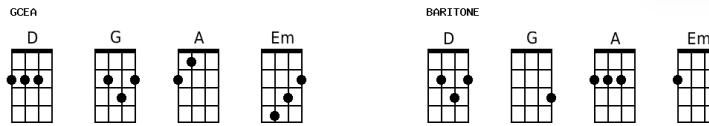


THE GAMBLER by Kenny Rogers



[D] [D]

On a [D] warm summer's evening on a [G] train bound for [D] nowhere
I met up with a gambler; we were both too tired to [A] sleep.
So [D] we took turns a-starin' out the [G] window at the [D] darkness
'Til [G] boredom over [D] took us, and [A] he began to [D] speak.

He said, [D] "Son, I've made a life out of [G] readin' people's [D] faces,
And knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their [A] eyes.
So if [D] you don't mind my sayin', I can [G] see you're out of [D] aces
For a [G] taste of your [D] whiskey, I'll [A] give you some [D] advice." [D]

So I [D] handed him my bottle, and he [G] drank down my last [D] swallow.
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a [A] light.
And the [D] night got deathly quiet, and his [G] face lost all ex[D]pression.
Said, "If you're [G] gonna play the [D] game, boy, you gotta [A] learn to play it [D] right.

You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] Know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D//] count [Em//] your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table,
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D] done. [D]

[D] Every gambler knows that the [G] secret to surv[D]ivin'
Is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to [A] keep
'Cause [D] every hand's a winner and [G] every hand's a [D] loser,
And the [G] best that you can [D] hope for is to [A] die in your [D] sleep.

And [D] when he'd finished speakin', he [G] turned back toward the [D] window,
Crushed out his cigarette and faded off to [A] sleep.
And [D/] somewhere in the darkness the [G/] gambler, he broke [D/] even.
[G/] In his final [D/] words I found an [A] ace that I could [D] keep.

You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] Know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D//] count [Em//] your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table,
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D] done.

You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] Know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D//] count [Em//] your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table,
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D-Hold] done