Hymn to Comparative Advantage
by ET and the Boy
Capo +1

Chords: C G F G | C G F G | C G F G | am G F G |
        dm C G am | F C E A7 |

The New York Times says “Why can’t we compete with global industry?
It is the teachers’ union turning our kids’ brains to mush
If kids aren’t learning in first grade, they’re bound to grow up underpaid
So don’t blame NAFTA, GATT, or CAFTA, Clinton, Bush, or Bush
   From Pittsburgh out to old Motown
   The factories have all shut down
   Replaced by sweatshops overseas
   Where the kids all have advanced degrees

So I asked my Gramps about the time he worked out on the factory line
And earned a decent wage; I guess the schools were better then
He said, “Half the guys that I recall, they didn’t graduate at all
Although in many ways I’d call them educated men
   It didn’t take a Ph.D.
   To learn our solidarity
   We won those wages struggling hard
   And carrying a union card”

I said, “Okay, but that was then and now your factory’s in Shenzen
We’re losing ground, we can’t compete with workers over there”
He said, “You won’t win until you see what is the real class enemy
And join in struggle arm in arm with workers everywhere
   I know that’s harder done than said
   Don’t envy you the fight ahead
   But I’m glad you’ve got a teacher who
   Knows what a strong union can do

“So when the New York Times says ‘Why can’t we compete with global industry?’
You tell ’em that we won’t let them divide us anymore
We’re settling for nothing less than bread and roses, art and rest
And schools and work for everyone from Prague to Bangalore”