

Ode To Coldstream

Just three more side roads, and I'll be home
 Dodgin' all the potholes, soft shoulders are
 my foes
 Just three more hills, of gravel and road kills
 Watch the combine, dodge the bovine, pay
 your bills

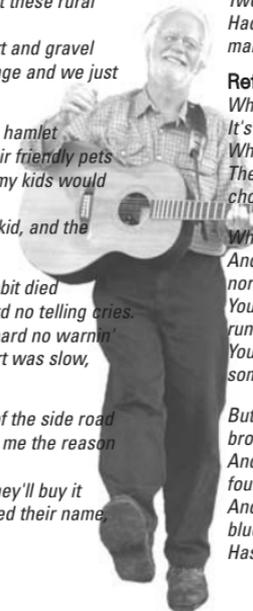
Did you ask me why, I'm hurryin' home?
 Well it's leavin' of the city, its findin' rural soul
 It's smellin' pig barns and sniffin' chicken farms
 The liquid spray, the mouldy hay, and the muddy
 yards

I've washed my car three times today
 'Cause it's spring time now, but these rural
 roads aren't clay
 They're gravel and dirt, and dirt and gravel
 That Township graders rearrange and we just
 pay

Don't get me wrong, I love this hamlet
 All my rural friends, and all their friendly pets
 We'd thought we'd get some, my kids would
 have fun
 But the cat got hit, dog bit the kid, and the
 rabbit's done

Never really knew why the rabbit died
 There were no marks, we heard no telling cries.
 Just woke one mornin', and heard no warmn'
 Those who know, said his heart was slow,
 that's why he died.

So I guess I'll stay at the end of the side road
 When all my urban friends ask me the reason
 why
 I'll tell them try it and maybe they'll buy it
 Some said the same, we learned their name,
 then they moved away.



Temagami

In March of 2000, a train derailment
 caused a massive 45,000 litre spill of
 sulfuric acid in the Temagami, leaking
 into lakes and destroying wildlife.

Now a train was winding its lonely way
 Through a muskeg carpet 'neath a sky
 of grey
 Twenty nine cars of food and tin
 Twenty four more of sulphuric sin

Now was it the speed or was it fate?
 Engineer looking back saw it was not
 straight
 Twelve steel parcels on that northern rail
 Had turned and spilled out that deadly
 mail

Refrain:
 What went wrong? This is Temagami,
 It's not supposed to be no acid lake
 What went wrong? This is Temagami,
 The land has choked, the land has
 choked

When you've lived your life in city smog
 And you leave it all behind for that
 northern bog
 You know the air is clear and the water
 runs cold
 You know your soul is free when there's
 someone to hold.

But the acid mail has turned this carpet
 brown
 And the long green grass will never be
 found
 And the lake so clear and the stream so
 blue
 Has an ugly monster now I'm telling you.

Anita's Song

If you would let me hear the song
 Your voice cries out to sing
 The music I heard the first time I saw
 your face
 But something's telling you, this is not
 the time
 And your lonely heart keeps trying to
 erase

Oh let me hear the song
 That echoes deep inside
 Let me feel the lovely rhythm of your heart
 I know there's more to say, and words
 cannot describe
 The anger and the emptiness inside

Your lonely heart, only heart
 Sadness now is closing like the night
 Take some time, make some time
 Whisper to your angel in the sky

If you would let me walk a while
 Beside you in the sun
 And let my happy stories carry you
 And walk a gentle path that leads you
 to a song
 Then maybe just a tear of joy will lose

Your lonely heart, only heart
 Sadness now is closing like the night
 Take some time, make some time
 Whisper to your angel in the sky

If you would let me take your hand
 As a friend that reaches out
 Like a brother with a smile that's there
 for you
 Till the shadow of the night fades with
 mornin' light
 And you finally sing the song that's deep
 and true

Get Down On Your Knees

I was born to a couple in love one day
 A prairie man and a city dame
 The doctor said "I think he's here to
 stay"
 But the preacher said "Get down on
 your knees and pray"

My only bed was a dresser drawer
 Now I ain't sayin' that we was poor
 But what would you think of a story like
 that today?
 When the preacher says "Get down on
 your knees and pray".

Now my mama dear had another child
 She was number four and truly runnin'
 wild
 We've lost all track of that wayward
 child today
 Should have listened to the man when
 he said "Get on your knees and pray"

So what does it cost to grow a kid
 today?
 A million dollars did I hear you say?
 Well I think it's all that and a hundred
 dollars more
 Whatever it is Lord! It keeps us the
 workin' poor

I was born to a couple in love one day
 A prairie man and a city dame
 If people out there are thinkin' of doin'
 the same
 I'm telling you now "Get down on your
 knees and pray"

Dansez Marie

This song was inspired by watching my
 little friend Marketa. When she dances
 it is evident she is in love with life itself.

