

Boatman

This song is a tribute to Martin Litton and the boatmen/women of the Grand Canyon, inspired by my 16-day dory trip from Lees Ferry to Lake Mead in May of 2012. For a free download, please send an email message to richard.cassard@gmail.com.

C C7 F Fm
On a breezy, sultry evening in a canyon called the Grand
C Em Am D G
I listened to the Boatman by a flame upon the sand
C C7 F Fm
And as he spoke of rowing, through times of joy and strife
C Em Am F G C
I realized the river tells the story of his life

C C7 F Fm
Search for all the markers, pick your line before you start
C Em Am D G
If you lose direction find the course within your heart
C C7 F Fm
Put your shoulders to the high side, never cower 'neath the wave
C Em Am F G C
Keep her trim and keep her level, and your fortunes will be saved

Chorus:

C F C Em
Boatman lives out on the water, with a dory for a home
F C Em Am D G
Boatman loves to row the river, finest life he's ever known
C F C Em
Boatman run those raging rapids, pull your dory through the wind
F C Em Am F G C
May the River Gods watch over, so you'll live to row again

First Bridge:

F G C Em Am
Floating on the water in a crucible of stone
F G C C7
The river is a mighty game of chance
F G C Em Am
The waves may toss and twirl you in a rush of spray and foam
D G G7
But you must take the oars and lead the dance

C C7 F Fm
 Never let your low-side gunnel dip beneath the blue
 C Em Am D G
 For if it does the torrent will soon envelop you
 C C7 F Fm
 You may curse but never panic when the river claims an oar
 C Em Am F G C
 Keep your wits and trust your instinct and your boat will find the shore

Chorus

Second Bridge:

F G C Em Am
 Many waves are playful, others may attack
 F G C C7
 Some wash o're the hatches and put you on your back
 F G C Em Am
 The rocks are ever shifting as the walls erode with time
 D G G7
 With a little luck and courage you'll be fine

C C7 F Fm
 With the churning falls behind you don't be arrogant or proud
 C Em Am D G
 There's a chance that you might falter 'for the final bend comes round
 C C7 F Fm
 We are only in the canyon for a moment in the sun
 C Em Am F G C
 May your ride be ever joyful 'til the final rapids' run

Final Chorus:

C F C Em
 Boatman lives out on the water, with a dory for a home
 F C Em Am D G
 Boatman loves to row the river, finest life he's ever known
 C F C Em
 Boatman take me down the river, Boatman guide me to the shore
 F C Em Am F G C
 Oh the canyon of forever will be yours forevermore
 F C Em Am D G C F C
 Oh the canyon of forever will be yours forevermore