

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Written by Steve Goodman (1970), made famous by Arlo Guthrie (1972)

Start Note: E **Time:** 4/4 time **Key:** C **Strum:** D_ du _u du

Intro: C /// G /// C /// C↓

1. C G C
Riding on the City of New Orleans
Am F C G
Illinois Central Monday morning rail
C G C
Fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders
Am G C
Three conductors and twenty-five sacks of mail
Am Em
All along the southbound Odyssey the train pulls out of Kenkakee
G D
And rolls along past house farms and fields
Am Em
Passing trains that have no name freight yards full of old black men
G G7 C C7
And the graveyards of rusted automobiles.

CHORUS:

F G7 C
Good morning America, how are you?
Am F C G7
Say 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 the day is done

2. G C
Dealing card games with the old men in the club car
Am F C G
Penny a point ain't no one keeping score
C G C
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle
Am G C
Feel the wheels rumbling 'neath the floor
Am Em
And the sons of Pullman porters and the sons of engineers
G D
Ride their father's magic carpet made of steel

Am Em
 Mothers with their babes asleep rocking to the gentle beat
 G G7 C
 And the rhythm of the rails is all they feel

CHORUS:

F G7 C
Good morning America, how are you?
Am F C G7
Say 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 the day is done

3. G C
 Night time on the City of New Orleans
 Am F C G
 Changing cars in Memphis Tennessee
 C G C
 Half way home we'll be there by morning
 Am G C
 Through the Mississippi darkness rolling down to the sea
 Am Em
 But 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 his songs again the passengers will please refrain
 G G7 C
 This train has got the disappearing railroad blues

CHORUS:

F G7 C
Good night America, how are you?
Am F C G7
Say 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 the day is done

Outro: Bb ↓↓ F ↓↓ G C C↓
I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done