

# Leader Of The Band

Dan Fogelberg

An only child alone and wild  
A cabinet maker's son  
His hands were meant for different work  
And his heart was known to none  
He left his home and went his lone  
And solitary way  
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 thundering, velvet hand  
His gentle means of sculpting souls  
Took me years to understand

The leader of the band is tired  
And his eyes are growing old  
But his blood runs through my instrument  
And his song is in my soul  
My life has been a poor attempt  
To imitate the man  
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  
And the other to St. Paul  
And I'm in Colorado  
When I'm not in some hotel  
Living out this life I've 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

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