

A HUNGRY FEELIN'

This song was first performed as part of a play by Brendan Behan, who is credited with composing it. Learning that came as a surprise to me, because when I first heard it performed by Ian and Sylvia in the early 60's it sure sounded like an old folk song. It is based on Behan's personal experience at Mountjoy Prison, where he was confined at one time. You can hear this song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRL7pEMMIbU>

ROYAL CANAL

by Brendan Behan

D
A hungry feelin' came o'er me stealin,
G D G A
As the mice were squealin' in my prison ce-ell.

CHORUS:

D
When that old triangle goes jingle-jangle
G D G D
All along the banks of the Royal Canal.

To begin the mornin' – the water boilin'
Get out of bed and clean up your cell

CHORUS:

On a fine spring evenin' the lag lay dreamin'
The seagulls beamin' high above the wall

CHORUS:

The screw was peepin' and the lay was sleepin'
As he lay there weepin' for his gal Sal

CHORUS:

In the female prison there are seventy women
And it's oooh with them that I would like to dwell

CHORUS:

The day was dyin' and the wind was sighin'
As I lay cryin' in my prison cell

CHORUS: