

Leader of the Band

by Dan Fogelberg (1981)

G7 G/A C C Am Em, D G^(1/2) C/G^(1/2) G^(1/2) C/G^(1/2) G^(1/2) C/G^(1/2) G

G^(1/2) C/G^(1/2) G Bm C
 An only child alone and wild, a cabinet maker's son
 Am Em7 Am C^(1/2) D^(1/2)
 His hands were meant for different work and his heart was known to none.
 G^(1/2) C/G^(1/2) G Bm C
 He left his home and went his lone and solitary way
 Am Em7 Am^(1/2) D^(1/2) G^(1/2)C/G^(1/2) G^(1/2)C/G^(1/2) G^(1/2)C/G^(1/2) G
 And he gave to me a gift I know I never can repay

A quiet man of music, denied a simpler fate
 He tried to be a soldier once but his music wouldn't wait
 He earned his love through discipline, a thund'ring velvet hand
 His gentle means of sculpting souls took me years to understand

C Bm C G^(1/2)Am^(1/4)G^(1/4)
 The leader of the band is tired and his eyes are growing old, But his
 Am Em Am F^(1/2) D^(1/2)
 blood runs through my instrument and his song is in my soul
 C Bm C G^(1/2)Am^(1/4)G^(1/4)
 My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man
 Am Em Am^(1/2) Cadd9^(1/2) G^(1/2)C/G^(1/2) G^(1/2)C/G^(1/2) G^(1/2)C/G^(1/2) G
 I'm just a living legacy to the leader of the band.

My brothers' lives were different for they heard another call
 One went to Chicago, the other to St. Paul
 And I'm in Colorado when I'm not in some hotel
 Living out this life I chose and come to know so well

I thank you for the music and your stories of the road
 I thank you for the freedom when it came my time to go
 I thank you for the kindness and the times when you got tough
 And papa I don't think I said "I love you" near enough.

G^(1/2) Am^(1/4) G^(1/4) Am Em7 Am Cadd9^(1/2) D^(1/2) G
 band I am the living legacy to the leader of the band