

City of New Orleans

Key of C

Arlo Guthrie 1972 (Steve Goodman)

Intro:

C

Verse 1:

C

Riding on the City of New Orleans

Am

Illinois Central, Monday morning rail

C

Fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders

Am

Three conductors and twenty-five sacks of mail.

Am

All along the south bound odyssey,

Em

the train pulls out of Kankakee

G

Rolls along past houses, farms and fields

Am

Passing trains that have no name,

Em

freight yards full of old black men

G

And the graveyards of the rusted automobiles.

G7

C

Chorus:

F

Good morning America, how are you?

Am

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

G7

C

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

G

Am

D7

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

F

G

C

Verse 2:

C

Dealing card games with the old men in the club car

G

C

Am

Penny a point, ain't no one keeping score

F

C

Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle

G

C

Am

Feel the wheels rumblin' 'neath the floor

G

C

And the sons of Pullman porters and the sons of engineers

Am

Em

Ride their fathers' magic carpets made of steel
 Mothers with their babes asleep, rockin' to the gentle beat
 And the rhythm of the rails is all they feel.

Chorus:

Good morning America, how are you?
 Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son.
 I-I-I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans
 I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

Verse 3:

Night time on the City of New Orleans
 Changing cars in Memphis, Tennessee
 Halfway home, we'll be there by morning
 through the Mississippi darkness rolling down to the sea.
 But all the towns and people seem to fade into a bad dream
 And the steel rail still ain't heard the news
 The conductor sings his songs again, the
 passengers will please refrain
 This train got the disappearing railroad blues.

Chorus 2:

Good night America, how are you?
 Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son.
 I-I-I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans
 I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.
 I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done.

