

# Those Were The Days

K Podrevskii & B Fomin trans. G Raskin

4:4 Key: Am

Intro **[Am]** lots of frantic strumming like balalaikas  
By contrast the singing of the verses is slow, deliberate and mournful.  
There is a soloist and everybody else hums in a good old fashioned Russian Orthodox style  
Hmmmmmmmmm etc.

**[Am]** Once upon a time there was a tavern  
**[A7]** Where we used to raise a glass or **[Dm]** two  
**[Dm]** Remember how we laughed away the **[Am]** hours  
And **[B7]** dreamed of all the great things we would **[E7]** do

Pause for dramatic effect.

## Chorus

Very slow to begin with but getting steadily and deliberately faster.  
**[TACET]** *Those were the **[Am]** days my friend we thought they'd **[Dm]** never end  
We'd sing and **[G]** dance for **[G7]** ever and a **[C]** day  
We'd live the **[Dm]** life we choose we'd fight and **[Am]** never lose  
For we were **[E7]** young and sure to have our **[Am]** way*

*By this time the song should be going at a decent pace.  
Now we have what I call the Red Army Ensembler bit.  
Everybody joins in to sing the chorus again getting faster  
for the last two lines.*

*Those were the **[Am]** days my friend we thought they'd **[Dm]** never end  
We'd sing and **[G]** dance for **[G7]** ever and a **[C]** day  
We'd live the **[Dm]** life we choose we'd fight and **[Am]** never lose  
Those were the **[E7]** days oh yes those were the **[Am]** days, Shout Oi! **[STOP]***

Pause for dramatic effect.

**[Am]** then lots of frantic strumming like balalaikas as before.

Hmmmmmmmmm etc.

**[Am]** Then the busy years went rushing by us  
We **[A7]** lost our starry notions on the **[Dm]** way

[Dm]If by chance I'd see you in the [Am]tavern  
We'd [B7]smile at one another and we'd [E7]say

*Chorus*

Hmmmmmmmm etc.

[Am]Just tonight I stood before the tavern  
[A7]Nothing seemed the way it used to [Dm]be  
[Dm]In the glass I saw a strange re[Am]flection  
[B7]Was that lonely person really [E7]me

*Chorus*

[Am]Through the door there came familiar laughter  
I [A7]saw your face and heard you call my [Dm]name  
[Dm]Oh my friend we're older but no [Am]wiser  
For [B7]in our hearts the dreams are still the [E7]same

*Chorus*

...and then. Still everybody

La la la [Am]la la, la la la [Dm]la la la  
La la la [G]la, la[G7]la la la la [C]la  
La la la [Dm]la la la, la la la [Am]la la la  
La la la [E7]la la la la la la [Am]la [STOP]

*Ukes drop out Everybody sing slow and deliberate.  
If somebody could do a cossack dance that would be great*

Those were the (clap)days (clap)my (clap)friend  
We thought they'd (clap)ne(clap)ver (clap)end  
We'd sing and (clap)dance for(clap)ev(clap)er and a (clap)day  
We'd live the (clap)life (clap)we (clap)choose  
We'd fight and (clap)ne(clap)ver (clap)lose  
Those were the (clap)days oh yes those were the (clap)days(clap)(clap)(clap)