

Leader of the Band

Dan Fogelberg

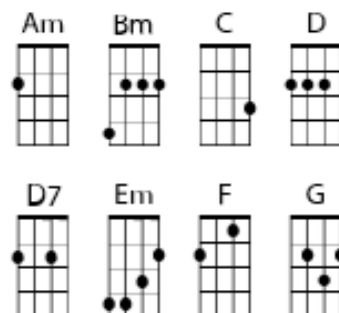
G// C// G Bm C
An only child, alone and wild, a cabinet maker's son
Am Em Am C// D//
His hands were meant for different work and his heart was known to none
G// C// G Bm C
He left his home and went his lone and solitary way
Am Em D7 G// C//
And he gave to me a gift I know I never can repay

G// C// G Bm C
A quiet man of music, denied a simpler fate
Am Em Am C// D//
He tried to be a soldier once but his music wouldn't wait
G// C// G Bm C
He earned his love through discipline, a thund'ring velvet hand
Am Em D7 G
His gentle means of sculpting souls took me years to understand

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

G// C// G Bm C
My brothers' lives were different, for they heard another call
Am Em Am C// D//
One went to Chicago and the other to Saint Paul
G// C// G Bm C
And I'm in Colorado, when I'm not in some hotel
Am Em D7 G// C//
Living out this life I've chosen and come to know so well

G// C// G Bm C
I thank you for the music and your stories of the road
Am Em Am C// D//
I thank you for the freedom when it came my time to go
G// C// G Bm C
I thank you for the kindness and the times when you got tough
Am Em D7 G
And, Papa, I don't think I said "I love you" near enough



<Chorus>