

John Henry

Seeger/ the Boss

One, two, three

Well, John Henry was a little baby

Sittin' on his dady's knee

He pick up a hammer and a little piece of steel,

And cried, "Hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord

Hammer's gonna be the death of me"

Now the captain he said to John Henry,

"I'm gonna bring that steam drill 'round

I'm gonna bring that steam drill out on these tracks

I'm gonna knock that steel on down, God, God

Gonna knock that steel on down"

John Henry told his captain,

"Lord, man ain't nothin' but a man

Before I let that steam drill beat me down

I'm gonna die with a hammer in my hand, Lord, Lord

Die with a hammer in my hand"

Take it Christina!

John Henry driving on the right side

That steam drill driving on the left

Says, "Before I'll let your steam drill beat me down

I'm gonna hammer myself to death, Lord, Lord

I'll hammer my fool self to death"

Well, captain said to John Henry,

"What is that storm I hear?"

John Henry said, "That ain't no storm Captain,

that's just my hammer in the air, Lord, Lord

That's just my hammer in the air"

^F
John Henry said to his shaker
^{C7}
"Shaker, why don't you sing?
^F ^{F7} ^{Bb} ^{Bbm}
'Cause I'm swingin' thirty pounds from my hips on down
^F ^{C7} ^F ^{Dm}
Yeah, listen to my cold steel ring, Lord, Lord
^F ^{C7} ^F
Listen to my cold steel ring"

Come on Gunilla now!

I wanna hear that Christina too!

^F
Now John Henry, he hammered in the mountains
^{C7}
His hammer was striking fire
^F ^{F7} ^{Bb} ^{Bbm}
But he worked so hard, he broke his heart
^F ^{C7} ^F ^{Dm}
John Henry laid his hammer and died, Lord, Lord
^F ^{C7} ^F
John Henry laid down his hammer and died

^F
Well, now John Henry, he had him a woman
^{C7}
Her name was Polly Ann
^F ^{F7} ^{Bb} ^{Bbm}
She walked down to those tracks, picked up John Henry's hammer
^F ^{C7} ^F ^{Dm}
Polly drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord
^F ^{C7} ^F
Polly drove that steel like a man

Hey! Tommy! Take it!

^F
Well every, every Monday morning
^{C7}
When the bluebird he begin to sing
^F ^{F7} ^{Bb} ^{Bbm}
You can hear John Henry from a mile or more
^F ^{C7} ^F ^{Dm}
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring, Lord, Lord
^F ^{C7} ^F
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring

say it again!

^F ^{C7} ^F ^{Dm}
So you can hear John Henry's hammer ring, Lord, Lord
^F ^{C7} ^F
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring

Come on! Jamma!