Spirit in the Sky – 1969
Norman Greenbaum

4/4  G  G - D (2X)
G                                    /                    /                              C
    When I die and they lay me to rest, gonna go to the place that’s
C                                 G                             D
    best. When they lay me down to die, goin’ on up to the spirit in the
G
    sky.

Chorus:  G                                    /                    /
    Goin’ on up to the spirit in the sky. That’s where I’m gonna
C            /                                   G
    go, when I die. When I die and they lay me to rest, I’m gonna
D                                      G    G - D  G  G - D
    go to the place that’s the best.

G                                    /                    /                    /
    Prepare yourself, you know it’s a must, gotta have a friend in
C    /                                G                                     D
    Jesus. So you know that when you die, it’s gonna recommend
G
    you to the spirit in the sky.

Chorus:  G                                    /                    /
    Gonna recommend you to the spirit in the sky. That’s where
C              /                                   G
    I’m gonna go, when I die. When I die and they lay me to rest,
D                                      G    G - D  G  G - D
    I’m gonna go to the place that’s the best.
Spirit in the Sky (cont.)

G       /       /       
Never been a sinner, I’ve never sinned, I’ve got a friend in
C       /                                G                                          D
Jesus. So you know that when I die, it’s gonna set me up with the
G
spirit in the sky.

Chorus:  G       /       /       
Gonna set me up to the spirit in the sky. That’s where I’m
C       /                                G
gonna go, when I die. When I die and they lay me to rest,
D                                      G    G - D G G - D
I’m gonna go to the place that’s the best.

Norman Greenbaum formed Dr. West's Medicine Show and Junk Band, in 1965 and had
novelty song called "The Eggplant That Ate Chicago."

Spirit in the Sky was influenced by Porter Wagoner, He’d wear these snazzy coats that he’d
got from Nudie’s in North Hollywood and had a big pompadour. And he was kind of interesting.
He had a show on TV and I’d watch it. One day he’s singing this song about a preacher and I
said, ’Wow, that’s a little out of my league to write about preachers and stuff, but I can do it.’
And that’s what I did."

The lyrics took 15 minutes to write. But his lack of knowledge about an essential component of
Christianity -- that everybody is born a sinner -- caused some controversy with the song’s third
verse.