City of New Orleans
by Steve Goodman

C     G     C     Am  F     C     G
Riding on the City of New Orleans, Illinois Central, Monday morning rail.

C     G     C     Am  G     C
There's fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders, the three con-duc-tors and twenty-five sacks of mail.

Am    Em
They're out on the southbound odyssey, as the train pulls out of Kankakee,

G     D
And rolls past the houses, farms and fields.

Am    Em
Passing towns that have no name, and freight yards full of old black men

G     F     C
And the graveyards of rusted automobiles.

Am    F     C     G
Don't you know me? I'm your native son.

C     G     Am  F
I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans.

Bb    F     G     C
I'll be gone five hundred miles when day is done.

I was dealin' cards with the old men in the club car, penny a point, ain't no one keeping score

C     G     C     Am  G     C
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle, feel the wheels grumbling 'neath the floor.

Am    Em
And the sons of Pullman porters, and the sons of engineers,

G     D
Ride their fathers' magic carpet made of steam

Am    Em
Mothers with their babes asleep, rocking to the gentle beat

G     F     C
And the rhythm of the rails is all they dream.

Chorus

C     G     C     Am  F     C     G
It's night time on the City of New Orleans, changing cars in Memphis, Tennessee.

C     G     C     Am  G     C
Halfway home and we'll be there by morning, through the Mississippi darkness, rolling to the sea.

Am    Em
And all the towns and people, seem to fade into a bad dream

G     D
And the steel rail still ain't heard the news.

Am    Em
The conductor sings that song again, "It's passengers will please refrain,

G     F     C
This train's got the disappearin' railroad blues."

Final Chorus x 2:

F     G     C     Am  F     C     G
Good night, America, how are you? Don't you know me, I'm your native son.

C     G     Am  F     Bb  F     G     C
I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans, I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

San Jose Ukulele Club