Jimmy Nail "Big River"

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Walking on cobbled stones Little bits of skin and bone Jumping on a tram car for a ride

I can remember then
'Cause I was a just a boy of ten
Hanging around the old Quayside

Now all the capstans and the cargo boats And Stevedores are gone To where all the old ships go But memories, just like the sea live on

'Cause that was when coal was King The river was a living thing And I was just a boy but it was mine The coal Tyne

For this was a big river I want you all to know That I was proud

This was a big river
But that was long ago
That's not now
That's not now

My father was a working man He earned our living with his hands He had to cross the river every day

He picked up a Union card Out of the Neptune yard Mouths to feed and bills to pay

There came a time for him to sail
Across the sea and far away
And finally when that war was won
You brought him home and home he stayed

And when his days were done Under a golden sun You took him back to where he longed to be Back to the sea

For this was a big river I want you all to know That I was proud

This was a big river
But that was long ago
That's not now
That's not now

That's not now

The Neptune was the last to go I heard it on my radio And then they played The latest number one

But what do they do all day And what are they supposed to say What does a father tell his son?

If you believe that there's a bond Between our future and our past Try to hold on to what we have We build them strong, we built to last

'Cause this is a mighty town
Build upon a solid ground
And everything they've tried so hard to kill
We will rebuild

For this is a big river I want you all to know I'm so very proud

This is a big river
But that was long ago
That's not now

And this is a big, big river And in my heart I know It will rise again The river will rise again

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