

## Encore

Christy Moore

When I first heard Tommy Makem and the Clancy's my future it was sealed  
I was bitten by the ballad bug and since then the wound has never healed  
When I got my first guitar my fingers bled until I learned a chord or two  
I pulled on my aran sweater, wrote my Ma a goodbye letter  
And started throwing shapes in O'Donoghue's

I've played every lounge in Ireland from Dingle right up to Donegal  
I've sung Nancy Spain on stages  
Where no other ballad singers play at all  
From the rising sun in Brownstown to the Blue Lagoon above in Sligo Town  
Ballymurphy and the Bogside, Ballinamore  
And even once in Ballinasloe

If I get an encore I go home feeling like a king  
It's a two way situation I get a lot of pleasure when I sing

I played cabaret in Bundoran, and marquees for Father Horan  
And I once stood in for Johnny McEvoy  
From Berlin to San Francisco I've gone on before the disco  
Lashing out the four green fields of Athenry  
Mountbellew was like purgatory but Tulsk was just like being in hell  
I've received my education in the lounges of the nation  
After 25 years I am doing well

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I was playing in the Meeting place when half the Special Branch came in the door  
They were looking for an outlaw  
He stole their trousers back in 1984  
They started listening to my songs and hung around till after the show  
If I ever need a taxi plate or a massage at a special rate  
They're the boys to tell me where to go

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