Chords of Fame

Phil Ochs

I found him by the stage last night

He was breathing his last breath

A bottle of gin and a cigarette

Was all that he had leftI can see you make the music

'Cause you carry a guitar

But God, help the troubadour

Who tries to be a starSo play the chords of love, my friend

Play the chords of pain

If you want to keep your song

Don't, don't, don't, don't play the chords of fameI've seen my share of hustlers

As they try to take the world

When they find their melody

They're surrounded by the girlsBut it all fades so quickly

Like a sunny summer day

Reporters ask you questions

They write down what you saySo play the chords of love, my friend

Play the chords of pain

If you want to keep your song

Don't, don't, don't play the chords of fameSo play the chords of love, my friend

Play the chords of pain

If you want to keep your song

Don't, don't, don't, don't play the chords of fameThey will rob you of your innocence

They will put you up for sale

More that you will find success

The more that you will failI've been around, I've had my share

And I really can't complain

But I wonder who I left behind

The other side of fameSo play the chords of love, my friend

Play the chords of pain

If you want to keep your song

Don't, don't, don't play the chords of fame

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