

## Iris Dement

### "The Rare Old Times"

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Raised on songs and stories  
Heroes of reknown  
The passing tales and glories  
That once was Dublin town  
The hallowed halls and houses  
The haunting children's rhymes  
That once was Dublin city  
In the rare old times

(Chorus)  
Ring a ring a rosie  
As the light declines  
I remember Dublin City  
In the rare old times

My name it is Sean Dempsey  
As Dublin as could be  
Born hard and late in Pimlico  
In a house that's ceased to be  
By trade I was a cooper  
Lost out to redundancy  
Like my house that fell to progress  
My trade's a memory

I courted Peggy Diagnam  
As pretty as you please  
A gentle child of Mary  
From the rebel liberties  
I lost her to a student chap  
With skin as black as coal  
When he took her off to Birmingham  
She took away my soul

(Chorus)

The years have made me bitter  
The gargles dims me brain  
'Cause Dublin keeps on changing  
And nothing stays the same  
The Pillar and the Met have gone  
The Royal long since pulled down

As the great and unyielding concrete  
Makes a city of my town

(Chorus)

Fare thee well sweet Anna Liffey  
I can no longer stay  
And watch the new glass cages  
That spring up along the quay  
My mind's too full of memories  
Too old to hear new chimes  
I'm a part of what was Dublin  
In the rare old times

(Chorus x2)

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