

Mr Tanner

Harry Chapin

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album: Short Stories  
song: Mr. Tanner  
artist: Harry Chapin  
transcribed: Ken Reynolds

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Mister Tanner  
Harry Chapin (klr)

Mister [G] Tanner was a [G/f] cleaner from a [Em] town in the Mid  
[G/D] west  
And of [G] all the cleaning [G/f] shops around [Em] hed made his the  
[D] best  
But he [C] also was a [Bb] baritone who [Am7] sang while hanging [G]  
clothes  
He practiced scales while [G/f] pressing tails and [Em] sang at local  
[D] shows  
His [Em] friends and neighbors praised the voice that [D] poured out  
from his throat  
They [Em] said that he should use his gift in [D] stead of cleaning  
coats

[G] But [Bm] music was his life, it was [Am7] not his livelihood  
And it [Em] made him feel so happy and it [G/d] made him feel so  
[D/C] good  
And he [G/b] sang from his heart [C] and he [G/d] sang from his [D]  
soul  
He [G] did not know how [C] well he sang, [G] it just [C] made him  
[G] whole

His [G] friends kept working [G/f] on him to try [Em] music out full  
[G/D] time  
A [G] big debut and [G/f] rave reviews a [Em] great career to [D]  
climb  
[C] Finally they [Bb] got to him [Am7] he would take the fling [G]  
A concert agent [G/f] in New York [Em] agreed to have him [D] sing  
And there were [Em] plane tickets, phone calls, [D] money spent to

rent the hall

It [Em] took most of his savings but he [D] gladly used them all

[G] But [Bm] music was his life, it was [Am7] not his livelihood  
And it [Em] made him feel so happy and it [G/d] made him feel so  
[D/C] good

And he [G/b] sang from his heart [C] and he [G/d] sang from his [D]  
soul

He [G] did not know how [C] well he sang, [G] it just [C] made him  
[G] whole

The [G] evening came he [G/f] took the stage his [Em] face set in a  
[G/D] smile

And in the [G] half filled hall the [G/f] critics sat [Em] watching  
on the [D] aisle

But the [C] concert was a [Bb] blur to him [Am7] spatters of applause  
[G]

He did not know how [G/f] well he sang, he [Em] only heard the [D]  
flaws

But the [Em] critics were concise, it [D] only took four lines  
But [Em] no one could accuse them of [D] being overkind

(spoken) [G] Mr Martin Tanner, Baritone, of [G/f] Dayton Ohio  
Made his Town Hall [Eb] debut last night. He came well [G/d]  
prepared

But unfortunately his presentation [C] was not up to contemporary  
Professional [Bb] standards. His voice lacks the [Abmaj7] range of  
tonal color

Necessary to make it consistently [G] interesting

[C] Full time consideration of an [Bb] other endeavor might be in [G]  
order

[G/F] - [Em] - [G/D] - [G] - [G/F] - [Em] - [G/D]

[G] He came back home to [G/f] Dayton and was [Em] questioned by his  
friends [G]

Then he [G] smiled and just said [G/f] nothing and he [Em] never sang  
[D] again

[C] Excepting very late [Bb] at night when the [Am] shop was dark and  
[G] closed

He sang softly to himself as he sorted through the [D] clothes

[G] - [Bm] Music was his life, it was not [Am7] his livelihood  
And it [Em] made him feel so happy, it [G] made him feel so [D] good  
And he [G/b] sang from his [C] heart and he [G] sang from his [D]  
soul

And he [G] did not know how [C] well he sang  
[Bb] It just [Abmaj7] made him [G] whole

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