

## A MINSTREL'S LAMENT

Lyrics and music by Mark Osier

The road ahead beckons and draws me on more  
To some far-off land or a distant shore  
C-add-G G Off ahead of me coming in sight  
F C F G  
Is a small village where I'll spend the night

'Tis a small peaceful village of good simple folk  
And a farmer looks up from the oxen he's yoked  
"Good minstrel," he says with a wave and a smile  
"welcome to our town; won't you stay for a while?"

The barkeep's face wears a smile so proud  
As he serves me a meal 'midst the gathering crowd  
"Good sir," someone asks, "when you finish your ale  
won't you take out your lute and please spin us a tale?"

So I get out my lute, and I tighten each string  
And the people all smile as I start to sing  
'Tis a jovial tune of knights and romance  
And they forget their cares and start to dance

### CHORUS

So I'll play my songs and you dream your dream  
And we'll pretend things are just as they seem  
C G Am F  
Dance, be merry, and I'll do my part  
Dm C F G C  
And you'll never see the scars in my heart

Once I met a girl of the woods and the wilds  
She drew me to her with her charms and her smiles  
Her beauty was unchallenged, her hair smelled of spring  
Her eyes seemed to smile as I'd play and I'd sing

She told of a world of great beauty and peace  
where you'd lose your cares 'neath the stars and the trees  
We went there and stared at the night sky above  
And before I knew I had fallen in love

I loved her more deeply than I thought mortals could  
And yearn for her still more than any man should  
For the rain fell to Earth on that horrible day  
when we both realized I had to go away

### CHORUS

I remember standing under cloud-blackened skies  
And staring at her as the tears filled my eyes  
Never have I felt more pain than that day  
when our two separate worlds called us each away

I begged her to come with me, stay by my side  
But she answered "no" and I felt I had died  
"Your world is the roads, love, and mine is the trees  
And we were not born to do just as we please"

The next morning before the sun met the sky  
we kissed one last time and then we said goodbye  
So now I just wander doing my little shows  
If we'll ever meet again only Fate knows

**CHORUS 2 (same chords as CHORUS)**

So dance, laugh, be merry and gay  
So you'll never hear the words that I say  
Get lost in my music, believe in its lies  
And you'll never see the tears in my eyes

Now the tavern's near empty; the people have gone  
And the workers start cleaning as I finish my song  
I give them a break from their lives' endless trials  
And I get a chance to forget for a while

A waitress approaches as I start to leave  
And asks if I'd like company for the eve  
She's healthy and beautiful, that can't be denied  
But she's not the one for whom I have cried

"Thank you, but no," I say. "Where is my room?"  
She points down the hall by a man with a broom  
No one sees my tears as I slip out of sight  
Seeking comfort in sleep and the darkness of night

I've seen wild creatures, seen wild men, too  
Seen paupers and kings and the ocean so blue  
I have seen empires rise and then fall  
But losing true love is the worst fate of all

**CHORUS**

**CHORUS 2**