

## Songs of remembrance and spirit RC 2020

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### Ashes on the Sea

*by Utah Phillips*

What is this tune I hear repeating  
Sprung from the careless seed you've sown  
Our songs will come and go like seasons  
And bloom or fade all on their own.

Now, I know I will not find you  
You'r gone from all but memory  
For I am told that one who loves you  
Has strewn your ashes on the sea.

I stepped outside for just a moment  
To turn around and look on my own face  
Who was that shadow just behind me  
That old man I reach out to embrace

It's one thing to look upon a picture  
Another still to read the pages through  
Perhaps to search along the wayside  
Hoping I might find a trace of you.

Your dust cloud still drifts across the foot prints  
Your best friend still standing there alone  
You boxcars still keep the lovers parted  
Your little boys still run away from home..

What is this tune you hear repeating  
Sprung from the careless seed I've sown  
Our songs will come and go like seasons  
And bloom or fade all on their own

## Ashoken Farewell

*Music: Jay Unger -- Lyrics: Grian Mcgregor*

*The sun is sinking low in the sky above Ashokan.  
The pines and the willows know soon we will part.  
There's a whisper in the wind of promises unspoken,  
And a love that will always remain in my heart.*

*My thoughts will return to the sound of your laughter,  
The magic of moving as one,  
And a time we'll remember long ever after  
The moonlight and music and dancing are done.*

*Will we climb the hills once more?  
Will we walk the woods together?*

## Who Will Sing for Me?

*(Carter Stanley third verse John McCutcheon?)*

*1. Oft I sing for my friends,  
When this cold form I see  
When I reach my journey's end  
Tell me who will sing for me*

*Chorus:*

*I wonder who  
(I wonder who)  
Will sing for me (will sing for me)  
When I come to the cross by the silent sea,  
Tell me who will sing for me*

*2. When friends have gathered 'round  
And look down on me  
Will they turn and walk away  
Or will they sing one song for me*

*3. So I'll sing until the end  
And helpful try to be  
Ever knowing there'll be some  
Who will sing one song for me*

## Other Ideas

Common Thread – Pat Humphries

Blessed – Lui Collins

Here is my Home – Si Kahn

The Music of Healing – Tommy Sands

Safe In the Harbor – Eric Bogle

Sara Tucholsky – John McCutcheon

So will We Yet – Trad

When all thy names are one – Bob Zentz

All I want is a garden – Joe Jenks

Swimming to the other side – Pat Humphries

Like a ship – Chris Williamson

Shine the light – Bruce Baker

I'm gonna walk it with you – Clafin and Grace

Lady of the Harbor – Joe Jencks

*The hearts are the ones who inherit your lives  
And rest in the truth you have spoken.  
Memory will echo the trust that you kept  
And like you, it will never be broken.*

### Who Will Watch the Home Place

Kate Long <https://youtu.be/r1wb1TAfFMY>

*Leaves are falling and turning in showers of gold  
As the postman climbs up our long hill  
And there's sympathy written all over his face  
As he hands me a couple more bills.*

*Who will watch the home place  
Who will tend my heart's dear space  
Who will fill my empty place  
When I am gone from here?*

*There's a lovely green knoll by a clear running stream  
It was my place when I was quite small  
And it's creatures and sounds could soothe my worst pains  
But today they don't ease me at all.*

*In my grandfather's shed there are hundreds of tools  
I know them by feel and by name  
And like parts of my body they've patched this old place  
When I move them they won't be the same.*

*Now I wander around touching each blessed thing  
The chimney, the table, the trees  
And my memories swirl 'round me like birds on the wing  
When I leave here, oh who will I be?*

(Verse)  
G G C G / G G D7 D7  
G G G C / Am Am D7 D7

(Chorus)  
G Am G G / C C Am D7  
G Am G C / G D7 G G

*Will I feel you holding me close once again?  
Will every song we've sung stay with us forever?  
Will you dance in my dreams or my arms until then?*

*Under the moon the mountains lie sleeping  
Over the lake the stars shine.  
They wonder if you and I will be keeping  
The magic and music, or leave them behind.*

