

## JOHN HENRY (Trad.)

Well, John Henry was a little baby\_ Sittin' on his daddy's knee\_  
He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel,\_ And cried,  
"Hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord\_  
This hammer's gonna be the death of me" \_\_

Well 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\_  
I,m gonna knock that steel on down" \_\_

John Henry told his captain,\_ "Captain, a man he 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" \_  
*(Violin!)*

John Henry was driving on the right side\_ That steam drill was 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 that 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" \_\_

[John Henry said to his shaker\_ "Shaker, why don't you sing?\_ Cause I'm swingin' thirty pounds  
from my hips on down\_ Yeah, listen to my cold steel ring, Lord, Lord\_ Listen to my cold steel  
ring"]  
*(Dragspel, Banjo!)*

Now John Henry, he hammered in the mountains\_ His hammer was striking fire\_  
But he worked so hard, it broke his heart\_  
John Henry laid down his hammer and died, Lord, Lord\_  
John Henry laid down his hammer and died\_\_

Well, now John Henry, he had him a woman\_ By the name of Polly Ann\_  
She walked down to those tracks, picked up John Henry's hammer\_  
Polly drove that steel like a man, Lord, Lord\_  
Polly drove that steel like a man\_

Well every, every Monday morning\_ When a blue bird he began to sing\_  
You can hear John Henry from a mile or more\_  
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring, Lord, Lord\_  
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring\_  
So you can hear John Henry's hammer ring, Lord, Lord\_  
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring\_

*(From a true story of man versus machine combat, which occurred during the building of Eastern  
railroads in the late 19th century. Läs mer om John Henry:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Henry\\_\(folklore\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Henry_(folklore)))*