

## Sinead Oconnor

# "Famine Reynolds Extended Mix"

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(O'Connor, Clayton, Simenon, Reynolds)

[The extended version of "Famine", released in 1995, from the cd-single "Famine"]

There is more in us than we know about. The famine,  
which happened 150 years ago.  
It's three lifetimes at most. Things that  
happen than were handed on from father  
to son, from mother to daughter, down to this day.  
They are within us now, and we  
don't deal with them. And it seems to me,  
this is what's interesting about a lot  
of Irish music now, that it is the carrier for this kind of  
feeling, and for this  
kind of emotion, that we have no other expression for it  
because politically we  
deny it, intellectually we deny it. Our literature .....  
doesn't deal with this,  
our sentiment doesn't deal with this. But  
music, it's in the music, it seems to me.  
The culture can actually carry those things in all kinds  
of visible ways, in gesture,  
in movement, in language, in humour and in music.

Okay, I want to talk about Ireland  
Specifically I want to talk about the "famine"  
About the fact that there never really was one  
There was no "famine"  
See Irish people were only allowed to eat potatoes  
All of the other food, meat, fish, vegetables,  
were shipped out of the country under armed guard  
To England while the Irish people starved  
And then in the middle of all this  
They gave us money not to teach our children Irish  
And so we lost our history  
And this is what I think is still hurting me

You see we're like a child that's been battered  
Has to drive itself out of it's head because it's  
frightened  
Still feels all the painful feelings

But they lose contact with the memory  
And this leads to massive self-destruction  
Alcoholism, drug addiction  
All desperate attempts at running  
And in it's worst form  
Becomes actual killing  
And if there ever is gonna be healing  
There has to be remembering  
And then grieving  
So that there then can be forgiving  
There has to be knowledge and understanding

All the lonely people  
Where do they all come from  
All the lonely people  
Where do they all belong

An American army regulation  
Says you mustn't kill more than ten percent of a nation  
'Cos to do so causes permanent "psychological  
damage"  
It's not permanent but they didn't know that  
Anyway during the supposed "famine"  
We lost a lot more than 10% of our nation  
Through deaths on land or on ships of emigration  
But what finally broke us is not starvation  
No it's use in the controlling of our education  
School go on about "Black 47"  
On and on about "The terrible famine"  
But what they don't say is in truth  
There really never was one

All the lonely people  
Where do they all come from  
All the lonely people  
where do they all belong

So let's take a look can we  
The highest statistics of child abuse in the EEC  
And we say we're a Christian country  
But we've lost contact with our history  
See we used to worship God as a mother  
We're suffering from post traumatic stress disorder  
Look at all our old men in the pubs  
Look at all our young people on drugs  
We used to worship God as a mother  
Now look at what we're doing to each other  
We've even made killers of ourselves  
The most child-like trusting people in the Universe  
And this is what's wrong with us  
Our history books the parent figures lied to us

I see the Irish  
As a race like a child  
That got itself smashed in the face  
And if there ever is gonna be healing  
There has to be remembering  
And then grieving  
So that there then can be forgiving  
There has to be knowledge and understanding

All the lonely people  
Where do they all come from  
All the lonely people  
Where do they all belong  
All the lonely people  
Where do they all come from  
(That I can tell you in one word)  
All the lonely people  
Where do they all belong

And if there ever is gonna be healing  
There has to be remembering  
And then grieving  
So that there then can be forgiving  
There has to be knowledge and understanding

And if there ever is gonna be healing  
There has to be remembering  
And then grieving  
So that there then can be forgiving  
There has to be knowledge and understanding

We stand on the brink of a great achievement  
In this Ireland there is no solution  
To be found to our disagreements  
By shooting each other

Because of our tradition everyone here knows who he  
is  
and what God expects him to do

Forgiveness, forgiveness  
Knowledge  
Yes  
And understanding

Forgiveness  
Equate, be driven  
Frogiveness  
Knowledge  
Yes  
And understanding

(repeat the above several times)

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