

SAN JOSÉ

Introduction:

In August 2010, 33 miners began their shift at the San José copper-gold mine in Northern Chile. After a collapse was reported, it was feared that all were lost. Rescue efforts began the next day and they were located 17 days later. However, the complexities of the situation and the need to draw on international help to achieve a rescue, meant that it was a further 52 days before all 33 men emerged alive – it was now October!

This song is our tribute to those miñeros – celebrating the courage of “The 33” of San José...

Song:

On a balmy August day; Another shift at San José

Descends into the dark again – hear me...

Half a mile down to the seams; To work the rock with our machines

We harvest gold to fuel our dreams – hear me...

Hear me, hear me, hear me (one voice only)

Then resonating through the ground; A rising unfamiliar sound

Then exploding all around – hear me...

6 hours of dust, 6 hours of doubt; Every man searched all about

To realise there was no way out – hear me...

Bridge

In the dripping dark we sat around

Colliers and friends, trapped underground

Far from the face of the burning sun

Do they know we're here... will they ever come (will they ever come)

Chorus

Hear me (hear me), hear me (hear me), hear me (hear me), (repeat)

Desperate, hopeless, hear us pray; No sun no moon or night or day

Entombed inside this living grave – hear me...

17 days no contact still, Clinging on to mind and will

Our hope rekindled by the drill – hear me...

In the dripping dark we sat around

Colliers and friends, trapped underground

Far from the face of the burning sun

Do they know we're here... will they ever come (will they ever come)

Hear me (hear me), hear me (hear me), hear me (hear me), (repeat)

(the prayer)

Padre y María Madre de Dios,

Escucha mi oración, mi oración en la oscuridad

Escúchame, por favor Padre, escúchame – hear me

Hope and fear live side by side; the endless wait while fate decides

Will we live or will we die?-hear me

In the dripping dark only...

Then on a bright October day; the 33 of San Jose

Reborn into the light again-hear me