Chorus
 Dansez Marie, dansez Marie
 Venez ici, vous dansez Marie
 Dansez Marie, dansez Marie
 Tout le jour, toute la nuit, dansez Marie

When you dance you look so free
 You dance without a care in the world
 One foot goes down and the other up high
 Don't stop that wonderful whirl...

How I love to watch you whirl
 To see the magic flow of your hair
 When you spin I catch that grin
 You're beaming, you're gleaming,
 you're there...

When you dance you're a butterfly
 As it seeks the beckoning flower
 When you dance you're lost in time
 You know not the day nor the hour...

So sparkle and spin and begin your dream
 As you learn with every turn
 Catch your breath every once in a while
 Don't stop that wonderful whirl...



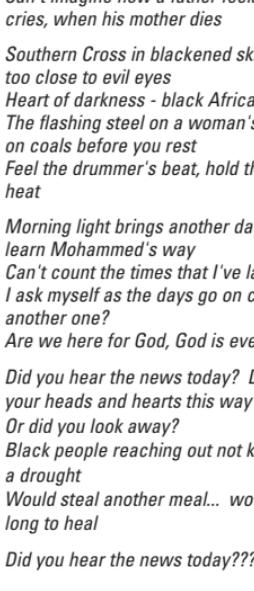
I Miss The Lovin'

I know you won't darken my door
 I know you can't call me anymore
 And when you didn't say, good bye,
 good luck adieu
 I wondered if the lovin' here was true

You said you loved to hear me laugh
 You said we walked down another
 path
 And if I heard you true, I was good
 for you
 There must have been some things
 I never knew

I read your words upon the page
 They warmed me like a summer's
 golden gaze
 But when you didn't call, you knew
 that I would fall
 Did you really care at all?

When you look out to the open sea
 And think about the times you had
 with me
 Just know that lovin' you, was the
 best that I could do
 I miss the lovin' here with you.



The News

In the mid 1980's people in the horn of Africa
 suffered horrific drought and famine. These
 are images from the time I spent in Ethiopia.

Did you hear the news today? Did you turn
 your heads and hearts this way?
 Or did you look away?
 Black people left in drought, there wasn't
 any doubt, leaving them alone
 Meant they would die again, but that's no
 way you know

Stories on the radio, images that won't let go
 What can we do? Where can we go?
 Pictures of people, not looking much like people
 Can't imagine how a father feels when his baby
 cries, when his mother dies

Southern Cross in blackened skies don't go
 too close to evil eyes
 Heart of darkness - black Africa
 The flashing steel on a woman's chest dance
 on coals before you rest
 Feel the drummer's beat, hold the summer's
 heat

Morning light brings another day; we want to
 learn Mohammed's way
 Can't count the times that I've laid awake
 I ask myself as the days go on can we save
 another one?
 Are we here for God, God is everywhere

Did you hear the news today? Did you turn
 your heads and hearts this way?
 Or did you look away?
 Black people reaching out not knowing if
 a drought
 Would steal another meal... would take so
 long to heal

Did you hear the news today???

I'll Be All Right

I have walked through the darkness of
 the longest night
 I have stood my ground through the
 cruelest fight
 I have watched the sun goin' down
 when it faded in the night
 But when you're near it's so clear I'll
 be all right

Refrain:
 I'll be all right tonight when you call
 out my name
 When you whisper "I love you" and
 I echo back the same
 You calm the thunder in my skies when
 all hope has taken flight
 When you're near it's so clear I'll be
 all right

I can walk another mile when I feel
 you by my side
 I can sail another sea when you hold
 back the tide
 Of the raging water when the storm
 has broken wide
 When you're near it's so clear I'll be
 all right

I have strolled upon the sands of the
 cold and barren shore
 I have stood upon the rocks and I've
 wished for so much more
 And when I close my eyes and dream
 in the stillness of the night
 You are near and it's clear I'll be
 all right

Dear World

In 1985, children across Canada were
 asked the question, "What would you do
 to make the world right?" They
 responded by sending in answers that
 included song, verse, sketches and
 poetry. This song was written after
 reading those answers.

Dear world, dear world,
 What would I do to make the world right?
 Dear world, dear world,
 What would I do to make the world right?

I would stop all the wars and people
 with sores
 Would have all the band-aids they need
 I would stop all the starving and go with
 the growing
 And share when the harvest was here

If I ran the world from my place on the hill
 I'd cancel all sickness and hate
 I'd send those who fight back into the
 night
 And tell them they just had to wait

If countries had problems they couldn't
 resolve
 I'd tell them to send them to me
 I'd plan a convention and take time to
 mention
 How loving each person should be

If I were in charge for all of a day
 I'd order up things that were sad
 And for the rest of the year,
 I'd like to hear
 "We're happy, we see what we have"

Sparrow

This song is dedicated to my friend
 Louise as she prepared for changes in
 her life.

