

John Spillane

"The prison teacher"

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When I was a prison teacher
Teaching in a prison school
I taught a load of young fellas
How to play guitar
Music behind bars

Well some of them thought they could never
Do anything so clever
As playing a guitar
But I set them all on fire
I came around behind them
Before they knew what they were doing
They were all playing E minor

E minor
The easiest chord in the book E minor
Two fingers
Listen to the sound

Ah happy days in the prison school
Strumming away on the old E minor
Happy days in the prison school
Strumming away on the old E minor
Play it again Bobby
Play it again Jimmy
Play it again Sam
E minor
Listen to the sound

When I was a prison teacher
Teaching in a prison school
Way down in Cork Harbour
Ninety two to ninety seven
Spike Island
Listen to the sound

Ah happy days in the prison school
Strumming away at the old E minor
Happy days in the prison school
Strumming away on the old E minor
Play it again Bobby

Play it again Jimmy
Play it again Sam
E minor
Listen to the sound

And the strings of my guitar
Began to look like prison bars
And the music flowed out free
Out into the sea
Around Spike Island
Listen to the sound

When I was a prison teacher
Teaching in a prison school
Well I won't keep you much longer
But one thing I noticed alright
Teaching in a prison school
There was nobody there from Bishopstown
There was nobody there from Rochestown
There was nobody there from Montenotte
There was nobody there from Douglas
When I was a prison teacher

Ah do the rich get all the breaks?
Do the poor get all the heartaches?
Well I'll meet you all in the middle
And we'll all have a great big party
And we'll sit around in a circle
And we'll all play E minor
The easiest chord in the book E minor
Two fingers
LISTEN TO THE SOUND.

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