

**Willie Got There First**  
**Seth Avett**

[Intro]

**C**

[Verse 1]

**C**

Well it struck me how cold the rain was

**C7** **F**

but I didn't look for cover at all

**G**

I just stood there face to face with my love

**F** **G**

watching her tear drops fall

**C** **C7**

And sad as it was, her blue eyes inspired me

**C7** **F**

switched on a light in my mind

**G**

and when she was gone, I wrote down a song

**F** **G**

to claim the moment as mine

[Chorus]

**F** **G** **C**

But Willie got there first

**F** **G** **C** **F**

put heartache and heartbreak into reverse

**G**

**G**

e |-----|  
B |-----|  
G |-----0--2--0-----|  
D |-----0---2---3-----|  
A |-----0--2---3-----|  
E |-----3-----|

like an alchemist turning his sorrow to gold

**F** **G**

e |-----|  
B |-----|  
G |--2-0-----0-----|  
D |-----3-----3--2---0-|  
A |-----|  
E |-----|

lyrics like maps for a soul

**G** **F** **D/F#** **G**

Eloquent truth and a common man's words

**F** **G** **C** **F**

I have such a good idea for a song

**Am** **G** **C**

But Willie got there first

[Verse 2]

**C** **C7**  
 The phases and stages of life they ve been changing  
**C7** **F**  
 and I was sure changing too  
**G**  
 the rivers of whiskey and Bloody Mary mornings  
**F** **G**  
 were causing my plans to fall through  
**C** **C7**  
 But when I was down I met me an angel  
**C7** **F**  
 flying too close to the ground  
**G**  
 and we rose up together and the victory moved me  
**F** **G**  
 to make a musical sound

[Chorus]

**F** **G** **C**  
 But Willie got there first  
**F** **G** **C** **F**  
 but falling in love to a beautiful verse  
**G** **G**

e|-----|  
 B|-----|  
 G|-----0---2---0---|  
 D|-----0---2---3---|  
 A|-----0---2---3---|  
 E|-----3-----|

like the brush strokes of a renaissance master so bold

**F** **G**

e|-----|  
 B|-----|  
 G|--2---0---0---|  
 D|-----3---3---2---0-|  
 A|-----|  
 E|-----|

still lifes of cold black and gold

**G** **F** **D/F#** **G**  
 breath taking country side, landscapes of words  
**F** **G** **C** **F**  
 I have such a good idea for a song  
**Am** **G** **C**  
 But Willie got there first

[Bridge]

**G** **C**  
 The rhymes are already written  
**G** **C**  
 the rhythm laid down by the band

**A**  
the melody's already been brought to life  
**D** **D7**  
by the piano players right hand  
**D7** **C**  
Bobby play it pretty  
**C** **G**  
leave that harp solo in  
**A**  
and Mickey take us, home one more time then lets  
**D** **G**  
get on the road again

[Verse 3]  
**C** **C7**  
I m crazy for feeling so lonely with my family  
**C7** **F**  
and so many friends  
**G**  
I know how it is with life as with love  
**F** **G**  
when one ends another begins  
**C** **C7**  
to live well you must be tougher than leather  
**C7** **F**  
and tender as a babe in a manger  
**G**  
lets lift up a glass of yesterdays wine  
**F** **G**  
and cheers to the red headed stranger

[Chorus]  
**F** **G** **C**  
Cause Willie got there first  
**F** **G** **C** **F**  
put God and the devil into the same verse

**G** **G**

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e |-----|
B |-----|
G |-----0--2--0-----|
D |-----0--2--3-----|
A |-----0--2--3-----|
E |-----3-----|

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like a preacher man letting his Sermon unfold  
**F** **G**

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e |-----|
B |-----|
G |---2---0---0-----|
D |-----3---3---2---0-|
A |-----|
E |-----|

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a tune like a cure for a soul  
**G** **F** **D/F#** **G**

the truth in a cowboys words

**F**                    **G**    **C**                    **F**

I have such a good idea for a song

**Am**            **G**                    **C**                    **F**

But Willie got there first

**Am**            **G**                    **C**

Yeah Willie got there first