*Will we climb the hills once more?  
Will we walk the woods together?  
Will I feel you holding me close once again?  
Will every song we've sung stay with us forever?  
Will you dance in my dreams or my arms until then?*

*My thoughts will return to the sound of your laughter,  
The magic of moving as one,  
And a time we'll remember long ever after  
The moonlight and music and dancing are done.*

### At the Moment

words and music by John McCutcheon

*At the moment they brought me the message  
I was oceans and hours away  
Wondering what I was doing  
The moment that you slipped away*

*At the moment I'm looking out windows  
At a night that hold only one star  
In the morning it's gone but I know it's still  
Shining afar*

*At the moment we raised up our voices  
And a bit of our soul was set free  
I'm still humbled and awed by the beauty  
Of the small part of you that's in me*

*We laughed and we danced on the table  
And confounded the silence with song  
In the dark of this night still it echoes so brightly  
And strong*

I don't look for reward ever after  
For I hold this life much too dear  
From what I can tell both heaven and hell  
We create in abundance right here

When the fire that burned is but ashes  
And the stories have all been retold  
The heat and the light will sustain us  
Long after the hearth has grown cold

And grief has a place at the table  
For it's part of what we are made of  
And it'll stay long enough to remind us its mother  
Is love

At the moment our lives become memory  
And all of our dreaming is done  
We shed what it is makes us different  
And we don what it is makes us one

What is memory but time rendered timeless  
Some small proof we each live anew  
I refuse to surrender that small part of me  
That is you

Some mark their days by the hours  
Some mark their days by the signs  
Me? I look to that star and where ever we are  
We will shine

## Blessing

Donna Hébert Sung by Lui Collins

May the Eastern breezes bless you  
Lift your spirits make them fly  
May the Southern sun shine on you  
Warm your heart and help you try

May the western waters cleanse you  
Washing over all you feel  
Northern Earth be yours to stand in  
Ground you so you know what's real

And around, and around and around went the big sails  
Turning the shafts of the great wooden wheels  
Creaking and groaning, the windmills kept turning  
Grinding to flour, the good corn from the fields

In Lancashire lads went to work on the good earth  
Plowing and sowing as the seasons declare  
Working to reap of the rich golden harvest  
While the miller, he idles his mill to repair

In Flanders and Spain, and the lowlands of Holland  
In the kingdoms of Scotland, and in Wales  
Windmills grew up all along the wild coastline  
Ships of the land with their high wooden sails

Windmills of old wood, all blackened by weather  
Windmills of stone, gleaming white in the sun  
Windmills, like giants, all ready for tilting  
Windmills that died in the gales of eregone

## What Will I Leave Behind

(Si Kahn)

*Late in the evening as light slips away  
And we silently gather together  
Searching the faces of those who are here  
For the ones who have left us forever*

*What will I leave, what will I leave?  
What will I leave behind?  
When I am gone, who'll carry on?  
What will I leave behind?*

*Who will remember the words of the brave  
Who have lifted us higher and higher?  
Who will remember the lives they have paid  
For a time lived too close to the fire?*

*Where are the one who caught flame in the night  
Warmed by the fires of devotion?  
Who measure their lives by the truth in the light  
They are burning like lamps on the ocean.*

## Trust the River

Cathy Ross 2004 -- [Link](#)

*You ask me what I've learned in life  
I don't know what to say  
You'd think by now I'd have the sense  
Of how to find the way  
I've learned so very little  
But one thing is for sure  
I know that you can always  
Trust the river*

*Trust the river as it flows  
To take you where it goes  
Later you will know  
It was where you meant to go  
Trust the river as it winds  
Down the waterfalls of time  
Leaving yesterday behind  
Trust the river*

*You say you're asking for advice  
But I have none to give  
I cannot tell you what to do  
Or show you how to live  
But when life keeps you waiting  
For what you're dreaming of  
Remember you can never  
Push the river*

*You ask me to explain it all  
I don't know where to start  
The only think that I can say  
Is listen to your heart  
And when life rushes forward  
So fast you're swept away  
Remember you cannot  
Hold back the river*

## Windmills

Alan Bell

*In days gone by, when the world was much younger  
Men harnessed the wind for to work for mankind  
Seamen built tall ships to sail the wide ocean  
While landsmen built sails for the corn for to grind*

