



I Wish I Knew Now (What I Knew Then)

Knowing I was going to be playing a show where I grew up, Tybee Island, Ga., I decided to commit to paper what the place meant to me during those years. It was and remains an island full of truly unique and good souls, and a place that will always be home.

I knew all my neighbors by their first name
I knew I could count on them, and they knew the same
I knew a good back then that was right as rain
And it seemed to me like it'd always been

I knew a living that made a life worthwhile
And I knew every inch of these hometown miles
And I knew I saw God in my mama's smile
And I'll tell you, friend
Sometimes I can remember when

When I knew that love was true
And was never not always right there for you
Just like I knew the day would come
When everything I'd been waiting on would be waiting
There to be found, just up around the bend
I wish I knew now what I knew then

I knew the meaning of the word rejoice
I knew I heard it in the joyful noise
And I knew every word, so I'd raise my voice
And with faith I'd sing every sweet "Amen"

And I knew a thing called believing and a thing called trust
I knew a better heart beat deep-down in all of us
And I knew above all else just how lucky I was
And I'd give thanks again at each and every sweet day's end

It really ain't no wonder why I catch myself from time to time
Saying it over again: I wish I knew now what I knew then

Tony Arata Music (ASCAP)