

## **why the band broke up**

they didn't break up because  
the rhythm section could never get to a gig on the right date  
or at the right time, even after he got the Valiant going again  
they didn't break up because the diva's harmonies were always a tiny bit off  
and she was always a tiny bit behind everyone else in the fast parts  
they didn't break up when the bass player refused to wear white for the light show  
said it was too blinding – hid offstage in the dark  
and they didn't break up when  
they started playing with other bands in other genres  
and his girlfriend was jealous  
tried to swallow all her pills every time he went to rehearsal  
and they didn't break up because  
experimental was never going to be popular  
they didn't go to art school  
and they made it up with sounds from the kitchen cupboard  
and a violin on special from Aldi  
and they didn't break up because they couldn't finish anything  
without it sounding like a question mark  
they didn't break up because  
you have to be ninety percent ego to get gigs  
and one started singing the lines while the other sang the spaces  
and they got shafted with the running order – had to play to the first three earlybirds  
or the last five insomniacs  
they didn't break up when  
the guy in the Fidel Castro cap decided to shake things up  
cranked up the feedback  
so they could no longer hear themselves  
they didn't break up because aesthetics will collide and  
they couldn't tell the difference between being conceptual  
and being a dickhead  
and the clarinet solo went on for an hour and a half  
and they got pissed off when everyone left  
and the barman turned off the lights...  
but they did eventually break up...  
no one could really remember why

**Anna Fern**