*Overall be strength and beauty  
Food and friends and music fine  
Work you love and pleasant duty  
Love to make your spirit shine*

*All of these I wish upon you  
Multiply them three times three  
Draw a circle all around you  
And forever blessed be.*

## Come On, England! (Merry Hell)

*Many miles I have wandered, on the paths of my homeland  
By rivers, through woodland, and by the sea side  
On streets I have seen those with greed and hate in their eyes  
And those with their hearts and their hands open wide*

*All my life has been blessed by its thunderstorm summer times  
By misty gold autumns, by fires in the snow  
By Rainbows, by bluebells, by radiant spring times  
In the wild windy meadows, where the dandelions blow*

*There are some who would change this fair home to a prison  
To enslave the many, and bow to the few  
The robbers, the racists, the breakers of faces  
Who hide behind masks and the red white and blue*

*So stand up, come on England, live up to your history  
Your heart can't be held in a flag or a crown  
Raise your tea cups and glasses, you bold lads and lasses  
And drink to the spirit that will never lie down*

*For I come from the land of the diggers and levellers  
The fighters for freedom and our national health  
The beaten mistreated but never defeated  
The builders and guardians of the true commonwealth*

*Only lovin' can save us, only givin' will raise us  
So welcome all travellers to sweet liberty  
And raise all your voices to defend our democracy  
For equality, justice, and community*

*So stand up, come on England, live up to your history  
Your heart can't be held in a flag or a crown  
Raise your teacups and glasses, you bold lads and lasses*

*And drink to the spirit that will never lie down*

**(bridge)**

If you see me fallin' down, and you stop to lend a hand  
What goes around comes round, and round and round

If you run to a neighbor for help  
That don't mean you can't do it for yourself  
It just means that your neighbor will know  
When he needs help he'll know where to go.

If we understood that the heart's the one true power  
And that nothin' that we see is really ours  
From a satellite we all look like one  
I think our world's turn may finally have come.

Stone by stone

John McCutcheon "What its Like" 1990

I am just a plumber, and I take pride in my job  
I know every inch of piping underneath the streets of Prague  
Now overhead I hear the tread one hundred thousand strong  
Like the water's will they cannot still this power that moves us on

One by One (One by One), side by side (Side by Side)  
We will stand and face the fire  
There's no turning back this tide  
Stone by stone (Stone by Stone), day by day (Day by Day)  
We will make the great walls crumble  
And the borders fade away

I am just a mother, two children, six and four  
And I grew up in the shadow of the Wall, and of the war  
From our mothers to our daughters, we'll pass this torch one day  
We praise the names who fan the flames, and in one voice we say:

I was just a student and, like students everywhere  
We dreams great dreams together as we gathered in the square  
Though their tanks might break our bodies, we'll one day break these chains  
The streets of blood, like freedom's flood, is surging through our veins

I hear the distant thunder that rages o'er the sea  
And I watched in awe and wonder, "What's this got to do with me?"  
As we hear the cries for freedom rise from cities far and near  
From great to least in West and East, we join their voices here

So hand and hand together, we help each other carry  
The light of peace that's within in us everyday  
We can learn to live it, just walk the talk and give it  
That world of peace won't be so far away

### Song of the Soul (Chris Williamson)

*Open mine eyes that I may see  
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me  
Open mine eyes, illumine me  
Spirit divine*

*"Love of my life!" I am crying  
I am not dying, I am dancing  
Dancing along in the madness  
There is no sadness, only a song of the soul*

*And we'll sing this song, why don't you sing along?  
And we can sing for a long, long time (repeat entire chorus)*

*What do you do for your living?  
Are you forgiving, giving shelter?  
Follow your heart, love will find you  
Truth will unbind you, sing out a song of the soul....*

*Come to your life like a warrior  
Nothing will bore you, you can be happy  
Let a light in, it will heal you  
And you can feel you, sing out a song of the soul....*

### Step by Step

Chuck Pyle

There's an old ancient saying in the wind  
"One must only take the first step to begin"  
You're on your way, then you've done the hardest part  
Now make your journey with a generous heart.

Step by step, side by side  
Hand in hand this old world's a better ride  
Step by step, side by side  
Take a little step with your neighbor side by side.

