

American Pie – Don McLean

Tempo: 125 BPM (when prompted)

Strumming Pattern: DD, UU, DU

Chords Used:

G

G B D G D G

D

A D A D F#

D

A D A D F#

OR Em

Em7

E B E G D E

Am

E A E A C E

C

E C E G C E

OR Em

E B E G B E

Am7

A E G C E

D7

A D A C F#

A7

E A E G C# E

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 knew 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
 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 (start strumming/start tempo)

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
 But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singin'

CHORUS

G C G D
 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

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

CHORUS

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

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

CHORUS

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

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
 we saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singin'

CHORUS

G C G D
 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

LAST VERSE (STOP strumming, STOP tempo)

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 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
 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 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,
 And they were singin'

FINAL CHORUS

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