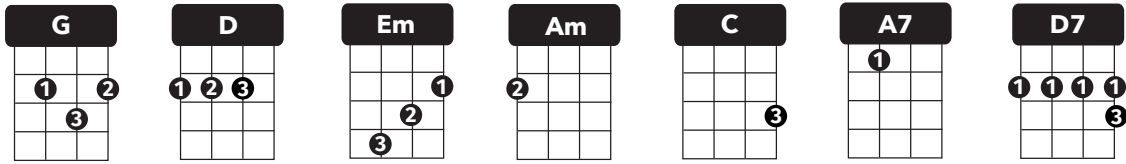


AMERICAN PIE

by Don McLean, 1971

Ukulele arrangement by Cynthia Lin, <http://cynthialin.com/ukulele>

Watch the Play-Along on [YouTube](#) | Watch the Full Lesson on [Patreon](#)



island strum; on split measures, play the swing strum [d du - d du]

INTRO

G/ D/ Em/
A long, long time ago
Am/ C/ Em/ D/
I can still re-member how that music used to make me smile
G/ D/ Em/
And, I knew if I had my chance
Am/ C/ Em/ A7/ D/
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/ Am/ D/
I can't re-member if I cried, when I read about his widowed bride
G/ D/ Em/ C/ D7/ G/
Something touched me deep inside, the day the music died

CHORUS

[G - C] [G - D]
So bye-bye, Miss A-merican Pie
[G - C] [G - D]
Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
[G - C] [G - D]
Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye, singing
Em/ A7/ Em/ D7 (island strum) D7
This will be the day that I die, This will be the day that I die

VERSE1 **G** **Am** **C** **Am**
 Did you write the Book of Love and do you have faith in God above
Em **D** **D**
 If the Bible tells you so?
[G - D] **Em** **Am** **C**
 Now, do you be-lieve in Rock and Roll? Can music save your mortal soul? And
Em **A7** **D** **D**
 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 - 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 - C]****[G - D]**
 but I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singing

CHORUS **[G - C]** **[G - D]**
 So bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie
[G - C] **[G - D]**
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
[G - C] **[G - D]**
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye, singing
Em/ **A7/** **Em/** **D7** **D7**
 This will be the day that I die, This will be the day that I die

VERSE2 **G** **Am** **C** **Am**
 Now, for ten years we've been on our own and moss grows fat on a Rolling Stone,
Em **D** **D**
 but that's not how it use to be
[G - D] **Em** **Am** **C**
 When the Jester sang for the king and queen in a coat he borrowed from James Dean
Em **A7** **D** **D**
 In a voice that came from you and me
Em/ **D/** **Em/** **D/**
 Oh, and while the King was looking down, the Jester stole his thorny crown
[C - G] **A7** **C** **D7**
 The courtroom was ad-journed, no verdict was re-turned
[G - D] **Em** **Am** **C**
 And while Lennon read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park
[G - D] **Em** **C** **D7** **[G - C]****[G - D]**
 and we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin'

CHORUS [G - C] [G - D] [G - C] [G - D]
 Bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
 [G - C] [G - D]
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye, singing
 Em/ A7/ Em/ D7 D7
 This will be the day that I die, This will be the day that I die

VERSE3 G Am C Am
 Helter Skelter in the summer swelter, the birds flew off with a fallout shelter
 Em D D
 Eight Miles high and falling fast
 [G - D] Em Am C
 lan-ded foul on the grass, the players tried for a forward pass with the
 Em A7 D D
 Jester on the sidelines in a cast
 Em/ D/ Em/ D/
 Now, the halftime air was sweet perfume while the Sergeants played a marching tune
 [C - G] A7 C D7
 We all got up to dance, oh, but we never got the chance
 [G - D] Em Am C
 'Cause the players tried to take the field, the marching band re-fused to yield
 [G - D] Em C D7 [G - C][G - D]
 Do you re-call what was revealed the day the music died? We started singing

CHORUS (see above)

VERSE4 G Am C Am
 And there we were all in one place, a generation Lost in Space
 Em D D
 With no time left to start again
 [G - D] Em Am C
 So, come on, Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candle stick 'cause
 Em A7 D D
 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 in- to the night to light the sacri-ficial rite, I saw
 [G - D] Em C D7 [G - C][G - D]
 Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singing

CHORUS [G - C] [G - D] [G - C] [G - D]
 Bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
 [G - C] [G - D]
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye, singing
 Em/ A7/ Em/ D7 D7
 This will be the day that I die, This will be the day that I die

OUTRO G/ D/ Em/ Am/ C/
 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/ A7/ D/
 but the man there said the music wouldn't play
 Em/ Am/ Em/ Am/
 But in the streets the children screamed, the lover's cried, and the poets dreamed
 C/ G/ Am/ C/ D/
 Not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken
 G/ D/ Em/ Am/ D/
 And the three men I admire the most, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 G/ D/ Em/ C/ D7/ G/
 they caught the last train for the coast the day the music died, and they we're singin'

CHORUS [G - C] [G - D]
 So bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie
 [G - C] [G - D]
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
 [G - C] [G - D]
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye, singing
 Em/ A7/ Em/ D7 D7
 This will be the day that I die, This will be the day that I die, they were singing

FINAL CHORUS [G - C] [G - D]
 bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie
 [G - C] [G - D]
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
 [G - C] [G - D]
 Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye, singing
 [C - D7] G/ C/ G/
 This will be the day that I die