation and a [C] pickup truck  
But [G] I knew [D] I was [Em] out of luck  
The [C] day the [D7] Music [G] Died [C] [G]  
I started [D7] singin' ....

Repeat **CHORUS**

### Verse 3 (w/ Folk Strum):

Now for [G] ten years we've been [Am] on our own  
And [C] moss grows fat on a [Am] rollin' stone,  
[Em] But that's not how it [D] used to be [D riff]  
When the [G] jester [D] sang for the [Em] King and Queen,  
In a [Am7] coat he borrowed [C] from James Dean  
And a [Em] voice that [A7] came from you and [D] me [D riff]

Oh, and [Em hold] while the King was [D hold] looking down,  
The [Em hold] jester stole his [D hold] thorny crown,  
The [C] courtroom [G] was ad-[D]journed;  
No [C] verdict was re-[D7]turned,  
And while [G] Lennon [D] read a [Em] book of Marx,  
The [Am] court kept practice [C] in the park,  
And [G] we sang [D] dirges [Em] in the dark  
The [C] day the [D7] Music [G] Died [C] [G]...We were [D7] singin'...

#### **CHORUS:**

[G] Bye [C] bye Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie  
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levy but the [G] levy was [D] dry  
And them [G] good old [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey and [D] rye  
Singin' [Em hold] this'll be the day that I [A7 hold] die  
[Em hold] This'll be the day that I [D7 riff] die

### Verse 4 (w/ Folk Strum):

[G] Helter-Skelter [Am] in the summer swelter,  
The [C] Byrds flew off with a [Am] fallout shelter,  
[Em] Eight Miles High and [D] falling fast [D riff]  
It [G] landed [D] foul out [Em] on the grass,  
The [Am7] players tried for a [C] forward pass,  
With the [Em] jester on the [A7] sidelines in a [D] cast [D riff]

Now the [Em hold] half-time air was [D hold] sweet perfume  
While the [Em hold] sergeants played a [D hold] marching tune,  
[C] We all got [G] up to [D] dance,  
But we [C] never got the [D7] chance!  
'Cause the [G] players [D] tried to [Em] take the field;  
The [Am] marching band re-[C]fused to yield,  
Do [G] you re-[D]call what [Em] was revealed,  
The [C] day the [D7] Music [G] Died? [C] [G]  
We started [D7] singin' ...

Repeat **CHORUS**

### Verse 5 (w/ Folk Strum):

Oh, and [G] there we were all [Am] in one place,

[C] A generation [Am] Lost in Space  
With [Em] no time left to [D] start again. [D riff]  
So come on: [G] Jack be nimble, [Em] Jack be quick!  
[Am7] Jack Flash sat on a [C] candlestick  
'Cause [Em] fire is the [A7] Devil's only [D] friend

Oh, and [Em hold] as I watched him [D hold] on the stage  
My [Em hold] hands were clenched in [D hold] fists of rage,  
[C] No angel [G] born in [D] hell  
Could [C] break that Satan's [D7] spell,  
And as the [G] flames climbed [D] high in-[Em]to the night  
[Am] To light the sacri-[C]ficial rite,  
I saw [G] Satan [D] laughing [Em] with delight  
The [C] day the [D7] Music [G] Died [C] [G]... He was [D7] singin' ...

### **CHORUS:**

[G] Bye [C] bye Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie  
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levy but the [G] levy was [D] dry  
And them [G] good old [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey and [D] rye  
Singin' [Em hold] this'll be the day that I [A7 hold] die  
[Em hold] This'll be the day that I [D7 riff] die

### **Verse 6 (hold each chord):**

I [G] met a [D] girl who sang the [Em] blues  
And I [Am] asked her for some [C] happy news,  
But [Em] she just smiled and turned [D] away,  
I [G] went down [D] to the sacred [Em7] store  
Where I'd [Am] heard the music [C] years before,  
But the [Em] man there said the [A7] music wouldn't [D] play

[Em] And in the streets: the [Am] children screamed,  
The [Em] lovers cried, and the [Am] poets dreamed  
But [C] not a [G] word was [Am] spoken;  
The [C] church bells all were [D7] broken,  
And the [G] three men [D] I ad-[Em]mire most:  
The [Am7] Father, Son and the [C] Holy Ghost,  
Why, they [G] caught the [D] last train [Em] for the coast  
The [C] day the [D7] Music [G] Died... And they were singing...

Repeat **CHORUS**

### **(continue Chorus Strum)**

They were singing  
[G] Bye [C] bye Miss A-[G]merican [D] Pie  
Drove my [G] Chevy to the [C] levy, but the [G] levy was [D] dry,  
And [G] good old [C] boys were drinking [G] whiskey and [D] rye  
Singin' [C] this'll be the [D] day that I [G hold] die [C hold] [G hold]