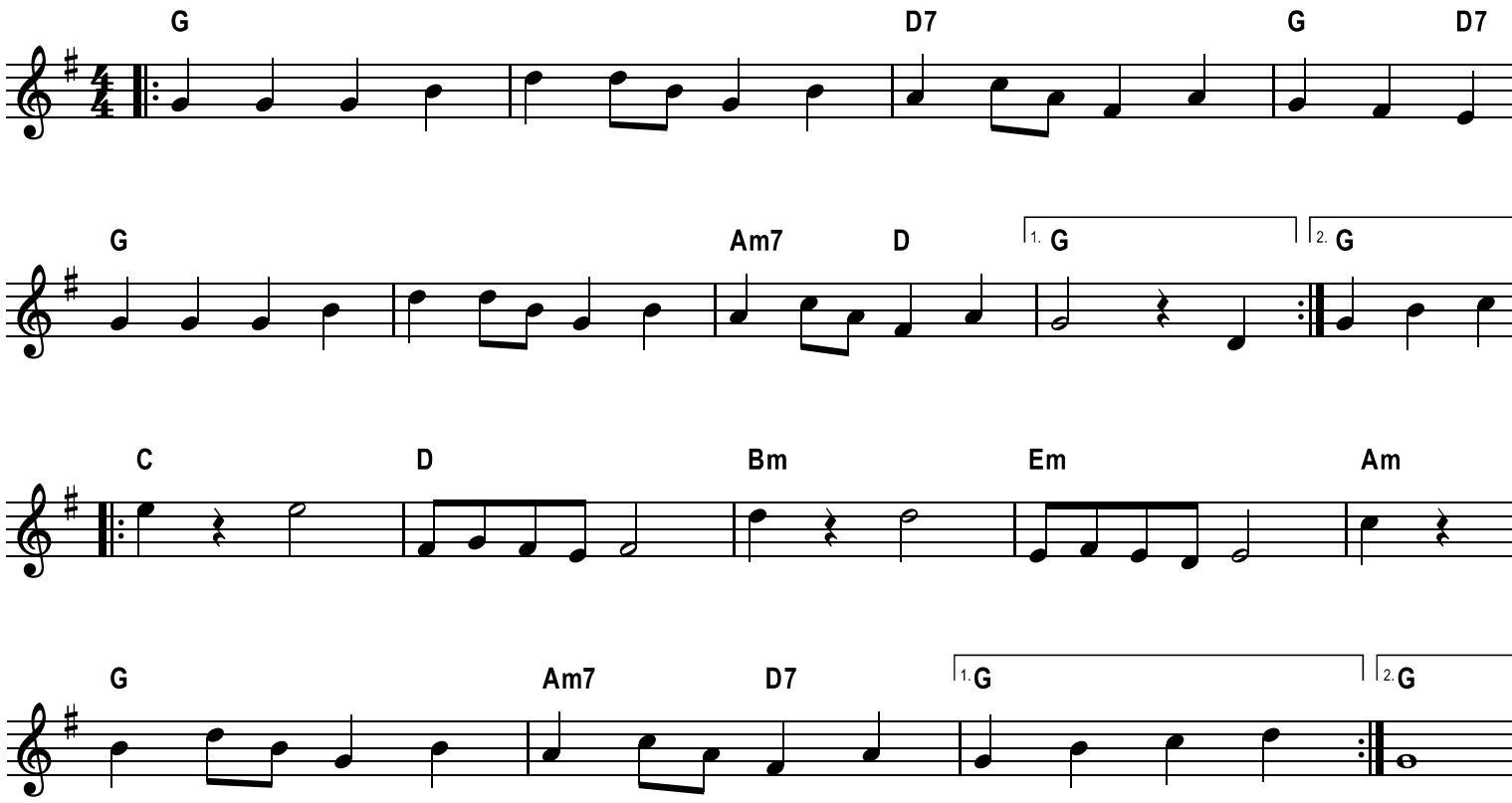The National Plague