

dedicated to Joris Derder

# The (abbreviated) ballad of Mabel Clare

*for six voices a capella*

lyrics:

**Henry Lawson** (1867-1922)

music:

**Frank Nuyts** ('26)

[www.franknuyts.com](http://www.franknuyts.com)

## The (abbreviated) ballad of Mable Clare

(Henry Lawson)

1. There dwelt a hard old cockatoo  
 On western hills far out,  
 Where everything is green and blue,  
 Except, of course, in drought;  
 A crimson Anarchist was he—  
 Held other men in scorn—  
 Yet (he) preached that ev'ry man was free,  
 And also 'ekal born.'  
 He lived in his ancestral hut—  
 His missus wasn't there—  
 And there was no one with him but  
 His daughter, Mabel Clare.  
 A manly independence, born  
 Among the trees, she had,  
 She treated womankind with scorn,  
 And often cursed her dad.

2. A stranger at the neighb'ring run  
 Sojourned, the squatter's guest,  
 He was unknown to anyone,  
 But like a swell was dress'd;  
 He had an eyeglass to his eye,  
 A collar to his ears,  
 His feet were made to tread the sky,  
 His mouth was formed for sneers.  
 And strolling in the noontide heat,  
 Beneath the blinding glare,  
 This noble stranger chanced to meet  
 The radiant Mabel Clare.  
 In short, he learned to love the girl,  
 And things went on like this,  
 Until he said he was an Earl,  
 And asked her to be his.

3. 'My head is in an awful whirl,  
 'The truth I dare not tell—  
 'I am a democratic girl,  
 'And cannot wed a swell!'  
 'Oh love!' he cried, 'but you forget  
 'That you are most unjust;  
 'Twas not my fault that I was set  
 'Within the upper crust.  
 'For you I'll give my fortune up—  
 'I'd go to work for you!  
 'I'll put the money in the cup  
 'And drop the title, too.

4. His eye-glass from his eye he tore,  
 The dickey from his breast,  
 And turned and stood his bride before  
 A rouseabout—confess'd!  
 'Unknown I've loved you long,' he said,  
 'And I have loved you true—  
 'A-shearing in your gov'ner's shed  
 'I learned to worship you.  
 He pawned the togs, and home he took  
 His bride in all her charms;  
 The proud old cockatoo received  
 The pair with open arms.

# The (abbreviated) ballad of Mable Claire

Henry Lawson (1876-1922)

Frank Nuyts ('26)

♩ = 76

1.

S. 1

M.S. 2

A. *mf* *mf sub*

There dwelt a hard old cock-a too on wes - tern hills far out

T.

Bar.

B.



7

*mf* *p sub*

and blue ex - cept of

*mf* *p sub*

green and blue, ex - cept of

where e-v'ry - thing is green and blue, ex - cept, of

10

*mf* *p (sub) < mf < mp*

course of course in drought

*mf* *p (sub) < mf < mp*

course of course in drought

*mf* *mf sub < p (sub) < mf < mp*

course, ex-cept of course, ex-cept in drought

*p*

drought

*p*

drought

16

*p ma marcato*

There dwelt an old hard cock-a-too

*p ma marcato*

There dwelt an old hard cock-a-too

*p ma marcato*

There dwelt an old hard cock-a-too

*pp* *mf*

There dwelt a hard old cock-a too

*pp*

*mf*

There dwelt a hard old cock-a too

23

on hills far out where e-v'ry - thing where e-v'ry-thing

on hills far out where e-v'ry-thing where e-v'ry-thing

on hills far out where e-v'ry - thing where e-v'ry-thing

where e-v'ry-thing where e-v'ry-thing is

where e-v'ry-thing where e-v'ry-thing is

*mf sub*  
on western hills far out, where where e-v'ry-thing is

27

is green and blue, ex-cept of course in

is green and blue, ex-cept of course in

is green and blue, ex-cept of course in

green and blue is green and blue

green and blue is green and blue

green and blue is green and blue

32

*pp*  
drought

*pp*  
drought

*pp*  
drought

*f sub*  
A crim - son A-nar-chist was

*f sub*  
A crim - son A - nar-chist was he,

*f sub*  
A crim-son A - nar-chist was he

38

*f*  
held o-ther men men in

*f*  
o-ther men in

*f*  
held o - ther men in

*mf sub*  
he, held o-ther men in scorn

held o-ther men in scorn

held o-ther men in scorn

42 *f* *mf* *f* *f<sub>sub</sub>* *f<sub>sub</sub>*<sup>7</sup>

scorn, scorn, scorn, in scorn, yet preached yet preached yet

scorn scorn, scorn, in scorn yet preached yet preached yet

scorn, scorn, scorn, in scorn, yet preached yet preached yet

men in scorn yet preached yet preached yet

men in scorn yet preached yet preached yet

men in scorn yet preached yet preached yet

46 *p* *pp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf<sub>sub</sub>* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

preached was free and

preached and

preached and

preached that e-v'ry-man was free and

preached that e-v'ry-man was free was free and

preached that e-v'ry man was free was free and

49

al - so 'e-kal born'

al - so 'e-kal born'

al - so 'e-kal born' He lived he lived in his an -

al - so 'e-kal born'

al - so 'e-kal born'

al - so 'e-kal born'

*pp* *f* *mf*

56

His mis-sus his mis-sus mis-sus his

His mis-sus his mis-sus his

ces-tral hut an-ces-tral hut mis - sus mis-sus mis-sus his

mis - sus mis-sus his

mis - sus mis-sus his

mis - sus mis-sus his

*p* *mf sub* *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

61

mis-sus was not there And there was no one with

mis-sus was not there And there was no one with

mis-sus was not there no

mis-sus she was-n't there

mis-sus she wasn't there

mis-sus she wasn't there

66

him but his daugh-ter

him but his daugh-ter And there

one with him And there was no one with him And there

no

And there was no one with him

no

And there was no one with him



*f* *mp*

Ma - bel Clare

*f* *mp*

Ma - bel Clare

*f*

Ma - bel Clare no one with him but daugh-ter Ma - bel Clare

*mp*

Ma - bel Clare Ma - bel Clare

*mp*

Ma - bel Clare Ma - bel Claire

*mf* *poco f sub*

Ma - bel Clare Ma - bel Clare A

*pp*

86

*pp* *p*

born a-mong the trees she had.

*pp* *p*

born a-mong the trees she had.

*pp*

*pp* *mp*

born a mong the trees she had.

*mf*

man - ly inde - pen-dence