

1369. ALBATROSS

Backgrounds of S. Radic

"Albatross" is a guitar instrumental by the group Fleetwood Mac, which was released as a single in November 1968 and can later be heard on the compilation albums *The Pious Bird of Good Omen* (UK) and *English Rose* (US). It was a big hit in several countries and became Fleetwood Mac's only number 1 hit in the UK singles chart that spent a week at the top. The piece was composed by guitarist Peter Green. The single has sold over 900,000 copies in the UK.

Santo & Johnny's "Sleep Walk" (1959) allegedly inspired Peter Green to write his 1968 instrumental "Albatross", although the composition also resembles Chuck Berry's 1957 instrumental "Deep Feeling", which in turn is derived from Andy Kirk's 1939 recording "Floyd's Guitar Blues" and his 12 Clouds of Joy with guitarist Floyd Smith.

The composition and its arrangement suggest a relaxing sea atmosphere with cymbals imitating the sound of waves (Mick Fleetwood played his drums with timpani mallets to create a muffled sound) and a dreamy solo of Green's guitar. It contains four chords, E, Emaj7, H7 and F#m, played by Green on his Fender Stratocaster with his AMP Orange Matamp OR100.

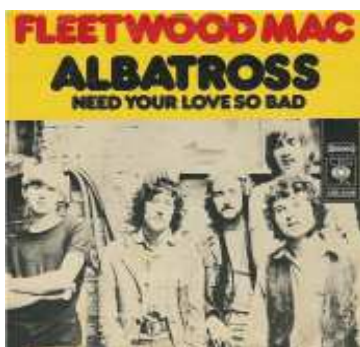
This composition is one of the few tracks from the original Fleetwood Mac line-up included on their later "Greatest Hits" and "Best of" compilations. Many of her compilations concentrate only on hits from the 1970s and 1980s.

However, other compositions from this period have become classical recordings in the hands of other interpreters - "Black Magic Woman", as recorded by Santana, for example. Another example: "Oh Well" has become a rock standard. "Albatross" is the only Fleetwood Mac composition with the peculiarity of having inspired a Beatles song, "Sun King" from *Abbey Road* from 1969.



"Albatross" is the crowning glory of Fleetwood Mac's early career and gave the band a big international hit. Through the combination of Blues, Bahamas, Caribbean and Calypso music Peter Green created a truly unique musical synthesis. Green and the band, built around a simple blues pattern, added fabulous and somewhat eccentric shades, and the overall effect is undoubtedly intoxicating. One of the few instrumentalists of the time who became hit records, this song was also very influential. One of the biggest fans was John Lennon, who took the feeling of the song in his own "tribute" to Green, "Sun King".

An albatross is a bird that sailors believed was unlucky, hence the term "an albatross around the neck". The Albatross appears in the poem *The Rhyme Of The Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Coleridge. Fleetwood Mac guitarist Peter Green read the poem as a child, which brought him the idea for the song. This song is the best-selling rock instrumental of all time in Great Britain. Peter Green quote: "I heard John Mayall's Bluebreakers cover of blues singer Jimmy Roger's *The Last Meal*. I thought I'd take it and develop it." A 1957 Chuck Berry title, "Deep Feeling", has many of the same elements used in "Albatross", including a reputation and response style of guitar playing and a constant bass in the background.



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MK379

MWP-Nr.1369

Gitarren-Hit 1968 von FLEETWOOD MAC
in Vers. ADY ZEHNPFENNIG-LP "Sound Sensation"

Edit.: S. Radic

Slow-Beat, T=70

The musical score is arranged in five staves: Bells, Strings, Guitar, Bass, and Drums. The time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as T=70. The score is divided into two main sections, Main 1 and Main 2, indicated by vertical arrows on the right. The 'Advanced' part for strings is marked with a triplet. The guitar part features continuous triplet chords. The bass and drums parts also feature triplet patterns.

Programming instruction

A very slow style with catchy character! The rhythm consists only of the bass drum, the ride cymbal and three toms. The accompaniment from a very specific triplet guitar chord phrase and the triplet quintwechsel bass. Typical is also the continuous last trio in time, or the continuous bass trio with basic chord tones in every second bar. The whole piece has only three accompanying chords: the major chord with the major seventh (in the original E_j7), the minor chord on the second scale level (in the original F_#m) and at the end of the second phrase bar the dominant seventh chord in the continuous chord triplets with corresponding bass (in the original H7). The "Advanced" part with the strings not only plays a continuous sounding chord carpet, but also a phrase applied to the melody. The Bells part in Main 2 is very important: It loosens up the often repeating melody structure a bit!