

DON McLEAN

# American Pie

Words & Music by Don McLean

This 1972 US No.1 lasts for nearly nine minutes and is considered a really important song in the history of American music. Don McLean has never explained the true meaning behind the lyrics, though they seem to refer to specific events. The line, 'the day the music died', is thought to refer to the day that Buddy Holly (among other musicians) died in a plane crash.

**Hints & Tips:** Whilst the rhythm of the right hand is quite complex, the rhythm of the left hand is very repetitive. Try to be aware of this when first playing both parts together.

Moderato ♩ = 120

D Em G

Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in

The first system of musical notation for 'American Pie'. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a simple accompaniment. Above the treble staff, the chords D, Em, and G are indicated. The lyrics are: 'Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in'.

4 Em Bm A

God above? If the bible tells you so Now do

The second system of musical notation. It starts with a measure rest. The treble staff has lyrics: 'God above? If the bible tells you so Now do'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Above the treble staff, the chords Em, Bm, and A are indicated.

8 D F#m/C# Bm Em G

you believe in rock and roll and can music save your mortal soul and

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff has lyrics: 'you believe in rock and roll and can music save your mortal soul and'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Above the treble staff, the chords D, F#m/C#, Bm, Em, and G are indicated.

12 Bm Em A

can you teach me how to dance real slow? Well I

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff has lyrics: 'can you teach me how to dance real slow? Well I'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Above the treble staff, the chords Bm, Em, and A are indicated.

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