When we've stumbled and broken our stride  
Wearin' out on our boots our foolish pride  
Gonna put on our brand-new running shoes  
And run a race which no one can really lose.

*So stand up, come on England, live up to your history  
Your heart can't be held in a flag or a crown  
Raise your teacups and glasses, you bold lads and lasses  
And drink to the spirit that will never lie down  
And drink to the spirit that will never lie down*

### Common Thread

*Pat Humphries*

In a many colored garden we are rising side by side,  
We will rise all together, we will rise.  
With the sun and rain upon us, not a row will be denied,  
We will rise all together, we will rise.

### Chorus

*We will rise like the ocean, we will rise like the sun.  
We will rise all together, we will rise.*

*•In our many colored fabrics, made from strands of common thread•  
We will rise all together, we will rise.*

We can feed our grain to cattle and the rich man will be fed.  
We will rise all together, we will rise.  
Or we'll feed our grain to people so that millions will have bread.  
We will rise all together, we will rise.

### Chorus

*•No more will there be hunger in these strands of common thread.•*

We'll defy the threat of violence, we'll no longer live in fright.  
We will rise all together, we will rise.  
With our arms around our neighbors we will walk into the light.  
We will rise all together, we will rise.

### Chorus

*•We will weave a freedom fabric from these strands of common thread.•*

From our children to our aged, we will rise, we will rise.  
We will rise from all nations, we will rise.  
We will build a global family made from strands of common thread.  
We will rise all together, we will rise.

### Chorus

*•We will build a global family strengthened by our common threads.•*

I've been to the city and back again  
I've been moved by some things that I've learned  
Met a lot of good people and I called them friends  
Felt the change when the seasons turned

I heard all the songs that the children sing  
And listened to love's melodies  
I've felt my own music within me rise  
Like the wind in the autumn trees.

Someday when the flowers are blooming still  
Someday when the grass is still green  
My rolling waters will round me bend  
And flow into the open sea

So here's to the rainbow that followed me here  
And here's to the friends that I know  
And here's to the song that's within me now  
I will sing it where'er I go.

Chorus Counterpoint by Bruce Baker. Rainy Camp 1998  
Rivulets and waterfalls are laughing as they twine together, and  
Laughing as they roll along and run into the sea  
Laughing rolling running freely and winding and free  
You laughing rolling running river  
You changing rolling old river  
Let's Go, you and me river, run down to the sea

### Singing through the Hard Times

Utah Phillips

Sometimes our living gets so dark and lonesome  
It seems like there's nothing we can do  
So we reach out to each other, raise a song together  
Let our voices carry us through

*We are singing through the hard times, singing through the hard times  
Working for the good times to come  
We are singing through the hard times, singing through the hard times  
Working for the good times to come*

And when the war clouds gather  
It's so easy to get angry and just as hard not to be afraid  
But you know in you know in your own heart  
No matter what happens  
You just cannot turn your back and walk away



## Parting Song

(Dave Webber)

Soon the morning sun will rise,  
And dawn will bathe the sky.  
There's time for just this parting song,  
Before we say goodbye.

So sing together one and all,  
And raise a glass of wine,  
Here's hoping we will meet again,  
Along the road of time.

We've shared our stories, yours and mine,  
We've shared our hopes and fears.  
With memories of distant youth,  
We've both rolled back the years.

The ever-turning, fateful wheel,  
Must cause our ways to part.  
And bringing untold mysteries,  
Another day will start.

For from endings come beginnings,  
From the old shall come the new,  
With hopes for tomorrow,  
We'll see our parting through

## RIVER (Bill Staines)

I was born in the path of the winter wind  
And raised where the mountains are old  
The springtime waters came dancing down  
And I remember the tales they told

The whistling ways of my younger days  
Too quickly have faded on by  
But all of their memories linger on  
Like the light of a fading sky.