When the morning sun melts the chill
 from her feathered wings
 When the sounds of an early day calls
 her away
 She lifts her head and turns from the
 warmth of her nesting place
 She gathers her new found courage
 and she flies

Refrain
 Fly Sparrow, Fly Sparrow

Like Evita, you ask "Where am I going
 to?"
 The survivor says "You'll get by, you
 always have"
 It's time to follow the call of an inner
 voice
 It's time to lift your ready wings and fly.

The road never travelled seems narrow
 And the song never sung may seem plain
 Maybe we need to risk more than
 sometimes is safe
 Maybe we need to listen more the heart
 seems to say

I hear a tune upon the wind of
 mandolin and drum
 I hear the words with Irish lilt the
 melodies we hum
 I feel his laugh, I see his grin the
 sparkle in his eyes
 The Bells of Dundalk sounding now
 on smiling Irish skies

The Bells Of Dundalk

In memory of our dear friend
 Francis Lawrence Declan Morgan

The Bells of Dundalk, Ireland...how
 quietly they stand
 Waiting for the coming home, the soul
 of a man
 His name is Francis Morgan and now
 he's flying free
 Like a wild bird soaring high above the
 roaring Irish Sea

I have known this Irishman it seems
 for all my life
 An Irish charm, a laughing soul, an
 ever-glowing smile
 A voice so strong through stories told,
 a never-ending wit
 An Irish chieftain, loving father, soul
 that never quit

I hear him now so quietly a voice so
 soft and low
 And wish that he were here with us
 to sing the songs we know
 He always loved his Ireland and
 dreamed of going home
 The Bells of Dundalk sounding now
 as we stand here alone

I hear a tune upon the wind of
 mandolin and drum
 I hear the words with Irish lilt the
 melodies we hum
 I feel his laugh, I see his grin the
 sparkle in his eyes
 The Bells of Dundalk sounding now
 on smiling Irish skies

Deep River

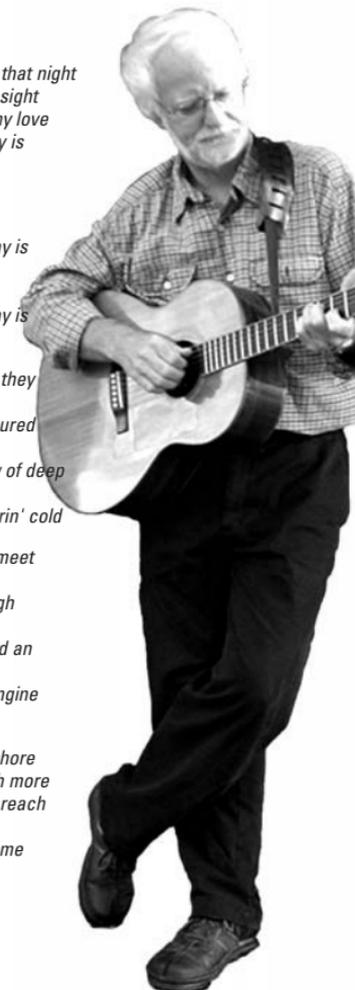
Some say the river, was hungry that night
 It was cold outside, no moon in sight
 Some heard him say "Hold on my love
 The river is winding and the way is
 rough"

Refrain:
 Hold on, hold on my love
 The river is winding, and the way is
 rough
 Hold on, hold on my love
 The river is winding, and the way is
 rough

They didn't see the rocks when they
 were holding hands
 And the mist on the water, obscured
 the land
 She held him close mid the flow of deep
 river
 And the water below was shiverin' cold

They didn't know if they would meet
 the morning light
 When an eerie sound cut through
 the night
 Then steel met stone, they heard an
 engine groan
 Confusion all around, then no engine
 sound

And if together they reach the shore
 Loving her would mean so much more
 She'll take his hand, when they reach
 the land
 And the water all around, for some
 the only shroud



Een Gonyama

Chorus
 Een Gonyama, Gonyama Invooboo
 Yabo, Yabo Invooboo
 "He is a lion, he is a lion
 No, he is greater than a lion: he is
 hippopotamus" (Zulu Impi)

When lion is sleeping he dreams of
 the days
 The days when his lion cub learns
 To follow father hunt and chase
 Stand ready and wait his turn.

Baloo big bear knows all of our
 names
 He calls the stranger home
 As sisters and brothers we all need
 the same
 Come gather and sing this song

It's lonely wolf who howls at the
 moon
 They say he never takes rest
 The wolf cub learns the jungle rules
 Akela we'll do our best.

Hippo lies on the river bank
 We know to leave him alone
 He takes a wash by the waterfall
 He's the fiercest of them all

All songs by Bernie Gilmore
 (SOCAN) except The Bells of
 Dundalk by Bernie Gilmore and
 Kevin White and Sparrow words
 by Bernie Gilmore, music by
 Bernie Gilmore and Mary
 Ashton.