

Al Stewart "One Stage Before"

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It seems to me as though I've been upon this stage
before
And juggled away the night for the same old crowd
These harlequins you see with me, they too have held
the floor
As here once again they strut and they fret their hour

I see those half-familiar faces in the second row
Ghost-like with the footlights in their eyes
But where or when we met like this last time, I just don't
know
It's like a chord that rings and never dies for infinity

And now these figures in the wings with all their
restless tunes
Are waiting around for someone to call their names
They walk the backstage corridors and prowl the
dressing rooms
And vanish to specks of light in the picture-frames

But did they move upon the stage a thousand years
ago
In some play in Paris or Madrid
And was I there among them then, in some travelling
show
And is it all still locked inside my head for infinity

And some of you are harmonies to all the notes I play
Although we may not meet still you know me well
While others talk in secret keys and transpose all I say
And nothing I do or try can get me through the spell

So one more time we'll dim the lights and ring the
curtain up
And play again like all the times before
But far behind the music you can almost hear the
sounds
Of laughter like the waves upon the shores of infinity

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