

Recorded by DON McLEAN on UNITED ARTISTS Records

AMERICAN PIE

Words and Music by
DON McLEAN

Ad lib.

Prologue:

A long, long time a-go— I can still re-mem-ber how that mu-sic used to make me smile.

mp

And I knew if I had my chance that I could make those peo - ple dance and

may-be they'd be hap-py for a while. But Feb-ru-ar-y made me shiv - er

with ev - 'ry pa-per I'd de-liv-er. Bad news on the door-step I could - n't take one more step I

979-8

Copyright © 1971, 1972 MAYDAY MUSIC, INC. and YAHWEH TUNES, INC.
All rights administered by UNART MUSIC CORPORATION, New York, N. Y.

For Aust. & N.Z.: UNITED ARTISTS MUSIC (Aust.) PTY. LTD., 63-79 Miller St., Pyrmont, N.S.W.

G D Em Am7 D

can't re - mem - ber if I cried when I read a - bout - his wid - owed bride,

G D Em C D7 G C G

Some-thing touched me deep in - side - the day the mu - sic died.

In a moderate tempo

G C G D G C

mf So bye - bye, Miss A - mer - i - can Pie - Drove my Chev - y to the lev - ee but the

G D G C G D

lev - ee was dry. - Them good ole boys - were drink - in' whis - key and rye - Sing - in'

To Coda

Em A7 Em

this-'ll be the day_ that I_ die, This-'ll be the day_ that I_

D7 G Am

die. — *1. Did you_ write the book of love_ and do you.

C Am Em D

— have faith in God a -bove?_ If the Bi - ble tells_ you so_

G D Em Am7

Now do you_ be - lieve_ in rock and roll._ Can mu-sic save your

C Em A7 D

mor-tal soul_ and can you teach me how to dance_ real slow?_

*See the last page for the lyrics of stanzas 2, 3 and 4.

Em D Em

Well, I know that you're in love with him 'cause I saw you danc - in'

D C G A7

in the gym, - You both kicked off - your shoes. Man, I

C D7 G D

dig those rhy - thm and blues, I was a lone - ly teen - age -

Em Am C

bronc - in' buck - with a pink car - na - tion and a pick - up truck. - But

G D Em C

I knew I was out of luck the day the mu -

D7 G C 1. 2. 3. G D7

sic died. I start - ed sing - ing

4. G D7 G C G D

He was sing - in' - bye - bye, Miss A - mer - i - can Pie - Drove my

G C G D

Chev - y to the lev - ee but the lev - ee was dry. Them

G C G D

good ole boys - were drink - in' whis - key and rye - Sing - in'

Em A7 Em

this -'ll be the day— that I — die, This-'ll be the day— that I —

D7 Ad lib. G D Em

die. — *rit.* *mp* I met a girl who sang the blues — and

Am C Em D

I asked her for some hap-py news, — But she just smiled and turned a - way. —

G D Em G

I went down to the sa - cred store — where I

Am G C Em C

heard the mu - sic years be - fore But the man there said the mu - sic would - n't

D Em Am

play. _____ And in the streets the chil - dren screamed, — the

Em Am C G Am

lov - ers cried — and the po - ets dreamed. — But not a word was spo - ken the

C D G D Em G

church bells all were 'bro - ken. And the three men I ad - mire most, the

C D7 G D Em

Fa - ther, Son and the Ho - ly Ghost, They caught the last train for the coast the

C Am7 D7 G D7

day the mu - sic died. And they were sing - in'.

D.S. al Coda

Coda C D7 G C G

This - 'll be the day — that I — die.

2. Now for ten years we've been on our own, and moss grows fat on a rollin' stone
 But that's not how it used to be when the jester sang for the king and queen
 In a coat he borrowed from James Dean and a voice that came from you and me
 Oh and while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown
 The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned
 And while Lenin read a book on Marx the quartet practiced in the park
 And we sang dirges in the dark
 The day the music died
 We were singin'...bye-bye...etc.
3. Helter-skelter in the summer swelter the birds flew off with a fallout shelter
 Eight miles high and fallin' fast, it landed foul on the grass
 The players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the sidelines in a cast
 Now the half-time air was sweet perfume while the sergeants played a marching tune
 We all got up to dance but we never got the chance
 'Cause the players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to yield
 Do you recall what was revealed
 The day the music died
 We started singin'... bye-bye... etc.
4. And there we were all in one place, a generation lost in space
 With no time left to start again
 So come on, Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candlestick
 'Cause fire is the devil's only friend
 And as I watched him on the stage my hands were clenched in fists of rage
 No angel born in hell could break that Satan's spell
 And as the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial rite
 I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died.
 He was singin'... bye-bye... etc.