

City of New Orleans, key of F

Steve Goodman, 1971

Made famous by Arlo Guthrie and also sung by Willie Nelson

INTRO: Bb 4 F 4 G 4 C 1

F C F Dm Bb F C

Riding on the City of New Orleans, Illinois Central, Monday morning rail.

F C F Dm C F
Fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders, three conductors and twenty-five sacks of mail.

Dm Am
All a--long the southbound odyssey, as the train pulls out of Kankakee,

C G
And rolls along past houses, farms and fields.

Dm Am
Passin' trains that have no name and freight yards full of old black men

C C7 F
And the graveyards of the rusted automo--biles.

CHORUS: Bb C F
Good morning, A--merica, how are you?

Dm Bb F C
Don't you know me? I'm your native son.

F C Dm G7
I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans

Cm Gm C F C
And I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

F C F Dm Bb F C
Dealin' card games with the old men in the club car, penny a point, ain't no one keepin' score.

F C F Dm C F
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle, feel the wheels rumbling'neath the floor.

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

C G
Ride their father's magic carpet made of steel.

Dm Am
Mothers with their babes asleep, rockin' to the gentle beat

C C7 F
And the rhythm of the rails is all they feel

CHORUS

F C F Dm Bb F C
It's nighttime on the City of New Orleans, changing cars in Memphis, Tennes--see.

F C F Dm C F
Half way home and we'll be there by morning, through the Mississippi darkness rolling to the sea.

Dm Am
But all the towns and people seem to fade into a bad dream

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

Dm Am
The con--ductor sings his songs again, "The passengers will please refrain,

C C7 F
This train has got the disap--pearing railroad blues."

FINAL CHORUS: Bb C F
Good night, America, how are you?

Dm Bb F C
Don't you know me? I'm your native son.

F C Dm G7
I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans

Cm Gm C F
And I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

Cm Gm C F Bb C F
And I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

