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Not They Who Soar (medium voice and piano)

Gary Bachlund

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Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

Gary Bachlund

Not They Who Soar

Not they who soar,______ but

they who plod their rugged way,________ unhelped to God,______

are heroes;________ they who higher fare______

and, flying, fan the upper air,______ miss all the toil______

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Not They Who Soar

that hugs the sod.

Not they who soar... Tis' they whose backs have felt the rod, whose feet have pressed the path un-shod... Tis' they... may smile upon defeated
Not They Who Soar

care, not they who soar.  

Tis’ they...  

Tis’ they whose backs have felt the rod.

High up there are no thorns to prod, no boulders lurking ‘neath the clod.

To turn the keenness of the share, for flight is ever free and rare:
Not They Who Soar

but heroes they the soil who've trod.

not they who soar.

soar, but they who plod their rugged way.

ritardando al fine

helped to God, are heroes.

circa 3' 15'

27 VII 2009
Charleston