

As I stepped out

Malcolm Smith

C F G C D7 G
As I stepped out one summer's morning, left foot first and then the right
C F Em Am D7 G
I little thought nor felt no warning where I'd lay my head that night
C G Am D7 G
I gaily strode along the road, the fields were green, the sun was bright
C G F G C
I hardly felt my modest load, my knapsack and my heart were light

In the hedge a chiff-chaff singing, swifts and swallows swooped and went
Far away a church bell ringing o'er the lovely weald of Kent
The miles slipped by, I was in no hurry; my sturdy brogues they feared no stones
I saw no reason then to worry: nothing troubled heart nor bones

As evening fell and the moon arose, the clouds were building in the west
The chilling air came through my clothes as I sat down to take a rest
The first drops woke me where I lay, I saw no shelter from the rain
So wet, despondent, on my way, I set out on the road again

The darkness now was near complete, the rain was sluicing down the track
I scarce could see my own two feet, but no use now in turning back
I stumbled on in sorry blindness, cold and soaked through to my skin
Desperate for some human kindness or the welcome light of a homely inn

At length I lay down on the grass, too weary now to carry on
And what strange fate now came to pass I hesitate to dwell upon
For from a nearby copse appeared the ghostly shapes of several deer
That gathered round and to me neared, showing not the slightest fear

All that night they lay beside me, protected me and kept me warm
Just as a port the weary sailor shelters from the raging storm
When I awoke the sun was rising, the deer were gone, I was alone
But what I found was most surprising: my clothes were warm and dry as bone