

(D) D G D
The first thing I remember knowin' was a lonesome whistle blowin'

D G A7
And a young-un's dream of growing up to ride

D G D G
On a freight train leaving town, not knowing where I'm bound

D A7 D
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

D G D G
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild

D G A7
My Mama seemed to know what lay in store

D G D G
'Spite of all my Sunday learnin', toward the bad I kept on turnin'

D A7 D
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

D G D
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole

Bm A7
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried

D G D
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,
A7 D
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

D G D G
Dear old Daddy, rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load

D G A7
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes

D G D G
Working hours without rest, wanted me to have the best:

D A7 D
She tried to raise me right, but I refused

D G D
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole

Bm A7
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried

D G D
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,

A7 D
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

Mama Tried



Merle Haggard

Merle Haggard accepted the prestigious award for lifetime achievement and "outstanding contribution to American culture" from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on December 4, 2010. Then at a December 5, 2010 gala in Washington, D.C. he was honored with musical performances of his songs by Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Vince Gill, Jamey Johnson, Kid Rock, Miranda Lambert and Brad Paisley.

