

## OL' MAN RIVER (by Hammerstein and Kern, from *Showboat*)

**C** **C** **C** **F**  
1. Colored folks work 'long the Mississippi,  
**C** **C** **Am** **G**  
Colored folks work while de white folk play.  
**C** **C** **C** **F**  
Pullin' dose boats from de dawn till sunset,  
**C** **Am7** **D7--G7** **C**  
gittin' no rest till de judgment day.  
**Em** **Am6** **Em** **Am6**  
Don't look up an' don't look down,  
**Em** **Am6** **Em** **Am6**  
you don't dast make de white boss frown.  
**Em** **Cdim7** **Em** **Cdim7**  
Bend yo' knees and bow yo' head,  
**Em** **F#m7** **Em** **Dm7--G7**  
and pull dat rope until yo're dead.

**C7** **C7** **C7** **F**  
2. Let me go 'way from de Mississippi,  
**A7** **A7** **A7** **Dm**  
let me go 'way from de white men boss.  
**F#dim7** **F#dim7** **F#dim7** **C**  
Show me dat stream called de River Jordan,  
**Bb7** **Bb7** **G7** **C** **G7** **G7**  
dat's the old stream dat I long to cross.

**C** **Am** **C** **F**  
*Ol' Man River, dat Ol' Man River,*  
**C** **F** **C** **Am**  
*he must know sump-in' but don't say nothin',*  
**G** **G7** **Dm7** **G7** **C** **Dm7** **C** **C**  
*he jus' keeps rollin', he keeps on rollin' along.*  
**C** **Am** **C** **F**  
*He don't plant 'taters, and he don't plant cotton,*  
**C** **Am** **C** **Cdim7**  
*and dem dat plants 'em, are soon forgotten*  
**G7** **Dm7** **Dm7** **G7** **C** **F** **C** **Am--B7**  
*But Ol' Man River, he jus' keeps rollin' along.*

Em B7 Em B7  
 3. You an' me, we sweat an' strain,  
 Em6 Cdim7 Em B7  
 body all achin' an' racked wid pain.  
 Em Cdim7 Em Cdim7  
 "Tote dat barge" an' "lift dat bale,"  
 Em Cdim7 Em Dm—G7  
 you get a little drunk an' you lands in jail.

C Am C F  
 Ah gits weary, an' sick of tryin',  
 C G7 Am D7  
 Ah'm tired of livin', an' skeered of dyin',  
 C Am Dm7 G7 C Fm C Dm7—G7  
 but Ol' Man River, he jus' keeps rollin' along.  
 C F G7 C  
 along