

1

BALLAD OF BRENDAN BEHAN

G C
 Born in the glory of Russell Street
 G D
 You grew up humming Amhrán na Bhfian
 G C
 Your auld lad did time in a Free State Jail
 G D
 For Republican activities beyond the pale
 C D
 You were your Granny's best boy, your Mammy's best chap
 G Am
 You loved to cheer all the old ladies up
 G C
 But your soul had been scorched with the Orange White and Green
 G C D G
 You were the one and only Brendan Behan

BREAK 1

G C G D
 B BAG E C B BCD A (2)

Vers 2

By the age of thirteen you had quit school
 By sixteen you were in sweet Liverpool
 With your sticks of Gelly and your auld alarm clock
 With intent to blow up the Merseyside docks
 Three years in Borstal made you a man EE G E F#
 They deported you back to auld Ireland G D B C -E-A-C
 Where DeValera had sold out the republican dream BB A G E C
 And interned you the one and only Brendan Behan

BREAK 2

Am Bm C D
 E EGE F# D C CDED

 Am Bm7 D A7 D
 E EGE A F# G GF#ED

(2)

Behan

Well you started to scribble some lines on occasion
Bits of poetry and prose 'bout the state of the nation
And you wrote the Quare Fellow about a con getting' hung
'Cause the state didn't have the right to spill a man's blood
Then the North Side rebel became the toast of McDaid's
When the play moved to the West End stage
But you never forgot your roots or your dreams
No, you were the one and only Brendan Behan

BREAK 1

Then Joan took An Giall, turned it into The Hostage
And spiced up your poetry with Commedia dell'arte
But the truth spiked through, sure it's no wonder
Just 'cause he's a Brit the kid shouldn't be murdered
Even for justice and the Republican cause
No man has a right to pervert god's laws
You were never afraid to question your reasonin'
That's what made you the one and only Brendan Behan

BREAK 2

Then you came to New York and you loved our old town
No one gave a damn if you let the side down
And you checked into the Chelsea on 23rd Street
Reinvent yourself and catch up with your dreams
You could love who you liked be it a man or a woman
Five months on the dry then the walls came down tumblin'
And your words all got choked in a silent scream
Left you reelin' the one and only Brendan Behan

BREAK 1

What the hell happened, Bren, did the façade collapse
Leaving you naked, mere yards from the hearse
The booze took your liver, the fame wrecked your head
Your spirit still pulsing, but your promise all fled
Just another drinker with writing problems
Just another messed up Dylan Thomas... (STOP)
But you left us your poetry, your soul and your dreams
You'll always be our one and only Brendan Behan

17

Ballad of Brendan Behan

10/20/13

Choral

Handwritten musical notation for the first system of the choral section, featuring a treble and bass clef with notes and rests.

Handwritten musical notation for the second system of the choral section, including a key signature change to 2 flats and a time signature change to 6/8.

Verse

G C G D G C G D

Handwritten musical notation for the first line of the verse, showing a treble clef and a series of notes.

C D G A- ⊕ G C G C D

Handwritten musical notation for the second line of the verse, including a key signature change to 1 flat and a time signature change to 12/8.

Break 1
1st & 3rd & 5th

Handwritten musical notation for Break 1, featuring a treble clef and notes with a fermata.

Break 2

Handwritten musical notation for Break 2, including a treble clef and notes with a key signature change to 2 flats.

4th

Break 2

Handwritten musical notation for the 4th break, featuring a treble clef and notes with a key signature change to 1 flat.

A- B- C D A- B-7 D G D

Handwritten musical notation for the 4th break, including a treble clef and notes with a key signature change to 2 flats.

⊕

Handwritten musical notation for the final section, featuring a treble clef and notes with a key signature change to 1 flat.

G

Handwritten musical notation for the final section, including a treble clef and notes with a key signature change to 2 flats.