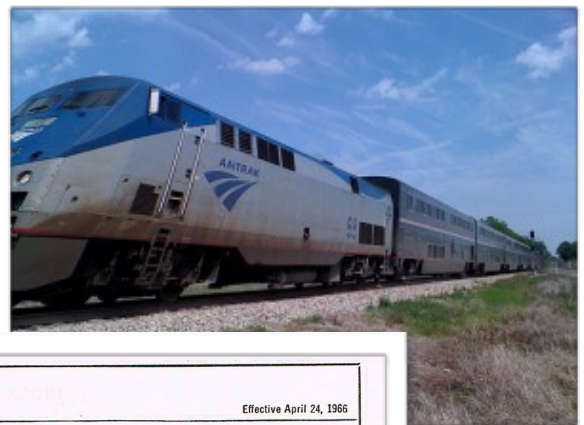


City of New Orleans

Words & Music by Steve Goodman



EQUIPMENT		Effective April 24, 1965
PULLMAN, COACH AND DINING SERVICE		
SOUTHBOUND	NORTHBOUND	
No. 1—THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS Coach Streamliner De Luxe Reclining Seats Radio Dining Service. Chicago to New Orleans. Coaches. Chicago to New Orleans. St. Louis to New Orleans No. 101 St. Louis to Carbondale- Club-Lounge-Observation Car. Chicago to New Orleans.	No. 2—THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS Coach Streamliner De Luxe Reclining Seats Radio Dining Service. New Orleans to Chicago. Coaches. New Orleans to Chicago. New Orleans to St. Louis. No. 102 Carbondale to St. Louis. Club-Lounge-Observation Car. New Orleans to Chicago.	
No. 101—THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS Coaches. Deluxe Reclining Seats: St. Louis to New Orleans. No. 1 Carbondale to New Orleans. St. Louis to Miami (CM 6) No. 53 City of Miami from Carbondale.	No. 102—THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS Coaches. Deluxe Reclining Seats: New Orleans to St. Louis. No. 2 New Orleans to Carbondale.	

City of New Orleans

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C G G⁷ C Em⁷

Riding on the City of New Orleans;

Am F C G⁷

Illinois Central Monday morning rail.

C G G⁷ C

Fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders;

Em⁷ Am G C

Three conductors and twenty-five sacks of mail.

Em⁷ Am Em

All along the south bound odyssey, the train pulls out of Kankakee;

G D

Rolls along past houses, farms and fields.

Am Em

Passing trains that have no name, freight yards full of old black men,

G Dm⁷ F G⁷ C

And the graveyards of rusted automobiles.

CHORUS 1

F G G⁷ C

Good morning America, how are ya?

Em⁷ Am F C G⁷

Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son?

C G Am Am⁷ D⁷

I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans.

B^b F G C

I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

C G G⁷ C Em⁷

Dealing card games with the old men in the club car;

Am F C G⁷

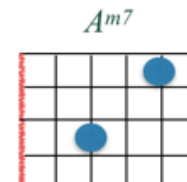
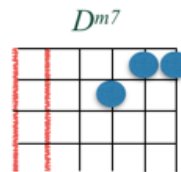
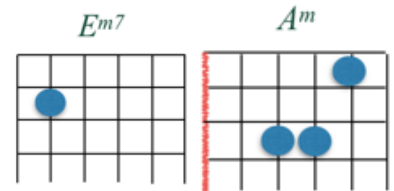
Penny a point ain't no one keeping score.

C G G⁷ C Em⁷

Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle;

Am G C

Feel the wheels rumbling 'neath the floor.



A^m *E^m*
 And the sons of Pullman porters and the sons of engineers,
E^{m7} *G* *D*
 Ride their father's magic carpets made of steel.
A^m *E^m*
 Mothers with their babes asleep rocking to the gentle beat,
G *D^{m7}* *F* *G⁷* *C*
 And the rhythm of the rails is all they feel.

CHORUS 1

C *G* *G⁷* *C* *E^{m7}*
 Nighttime on the City of New Orleans;
A^m *F* *C* *G⁷*
 Changing cars in Memphis Tennessee;
C *G* *G⁷* *C*
 Half way home we'll be there by morning;
E^{m7} *A^m* *G* *C*
 Through the Mississippi darkness rolling down to the sea.
A^m *E^m*
 But all the towns and people seem to fade into a bad dream,
E^{m7} *G* *D*
 And the steel rail still ain't heard the news.
A^m *E^m*
 The conductor sings his songs again, the passengers will please refrain;
G *D^{m7}* *F* *G⁷* *C*
 This train got the disappearing railroad blues.

CHORUS 2:

F *G* *G⁷* *C*
 Good night America, how are ya?
E^{m7} *A^m* *F* *C* *G⁷*
 Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son?
C *G* *A^m* *A^{m7}* *D⁷*
 I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans.
B^b *F* *G* *C*
 I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

History

"City Of New Orleans" was composed by the Chicago singer-songwriter Steve Goodman in 1970.

Goodman wrote the lyrics on a sketch pad after his wife fell asleep on the Illinois Central train, as they were going to visit his wife's grandmother.

Goodman wrote about what he saw looking out the windows of the train and playing cards in the club car. Everything in the song actually happened on the ride.

After he returned home, he heard that the train was scheduled to be decommissioned due to lack of passengers. He was encouraged to use this song to save the train, so he retouched the lyrics and released it on his first album in 1971.

Steve Goodman released his version as a single in 1972, but it was Arlo Guthrie's cover that same year that popularized the song and brought attention to rail lines that were vanishing across middle America. Many people who lived in rural areas relied on them to travel.

Steve Goodman died on September 20, 1984 at the age of 36 after a long battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. That same year, Willie Nelson covered this song and made it the title track of his album. Nelson's version was a #1 Country hit and won the Grammy Award for Best Country Song, which is a songwriting category and thus an honor bestowed posthumously to Goodman.

The jubilant chorus line, "Good morning America, how are ya?" became a cultural touchstone in the United States. When ABC launched a new morning show in 1975, they named it: *Good Morning America*.

<http://www.songfacts.com/>



Steve Goodman
Photograph from www.discogs.com/