

# City of New Orleans

(By Steve Goodman) - *capo at 4 for key of B, capo at 5 for key of C*

**G**                    **D7**                    **G**  
Riding on the City of New Orleans  
**Em**                    **C**                    **D7**  
Illinois Central, Monday morning rail,  
**G**                    **D7**                    **G**  
Fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders,  
                  **Em**                    **D7**                    **G**  
Three conductors, and twenty five sacks of mail.  
                  **Em**                    **Bm**  
All along the southbound odyssey; the train pulls out of Kankakee,  
                  **D**                    **A**  
And rolls along the houses, farms and fields.  
**Em**                    **Bm**  
Passing trains that have no name, and freight yards full of old black men,  
                  **D7**                    **G**  
And the graveyards of rusted automobiles.

## Chorus

**C**                    **D7**                    **G**  
**Good morning America, how are you?**  
                  **Em**                    **C**                    **D7**  
**Sayin' "Don't you know me? I'm your native son?"**  
                  **G**                    **D7**                    **G**                    **Em**  
**I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans,**  
                  **C**                    **D7**                    **G**  
**I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.**

Dealing card games with the old men in the club cars,  
A penny a point, ain't no one keeping score.  
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle,  
You can feel the wheels rumbling 'neath the floor.

And the sons of Pullman porters, and the sons of engineers,  
Ride their fathers' magic carpet made of steel.  
And mothers with their babes asleep, rocking to the gentle beat,  
And the rhythm of the rails is all they feel.     **(Repeat chorus)**

Nighttime on the City of New Orleans;  
Changing cars in Memphis, Tennessee.  
Halfway home, and we'll be there by morning,  
Through the Misissippi darkness, rolling down to the sea.

But all the towns and people seem To fade into a bad dream,  
The old steel rail still ain't heard the news.  
The conductor sings his songs again; the passengers will please refrain,  
This train's got the disappearin' railroad blues.

Goodnight America, how are you?  
Sayin' don't you know me? I'm your native son.  
I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans,  
I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done. (repeat final chorus)