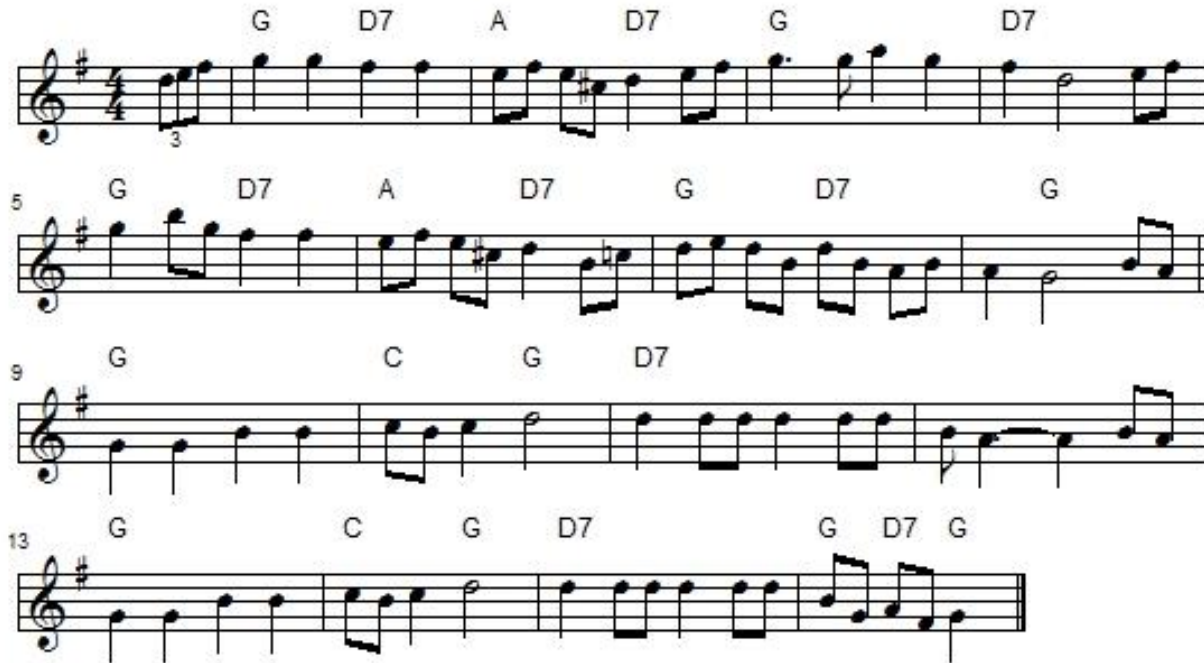


# Jordan Is A Hard Road To Travel



1. I'm gonna sing you a brand new song,  
It's all the truth for certain;  
We cain't live high, but we can get by,  
And get on the other side of Jordan.

**Chorus:**

Oh, pull off your overcoat  
and roll up your sleeves,  
Jordan is a hard road to travel;  
Oh, pull off your overcoat  
and roll up your sleeves,  
Oh, Jordan is a hard road to travel,  
I believe.

2. The public schools and the highways  
Are raisin' quite an alarm;  
Get a country man educated just a little,  
And he ain't a-gonna work on the farm.

**Chorus**

3. I don't know, but I b'lieve I'm right,  
The auto's ruined the country;  
Let's go back to the horse and buggy,  
And try to save some money.

**Chorus**

4. I know a man that's an evangelist,  
His tabernacle's always full;  
People come from miles around  
Just to hear him shoot the bull.

**Chorus**

5. You may talk about your evangelist,  
You may talk about Mister Ford too;  
Well, Henry's shakin' more hell out of folks  
Than all the evangelists do.

**Chorus**

6. Rain forty nights, gonna rain forty days,  
Gonna rain on the Allegheny mountains;  
Gonna rain forty horses and dominicker mules,  
Gonna take us on the other side of Jordan.

**Chorus**

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Dan Emmett (1815-1904) was one of the most successful of the New York minstrel composers. He's credited with writing, among other songs, "Turkey in the Straw", "Old Dan Tucker", and "Blue-Tailed Fly". Emmett also took credit for the first version of "Jordan is a Hard Road to Travel" for an 1853 New York minstrel show. It was hugely popular and spread via traveling shows. There's some evidence that he took an existing song and substituted political and topical verses. In that way it is similar to "Ain't No Bugs On Me".

Uncle Dave Macon (1870-1952), banjo picker, singer and entertainer, was the first Grand Ol' Opry performer to become immensely popular, even though he was in his mid-50s when he began performing. He recorded about 200 songs during his career, including this one (1927). When Macon was a teenager, his parents ran a boarding house in Nashville's theater section and young Dave learned songs and banjo tricks from the traveling minstrel performers who stayed there. He undoubtedly learned this song from some of them and naturally recomposed the verses to fit modern times.