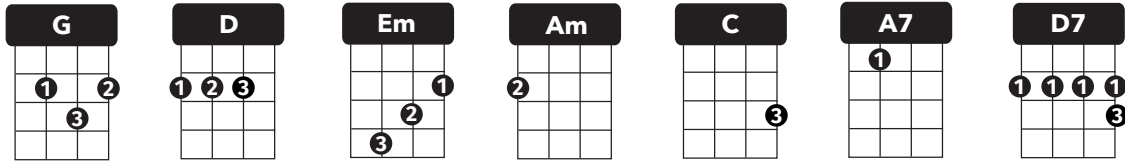


AMERICAN PIE

by Don McLean, 1971

(working version for Patrons only)

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



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

INTRO

G/	D/	Em/	Am/	C/
A long,	long	time ago	I can still re-member	how that
Em/			D/	
music used to make me	smile			
G/	D/	Em/	Am/	C/
And, I knew if I had my chance	I could make those people dance and			
Em/	A7/	D/		
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/
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 levy but the levy 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]**
 bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie
 [G - C] **[G - D]**
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy 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

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**
 with no time left to start again
 [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 levy but the levy 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**
 Ian-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 the feel the day the music died? We started singing

CHORUS

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 levy but the levy 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 ad-mire 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] [G - C] [G - D]
 Bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy 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] [G - C] [G - D]
 Bye- bye, Miss A-merican Pie Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy 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