

# The Gift

Jerry Jeff Walker

In a boarding house, I'd lay upstairs,  
And dream of how I'd live someday  
Downstairs there sat, a man who had  
A guitar he never learned to play

For my thirteenth birthday, grandma bought the guitar  
Told me I should learn how to play  
And the gift she gave me changed me  
'Cause the music is the main thing,  
That got me to this point here today

And I was lucky, 'cause I used her gift  
To get in touch with how to live  
And looking back I now realize, music changed my life

Just out of school, I had no clue  
Of what it was I'd like to do  
I only know, the open road  
Was the way I chose to pass on through

I took that guitar with me, down the lonesome highway  
And I began my search for a song  
And somewhere in the distance, the music and the mystery  
Of how I would live come along

That music saved my life, music became my life

As time went by, I found that I  
Could climb up on the stage and sing  
But when I sang, the songs I wrote  
It became a very special thing

But songs to me were personal  
And the business side just killed me  
And I withdrew inside my shell  
With the contracts and the lawsuits  
I started heavy drinking,  
'Til I finally lost touch with myself

I guess playing music for money brought problems  
That I didn't face very well  
Being self-taught gave me nothing to lean on  
I had to look in myself

I took a year off and did some fasting  
Just to clean the cobwebs out  
And I went back to Grandma's guitar  
Just to hear a simple sound

When I look around me, I saw my loving family  
And a home we had built on a hill  
I discovered the music had led me to the one place  
Where my heart and soul are re-filled

Music saved my life, yeah, music really saved my life  
Yes, music really saved my life