

# CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Written by Steve Goodman in 1970

DR 10/23

**Key:** C    **Start Note:** E    **Time:** 4/4    **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 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**

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