*River, take me along,  
In your sunshine, sing me your song  
Ever moving and winding and free  
You rolling old river, you changing old river  
Let's you and me river run down to the sea!*

## CROSSING THE BAR

(based on the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson)

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

*When I put out to sea,  
When I put out to sea,  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea.*

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound or foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

*Turns again home,  
Turns again home,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.*

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell;  
When I embark;

*When I embark,  
When I embark,  
And may there be no sadness of farewell;  
When I embark.*

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

*When I have crossed the bar,  
When I have crossed the bar,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.*

## Everything Possible (Fred Small)

We have cleared off the table, the leftovers saved,  
Washed the dishes and put them away  
I have told you a story and tucked you in tight  
At the end of your knockabout day  
As the moon sets its sails to carry you to sleep  
Over the midnight sea  
I will sing you a song no one sang to me  
May it keep you good company.

You can be anybody you want to be,  
You can love whomever you will  
You can travel any country where your heart leads  
And know I will love you still  
You can live by yourself, you can gather friends around,  
You can choose one special one  
And the only measure of your words and your deeds  
Will be the love you leave behind when you're done.

There are girls who grow up strong and bold  
There are boys quiet and kind  
Some race on ahead, some follow behind  
Some go in their own way and time  
Some women love women, some men love men  
Some raise children, some never do  
You can dream all the day never reaching the end  
Of everything possible for you.

Don't be rattled by names, by taunts, by games  
But seek out spirits true  
If you give your friends the best part of yourself  
They will give the same back to you.

## Gift of the Sea – Bill Gallaher

Oh Jim was a dreamer, a deep water sailor  
Slim as a bunt line and spare as a breeze  
He filled my head up with songs about whalers  
And tales of the South China Sea

We'd walk down the Quay, old Jim and me  
While the moon sailed a quicksilver sea  
With me just an aimless and foolish young man  
And Jim all the things I could be

Keep in mind that I love you, keep in mind that I care,  
Though the world that's moving round you may bring grief and despair.  
When you find yourself alone amidst the city's push and shove,  
Don't be discouraged, keep in mind that you are loved.

We'll be parting in a day or so to go our separate ways,  
And I don't expect we'll meet again for many's the sad long day.  
But I hope you won't be lonely, and you'll never lack for friends,  
And may each and every one of them be true as I have been.

Sometimes this crazy world can make you feel you have no place,  
And that there's no one on this earth who's glad to see your face.  
But those who do not know you well are the poorer by far,  
So remember there are those of us who know how good you are.

chorus (twice, but substitute this for the last line the second time)  
May it ever be a blessing, keep in mind that you are loved.

## Last Trip Home

The Battlefield Band's latest. CD "Leaving Friday Harbour"

A've ay worked on farms and fae the the start the muckle horses won ma heart,  
Wi' their big broad backs they proudly stand, the uncrowned kings o a' the land,  
An' yet for a' their power and strength, they're as gentle as a summer's wind.

So steady boys walk on, oor work is nearly done,  
No more we'll till or plough the fields, the horses' day is gone,  
An'this will be oor last trip home, so steady boys walk on.

You'll hear men sing their songs of praise, of Arab stallions in a race,  
Or Hunters that fly wi' the hounds, to chase the fox and run him down,  
But none o' them compare I vow, tae a workin' pair that pulls the plough.

Aw the years I've plied ma trade, an aw the fields we've ploughed and laid,  
I never thought I'd see the time when a Clydesdale's work wid ever end,  
But progress runs its driven course noo tractors hae replaced ma horse.

As we head back our friends have lined the road tae see us one last time,  
Not one o' them will want tae miss, the chance tae see us pass like this,  
They'll say they saw in years tae come, the muckle horses' last trip home.

D C G  
 No matter how hard I try  
 D C G  
 No matter how many tears I cry  
 D Em D Em/C#  
 No matter how many years go by  
 C D C Em D/F# G Em D/F#  
 I still can't say good-bye

G D C D G D Bm C  
 He always took care of Mom and me. We all cut down a Christmas tree  
 G D C Dsus4 D Em D/F# G  
 He always had some time for me

C D Em Em/D  
 Wind blows through the trees  
 C D Gmaj7  
 Street lights, they still shine bright  
 C D Em Em/D  
 Most things are the same  
 Em/C# C Dsus4 D  
 but I miss my Dad to-night

G D C D G D Bm C  
 I walked by a Salvation Army store Saw a hat like my daddy wore  
 G D C Dsus4 D Em D/F# G  
 Tried it on when I walked in Still trying to be like him

D C G  
 No matter how hard I try  
 D C G  
 No matter how many years go by  
 D Em D Em/C#  
 No matter how many tears I cry  
 C D C Em D/F# G Em D/F# G  
 I still can't say good-bye

### Keep in Mind (That I Love You)

*Jane Voss, 1972*

What are friends for, but to let you know you're treasured in some heart?  
 And to bring you thoughts of pleasure when you are far apart.  
 And to keep you ever mindful of the happiness you give,  
 Make your way a little lighter, bring you roses while you live.

