Red Right Ankle

Words & Music:
Colin Meloy (The Decemberists)

This is transcribed in the August 2007 issue of Acoustic Guitar. This version in G is correct.
Ideally, you want to keep the D going as a drone in all the G & Em chords by keeping a finger on the 3rd fret of the B string.

G/F#   G    G/F#   G

G/F#   G    G/F#   G
This is the story of your red right ankle, and how it came to meet your leg
And how the muscle bone and sinews tangled, and how the skin was softly shed
Em    A    Em7    A   Asus4   A
And how it whispered, "Oh, adhere to me, for we are bound by symmetry.
Em7   A   Asus4   D    G    G/F#
And whatever differences our lives have been--, we together make a limb"
Em7   A    G/F#   G    G/F#   G
This is the story of your red right ankle

This is the story of your gypsy uncle, you never knew cause he was dead
And how his face was carved and ripped wrinkles, in the picture in your head
And remember how you found the key, to his hideout in the Pyrenees
But you wanted to keep his secret safe, so you threw the key away
This is the story of your gypsy uncle

INTERLUDE:  Em7   Em9   A   Asus4   A   Em   Em9   Em   A   Asus2/4   A   A6   A

This is the story of the boys who loved you, who love you now & loved you then
And some were sweet and some were cold and snuffed you, and some just laid around in bed
And had crumbled you straight to your knees, did it cruel did it tenderly
And some had crawled their way into your heart, to rend your ventricles apart
This is the story of the boys who loved you

OUTRO:

Bm11  G/A  G    G/F#

Em7    A    D
This is the story of your red right ankle