

# A Journey on This Train

(Written by Pete Keating, 2006)

He hears the horn of the train in the distance, it's the 1-17  
The next stop is for a pickup by two passengers, named Matt and Marie  
As the train starts to slow to a stop 'round the bend  
Stands a boy on the platform, with ticket in hand  
Just a boy in this world, with a ticket for a journey on this train

"All aboard", says the engineer, "no baggage on this train is allowed"  
"Take a seat next to these here small three, from the last three towns"  
"Just sit here", says his Mamma, "on my lap or my knee"  
"Try to look out the window, "enjoy the sunrise with me"  
Just a boy with his Mamma and his Daddy and his new family.

The first stop is the Midwest, near a small town in the county McCook  
With a big ol' red barn, and a tractor and a pick-up truck  
Taught to learn what you love and achieve what you've dreamed  
Learned to finish today, what you started last week  
An American boy raised on heartland American soil

The next stop on this train, is just north of where home used to be  
Just a secondary track of academia, for a while he will see  
Said "good-bye" to his Mamma, with a tear on his face  
'Till a dark haired angel with a violin case  
Came along, they fell in love, now together they will travel from now on

Next stop's North New Jersey, for the boarding of a girl and a boy  
But leave room for two more, for our trip to the west when we go  
Then a stop there in Ames found a boy and his nose  
And the last of the crew was picked up in Idaho  
Just a man and his family and a life to where the rails go

Now its time for this man now to teach what he loves and he sees  
"Now kids look out the window", "learn to love what you'd love to be"  
"Hey look, it's California, South Dakota, Tennessee"  
Then to Eugene Oregon for that Track City scene  
"Fix the rattle", "lift the step". For we're off for the next big thing.

Took the tracks to the desert to the town of the cities three  
For a job there in the west, with the Department of Energy  
Turned a job so demanding such as site security

Into a breath of humanity for the people he'd lead  
So, "Thank God for Dr. Keating, "you're the best boss we've ever seen"

"Now Ma, the kids are busy", "So lets peek out the windows while we can"  
Look way off, past the seas off to England, Ireland and France  
Never shied from a piano, or a glass of Chardonnay  
So a set at Durty Nelly's on the piano he played  
Just a man, and his girl, and his grey eyebrow curls on this train

Now we hear the train a slowin', several passengers must exit you see  
And the engineer calls passengers by name, George and Pat, and Miss Marie  
Rode a long road of rails since your journeys began  
But the train, it must go on, so your loved ones can  
Just remember that a place in our hearts, there will always be

But before the train leaves, "All aboard", the announcer repeats  
From the platform steps two more to board, named Lauren and Emily  
Come aboard and be comfortable, but make room you see  
For the next stop's arrivals, Jeremiah and Megan B  
Fill the new empty seats, and be sure that you enjoy your stay

Now its not far along, till the next stop begins to slow  
When a man, he stands up from his seat, that is weathered and torn  
Time to turn in his ticket, all discolored and worn  
From the years of the weather, and life on the farm  
Good-bye Matt, Good-bye Grandpa, Good-bye glue of this family of ours

But the train door stays open, as he steps to the cold platform floor  
Meets a head of Irish red, with a ticket in hand that morn'  
Sees no wear on his ticket that is new and untorn  
Though the name on the top is the same as his own  
"Nice to meet you Mr. Keating, "And have fun, for your train's about to go"

Now the train faces west, toward the sunset, and starts to slow  
Must of misread Daddy's ticket, we all thought that he had miles to go  
But say hello to the ones who's stops have all come  
And we'll see you again when our journeys are done  
Good-bye Jack, Good-bye Daddy, and Godspeed, for your stop has come

Can you hear the horn a blowing' of the train in the distance as we go?  
Can you see our arms a waving' from the windows, the caboose and doors  
From your brother and sister, and all the people you know  
And your family and others that you met as you rode

Good-bye Dad, Good-bye brother, and Godspeed for your stop has come  
Good-bye Jack, Good-bye Poppi, and Godspeed, for your stop has come  
Hello son, hello brother, gonna meet you at the station when you come  
Good-bye Dad, and just know that we love you and we'll miss you you when you're  
gone