

Dark Wood of Katyn

April-July 2013

In the spring of 1940 evil plans were laid	Em C
In the bitter month of April Poland was betrayed	Am C Em
By a smiling Joseph Stalin who sent his hollow men	D C Am
To murder twenty thousand in the dark wood of Katyn	C G D Em

The lists came down from Moscow at the breaking of each day
Which soldiers, teachers, countrymen, would be shot that day
Till the prison cells were emptied in a cold and silent dawn
And the killers finally rested with the dreams of a nation gone

What dark birds are rising to an empty sky?	C G Em D
What rough hands have torn the earth where the bodies lie?	C G D Am
On this soft day in April as the jailers sing	C G Em D
What harsh music rises from the dark wood of Katyn?	C G D Em

Twenty thousand prisoners, hands bound behind
Flung in ditches newly dug under solemn pines
There for fifty years they lay by history denied
As politicians turned away and the sons of jackals lied

What color were your ribbons, you who cut them down?
What the story that you gave your daughters and your sons?
Do you ever call to mind when the light is dim
The secrets that you buried in the dark wood of Katyn?

Few there are alive today who recall the crime
And memory is a burden when the bells of freedom chime
But they tell the tale in Krakow and Bidgosz and Lublin
How they slew the Polish eagle in the dark wood of Katyn

What dark birds are rising to an empty sky?
What rough hands have torn the earth where the bodies lie?
On this soft day in April as the jailers sing
What harsh music rises from the dark wood of Katyn?

Remember. Remember.	Em C
Pamiętam. We remember.	Am-C Em

*Written in memory of the 20,000 Polish prisoners, many of them military officers,
executed by Joseph Stalin's secret police in the notorious Katyn Forest massacre.
The Soviets blamed the slaughter on the Nazis, and it wasn't until 1990 that
the USSR finally acknowledged responsibility.*