Jackson Joe "The Man Who Wrote Danny Boy"

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(words and music by Joe Jackson)

It happened one night at three in the morning
The devil appeared in my studio room
And he said I'm your pal and I'll make you a deal
Blow away all your struggle and take your soul for a toy

After rubbing my eyes I looked at around me
At the half-finished drivel I'd worked on for days
And I told him my dream was to live for all time
In some perfect refrain like the man who wrote Danny
Boy

And I said if you're real, then I'll ask you a question While most of us turn into ashes or dust Just you and that other guy go on forever But who writes the history and who do I trust?

He gave me a wink and he said it was funny How mortals would pour all their blood, sweat and tears

Onto tape, onto paper or into the air
To be lost and forgotten outside of his kind employ

Then I thought I could hear a great sound in the distance

Of whiskey-soaked singing and laughter and cheers And they're saying that song could bring tears to a glass eye

So pass me the papers, I'll sign them in blood

And the smell of the brimstone was turned into greasepaint

And the roar of the crowd like the furies of hell
And I hear the applause and I hear the bells ringing
And the sound of a woman's voice from the next room

Saying, come to me now, come lay down beside me Whatever you're doing you're too going to see You can't hold onto shadows, no more than to years So be glad for the pleasures we're young enough to

enjoy

So maybe I'm drunk or maybe a liar
Or maybe we're all living inside a dream
You can say what you like, when I'm gone then you'll
see
I'll be down in the dark, down underground
With Shakespeare and Bach and the man who wrote
Danny Boy

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