**Canadian Railroad Trilogy** -Gordon Lightfoot 1967

**INTRO: / 1 2 3 4 / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] /**

There **[D]** was a time in **[G]** this fair land

When the **[D]** railroad did not **[D]** run **[D]**

When the **[F#m]** wild majestic **[G]** mountains

Stood a-**[G6]**lone against the **[Asus4]** sun **[Asus4]**

**[D]** Long before the **[G]** white man and **[D]** long before the **[D]** wheel **[D]**

When the **[D]** green dark **[A]** forest

Was too **[C]** silent to be **[D]** real **[Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [D]**

But **[D]** time has no be-**[G]**ginnings

And **[D]** history has no **[D]** bounds **[D]**

As **[F#m]** to this verdant **[G]** country

They **[G6]** came from all a-**[Asus4]**round **[Asus4]**

They **[D]** sailed upon her **[G]** waterways

And they **[D]** walked the forests **[D]** tall **[D]**

Built the **[D]** mines, mills and **[A]** factories

For the **[C]** good of us **[D]** all **[Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [D]**

And **[D]** when the young man's **[G]** fancy

Was **[D]** turnin' to the **[D]** spring **[D]**

The **[F#m]** railroad men grew **[G]** restless

For to **[G6]** hear the hammers **[Asus4]** ring **[Asus4]**

Their **[D]** minds were over-**[G]**flowing

With the **[D]** visions of their **[D]** day **[D]**

With **[D]** many a fortune **[A]** lost and won

And **[C]** many a debt to **[D]** pay **[D] / [D] / [D]↓** for…they…

**[A]** Looked in the future and **[Em]** what did they see

They saw an **[C]** iron road running from the **[D]** sea to the sea

**[A]** Bringing the goods to a **[Em]** young growing land

All **[C]** up from the seaports and **[D]** into their hands **[D]**

Look a-**[Am7]**way, said **[D]** they, a-**[Am7]**cross this mighty **[D]** land

From the **[Am7]** eastern **[D]** shore, to the **[Am7]** western **[D]** strand

**[A]** Bring in the workers and **[Em]** bring up the rails

We gotta **[C]** lay down the tracks and **[D]** tear up the trails

**[A]** Open her heart let the **[Em]** life blood flow

Gotta **[C]** get on our way 'cause we're **[D]** moving too slow

**[A]** Bring in the workers and **[Em]** bring up the rails

We gotta **[C]** lay down the tracks and **[D]** tear up the trails

**[A]** Open her heart let the **[Em]** life blood flow

Gotta **[C]** get on our way 'cause we're **[D]** moving too slow

**[C]** Get on our way 'cause we're **[Asus4]** moving too slow **<SLOW DOWN>**

**[Asus4] / [Asus4] / [A7addG]↓** **2 3 / 1 2 3**

Be-**[D]**hind the blue Rockies the **[G]** sun is de-**[A7sus4]**clining

The **[D]** stars they come **[G]** stealing at the **[E7]** close of the **[A]** day **[A7]**

**[D]** Across the wide prairie our **[G]** loved ones lie **[A7sus4]** sleeping

**[D]** Beyond the dark **[G]** ocean in a **[A]** place far a-**[D]**way **[D]**

**[D7]** We are the navvies who **[G]** work upon the **[A7sus4]** railway

**[D]** Swinging our **[G]** hammers in the **[E7]** bright blazing **[A]** sun **[A]**

**[D]** Living on stew, and **[G]** drinking bad **[A7sus4]** whiskey

**[D]** Bending our **[G]** backs ‘til the long **[A7sus4]** days are **[D]** done **[D]**

**[D7]** We are the navvies who **[G]** work upon the **[A7sus4]** railway

**[D]** Swinging our **[G]** hammers in the **[E7]** bright blazing **[A]** sun **[A]**

**[D]** Layin’ down **[D7]** track and **[G]** building the **[A7sus4]** bridges

**[D]** Bending our **[G]** backs ‘til the rail-**[A7sus4]↓**road **[A7]↓…**is

**</ 1 2 3 4 />**

**[D]** done **[Am7]** **/** **[D]** **/** **[Am7]**

So **[A]** over the mountains and **[Em]** over the plains

**[C]** Into the muskeg and **[D]** into the rain

**[A]** Up the St. Lawrence all the **[Em]** way to Gaspé

**[C]** Swinging our hammers and **[D]** drawing our pay

**[A]** Layin' 'em in and **[Em]** tyin’ them down

A-**[C]**way to the bunkhouse and **[D]** into the town

A **[A]** dollar a day and a **[Em]** place for my head

A **[C]** drink to the living, a **[A]** toast to the dead **[A7] / [A7]**

Oh the **[D]** song of the **[Am7]** future has been **[D]** sung

**[D]** All the **[Am7]** battles have been **[D]** won

**[D]** On the **[Am7]** mountain tops we **[D]** stand

**[D]** All the **[Am7]** world at our com-**[D]**mand

**[D]** We have **[Am7]** opened up her **[D]** soil

**[D]** With our **[Am7]↓** teardrops and our **[A7sus4]** toil

**[A7sus4] / [A7sus4] / [A7sus4]**

For there **[D]** was a time in **[G]** this fair land

When the **[D]** railroad did not **[D]** run **[D]**

When the **[F#m]** wild majestic **[G]** mountains

Stood a-**[G6]**lone against the **[Asus4]** sun **[Asus4]**

**[D]** Long before the **[G]** white man and **[D]** long before the **[D]** wheel **[D]**

When the **[D]** green dark **[A]** forest

Was too **[C]** silent to be **[D]** real **[D]**

When the **[D]** green dark **[A]** forest

Was too **[C]** silent to be **[D]** real **[D]**

And **[D]** many are the **[A]↓** dead men **<PAUSE>**

Too **[C]** silent **[C]/ [Cmaj7] / [Cmaj7]**

To be **[D]** real **[Am7] / [D] / [Am7] /** **[D]↓**





[www.bytownukulele.ca](http://www.bytownukulele.ca)