John Henry (Traditional / Pete Seeger version) Key C

**Chords:**
- C: C
- Bb: G
- F: F7
- G: G7

**Verse 1:**
John Henry was a little baby,
Sittin' on his dad-dy's knee.
He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel,
Said hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord.
Hammer's gonna be the death of me.

**Chorus 1:**
Well the captain said to John Henry,
Gonna bring me a steam drill 'round,
Gonna bring me a steam drill out on the job.
Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down.
Gonna whup that steel on down.

**Verse 2:**
John Henry said to his Captain,
A man ain't nothin' but a man,
But before I let that steam drill beat me down,
I'll die with a hammer in my hand.
Oh Lord I'll die with a hammer in my hand.

**Chorus 2:**
Now John Henry had a little woman,
Her name was Polly Ann.
Whenever he took sick and had to go to bed,
Polly Ann drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord.
Polly Ann drove steel like a man,

**Verse 3:**
John Henry called to his Shaker,
Man, why don't you sing?
'Cause I'm swingin' thirty pounds from my hips on down,
Just listen to that cold steel ring, Lord, Lord.
Just listen to that cold steel ring.

**Chorus 3:**
Now the Captain said to John Henry,
I believe that mountain's caving in.
John Henry said right back to the Captain,
Ain't nothin' but my hammer sucking wind,
Ain't nothin' but my hammer sucking wind.

**Chorus 4:**
Oh Lord there lies a steel driving man,
John Henry (Traditional / Pete Seeger version) Key D

When John Henry was a little baby
(C G A)
Sittin' on his daddy's knee
(D G7)
He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel
(D)
Said hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord
(A7 D)
Hammer's gonna be the death of me

Well the captain said to John Henry
(C G A)
Gonna bring me a steam drill 'round
(D G7)
Gonna bring me a steam drill out on the job
(D)
Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down
(A7 D)
Gonna whup that steel on down

John Henry said to his Captain
(C G A)
A man ain't nothin' but a man
(D G7)
But before I let that steam drill beat me down
(D)
I'll die with a hammer in my hand
(A7 D)
Oh Lord I'll die with a hammer in my hand

John Henry called to his Shaker
(C G A)
Man, why don't you sing?
(D G7)
'Cause I'm swingin' thirty pounds from my hips on down,
(D)
Just listen to that cold steel ring, Lord, Lord
(A7 D)
Just listen to that cold steel ring

Now the captain said to John Henry,
(C G A)
I believe that mountain's caving in
(D G7)
John Henry said right back to the Captain,
(D)
Ain't nothin' but my hammer sucking wind,
(A7 D)
Ain't nothin' but my hammer sucking wind
John Henry (Traditional / Pete Seeger version)  Key G

When John Henry was a little baby
Sittin' on his daddy's knee
He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel
Said hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord
Hammer's gonna be the death of me

Well the captain said to John Henry
Gonna bring me a steam drill 'round
Gonna bring me a steam drill out on the job
Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down
Gonna whup that steel on down

John Henry said to his Captain
A man ain't nothin' but a man
But before I let that steam drill beat me down
I'll die with a hammer in my hand
Oh Lord I'll die with a hammer in my hand

John Henry called to his Shaker
Man, why don't you sing?
'Cause I'm swingin' thirty pounds from my hips on down,
Just listen to that cold steel ring, Lord, Lord
Just listen to that cold steel ring

Now the captain said to John Henry,
I believe that mountain's caving in
John Henry said right back to the Captain,
Ain't nothin' but my hammer sucking wind,
Ain't nothin' but my hammer sucking wind

Now the man who invented that steam drill,
Man, he thought he was mighty fine,
But John Henry drove fifteen feet
And the steam drill only made nine
The steam drill only made nine

John Henry hammered in the mountains,
His hammer was striking fire,
But he hammered so hard he broke his heart
And he laid down his hammer and died
Oh Lord he laid down his hammer and died

Now John Henry had a little woman
Her name was Polly Ann
Whenever he took sick and had to go to bed,
Polly Ann drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord
Polly Ann drove steel like a man,

Well every Monday morning
When the bluebirds begin to sing
You can hear John Henry a mile or more
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring
Lord, Lord you can hear John Henry's hammer ring

They took John Henry to the graveyard
And the buried him in the sand
And every locomotive comes a-roaring by
Says there lies a steel driving man
Oh Lord there lies a steel driving man