

The Ballad Of Big Tom

Intro

Just outside Casleblaney, in a town land called The Moy
Mr's McGrath the midwife cried you have a baby boy
No one took any notice what the wise old woman said
She said this child is special as she dried the baby's head

More than 20 years had quickly passed the boy was now a man
And only when they heard him sing did they understand
The words that wise old woman spoke all those years before
The baby's name was now Big Tom and part of our folklore

They stood on stage beside him for many, many years
They shared lots of good times, some laughter and some tears
Ronnie, Seamus, Ginger, Henry, Cyril, John
With their magic beat The Mainliners
The band that backed Big Tom

They were on the road in 66 to Dublin they did go
It was arranged by RTE to play the Show band Show
A little song with 16 lines would change their lives forever
The first time on TV Big Tom sang Gentle Mother

Key Change

Ten years they were together, the dream come to an end
Big tom formed The Travellers to be his backing band
He sang Fort Worth, Texas this time he went by plane
But "Four Roads To Glenamady" brought him home again

They stood on stage beside him playing their hits from way back then
It's A Weary, Weary World and The Roses Bloom Again
Kevin, Ken, Paddy, Harry, Pakie, Shawn
The last tune that we heard each night
Was gotta travel on

Key Change

Now in eighty-nine the Mainliners and Tom reformed again
Back to Castleblaney and the G.N.R. steam train
They said goodbye to three good friends as time kept moving on
John McCormick, John Mooney and Cyril who played trombone

I can't believe it's 50 years since I heard Big Tom sing
The Carol County Accident to The Same Way You Came In
So Big Tom keep on singing never mind old Father Time
If it's lonesome at your table you're welcome here at mine