

“Once We Were Kings” from *Billy Elliot the Musical*

Music by Elton John, book and lyrics by Lee Hall

The U.K. miners’ strike took place from March 6, 1984, to March 3, 1985. This was an industrial dispute between the government and the miners’ union as the government began to shut down the coal industry. This is the last song in the musical – a sort of anthem to the working-class miners and their cause.

Once we built visions on ground we hewed
We dreamt of justice and of men renewed
All people equal, in all things
We once were heroes,
Once were kings
But all great things must come to pass
We know the first will soon be last
And in the ground we may be lain
But a seed is sown to rise again
So we walk proudly
And we walk strong
All together
We will go as one
The ground is empty
And cold as hell
But we all go together when we go
We saw a land where wealth was shared
Each pain relieved, each hunger fed
Each man revered, each tyrant killed
Each soul redeemed, each life fulfilled
From each man means to each his need
We saw a time man would be freed
We fought for all the things we saw
The battle’s lost but not the war
So we walk proudly
And we walk strong
All together
We will go as one
The ground is empty
And cold as hell

But we all go together when we go
We will go down but our heads are proud
We will go down with our voices loud
We will go down but come again
And we all go together when we go
Ah... Ah...Ah...

And we all go together when we go.
We walk proudly, and we walk strong
All together we will go as one
The ground is empty, and cold as hell
But we all go together when we go.
We walk proudly, and we walk strong
All together we will go as one
The ground is empty, and cold as hell
But we all go together when we go.
We walk proudly, and we walk strong
All together we will go as one
The ground is empty, and cold as hell
But we all go together when we go.