

The Rare Ould Times

"The Rare Ould Times" est une chanson composée par Pete St. John dans les années 1970 pour les Dublin City Ramblers. Dans la chanson, le narrateur, Sean Dempsey, qui vient de Pimlico, un quartier populaire des Dublin Liberties, se souvient de son éducation. Il déplore les changements qui se sont produits dans la ville depuis sa jeunesse, mentionnant la perte du Pilier de Nelson, la salle de bal Metropole, le Royal (Théâtre Royal). Il déteste les «nouvelles cages en verre», les immeubles de bureaux et les appartements modernes érigés le long des quais, et dit adieu à Anna Liffey (la rivière Liffey).



Do Fa Do Lam Fa
Based on songs and stories, heroes of renown,
Do Fa Do Sol Sol7
The passing tales and glories that once was Dublin Town,
Do Fa Do Lam Fa
The hallowed halls and houses, the haunting children's rhymes,
Do Fa Do Sol 7 Do
That once was Dublin City in the rare old times.

Chorus

Do Fa Do Lam Fa
Ring a ring a rosy, as the light declines,
Do Fa Do Sol7 Do
I'll remember Dublin City, in the rare old times.

My name it is Sean Dempsey, as Dublin as can be,
Born hard and late in Pimlico, in a house that ceased to be,
By trade I was a cooper, lost out to redundancy,
Like my house that fell to progress, my trades a memory.

And I courted Peggy Dignan, as pretty as you please,
A rogue and child of Mary, from the rebel Liberties,
I lost her to a student chap, with skin as black as coal,
When he took her off to Birmingham, she took away my soul.

Chorus

The years have made me bitter the gargle dims my brain,
'Cause Dublin keeps on changing, and nothing seems the sane.
The Pillar and the Met. have gone, the Royal long since pulled down,
As the grey unyielding concrete makes a city of my town.

Chorus

Fare thee well sweet Anna Liffey, I can no longer stay,
And watch the new glass cages that spring up along the Quay,
My mind's too full of memories, too old to hear new chimes,
I'm part of what was Dublin, in the rare old times.

Chorus x2