

# American Dreaming – Dead Can Dance

May 29, 2025, 9:19 AM

**Key:** **Notes:** For the verses, take the C/G shape and then slide it up two frets, to form the D/A shape. Repeat this over and over throughout the song.  
For the Chorus do the reverse. D/A = Dadd4add9/A

[Intro]

C/G – Cmaj7/G – D – Dsus4

[Verse 1]

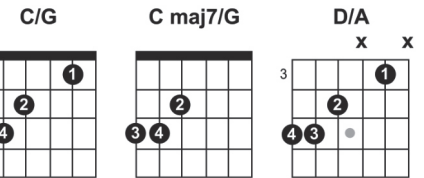
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
I need my conscience to keep watch over me  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
To protect me from myself  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
So I can wear honesty like a crown on my head  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
When I walk into the promised land  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
We've been too long American dreaming  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
I think we've all lost the way  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
For- lon som- nambulistic  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
mania- cal in the dark

[Verse 2]

C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
I'm in love with an American girl  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
Well she's my best friend  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
I love her surreptitious smile  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
That hides the pain within her

[Verse 3]

C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
And we'll go dancing in rings of laughter  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
The Nibelung by the shores  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
Fear long in the bounds of raptures  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
And even long for the loss



[Chorus]

D/A Cmaj7/G C/G Cmaj7/G C/G  
Yea-- on a lea the rising wind blows  
D/A Cmaj7/G C/G Cmaj7/G C/G  
Fea-- on a lea the rising wind blows How long How long?

[Solo]

C/G – Cmaj7/G – D/A

[Verse 4]

C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
Fear long in the grounds of allegian-  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
ces we left behind  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
Turn - ban by the foot of the doorway  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
Never lost and found  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
We've been too long American dreaming  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
I think we've all lost the heart  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
Fear long som- nambulistic  
C/G Cmaj7/G D/A  
maniacal in the dark

[Outro]

D/A Cmaj7/G C/G Cmaj7/G C/G  
Yea-- on a lea the rising wind blows  
D/A Cmaj7/G C/G Cmaj7/G C/G  
Fea-- on a lea the rising wind blows How long How long?

\***Nibelung** are "the children of the mist," a race of demonic or dwarf like beings, the original possessors of the famous ring won by Siegfried in "The Ring of the Nibelung." - any of a race of dwarfs who possessed a treasure captured by Siegfried.)

"Forlorn somnambulistic maniacal in the dark"

**Forlorn** – to lose utterly, abandoned or deserted , in pitiful condition; wretched; miserable or deserted; bereft or deprived

**Somnambulistic** (sām,nambya'listik) - Sleepwalking - The act of walking or performing another activity associated with wakefulness while asleep or in a sleep like state. Also called somnambulism.

**Maniacal** - Suggestive of or afflicted with insanity: a maniacal frenzy. Characterized by excessive enthusiasm or excitement: a maniacal interest in gambling.

**Lea** - a tract of open ground, esp. grassland; meadow land used for a few years for pasture or for growing hay, then plowed over and replaced by another crop; a crop of hay on tillable land.