The sea was his life, he knew all of his vices  
 lost count of the times that he sailed round the horn  
 The ports in the far east for tea and for spices  
 and all this before I was born

He'd chase down the whales through the ice and the gales  
 When he sailed the cold Kamchatka sea  
 Though I was an aimless and foolish young man  
 I remember what Jim said to me

You can worry like some that your ship might go down  
 But there's more ways than one that a man has to drown  
 He can drown in his troubles and fears  
 Drown in his sorrows and tears

Oh Jim is long gone now, he's hauled up his anchor  
 Sails by the wind out on some starry sea  
 But I still hear him say as he nods his head seaward  
 "How dare even poor men are free"

Now sometimes at night when the moon's on the rise,  
 And I'm anchored in some island's lee  
 I think of old Jim and the times we shared  
 When he gave me the gift of the sea

You can worry like some that your ship might go down  
 But there's more ways than one that a man has to drown  
 He can drown in his troubles and fears  
 Drown in his sorrows and tears

Oh Jim was a dreamer, a deep water sailor  
 Slim as a bunt line and spare as a breeze  
 He filled my head up with songs about whalers  
 And tales of the South China Sea

Now sometimes at night when the moon's on the rise,  
 And I'm anchored in some island's lee  
 I think of old Jim and the times we shared  
 When he gave me the gift of the sea

## How Beautiful upon the Mountain

By Tom Paxton ©2007 Pax Music, ASCAP

### CHORUS:

How beautiful upon the mountain,  
Are the steps of those who walk in peace!  
How beautiful upon the mountain,  
Are the steps of those who walk in peace!

'Cross the bridge at Selma you came marching side by side,  
In your eyes, a new world on the way.  
Peace was in your hearts and justice would not be denied,  
You sang "We Shall Overcome someday."  
God knows the courage you possessed,  
And Isaiah said it best: (to chorus)

Marching 'round the White House,  
Marching 'round the Pentagon,  
Marching 'round the mighty missile plants,  
Speaking truth to power, singing peace to Babylon,  
Asking us, Why not give peace a chance?  
God knows the courage you possessed,  
And Isaiah said it best: (to chorus)

Now the generations that have joined you on this road,  
Look to you with power in their eyes.  
Showing you the torch has passed as they pick up the load,  
Showing you their eyes are on the prize.  
God knows the courage they possess,  
And Isaiah said it best: (to chorus)

## Give Light

(Greg Artzner – Magpie)

**Give light**, and people will find a way -3x  
People will find a way I do believe

Teach Peace...

Stand together...

Give Love...

Give Light...

## I Believe In You

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G D G  
Singers can move mountains  
G Am D  
Live as if it's true  
G C  
Lifting voices, lifting stones  
G D G  
I believe in you.  
G  
I believe in you  
G Am D  
I believe in you  
G G C  
We believe in music and  
G D G  
I believe in you

Black and white, rich and poor...  
Courage to unbar each door

Every song a seed we've sown  
Feed the stranger as our own

Let the harmony unfold  
A home for every homeless soul

All the strength we need is here  
For every heart, a listening ear

Bathe your broken heart with tears  
Sing until the whole world hears

## I Still Cant Say Goodbye *by Chet Atkins*

G D C D G D Bm C  
When I was young, my Dad would say Come on Son let's go out and play  
G D C Dsus4 D, Em D/F# G C D  
Sometimes it seems like yesterday  
G D C D G D Bm C  
And I'd climb up the closet shelf When I was all by my-self  
G D C Dsus4 D Em D/F# G  
Grab his hat and fix the brim Pretending I was him