

Where The Pelican Builds

SA and Piano

"Where the Pelican Builds" is a poem by Australian poet Mary Hannay Foott, first published in *The Bulletin* magazine on 12 March 1881, and later in the poet's collection "Where the Pelican Builds and Other Poems" (1885).
E. S. Wilkinson, in "The Brisbane Courier" in 1932, writes that the poem was inspired by the story of two brothers, Cornelius and Albert Prout. These men, who came from Sydney originally, had moved to Queensland to work on the land and over the years tended to move further west looking for "some fine country" they could take up.
In December 1877 they set off from western Queensland towards the South Australian/Northern Territory border area and were never heard from again. Mary Hannay Foott, who lived in the region from where the men set out, heard the tale from the grieving parents, and based this poem on the brothers' search.

Poem by Mary Hannay Foott (1846-1918)

Music by Mark Puddy

Verse 2

14 This excerpt begins just before verse 2 *mf*

They had told us of pas-tures wide and green, to be

16 *mf* This excerpt begins just before verse 2

sought past the sun - set's glow; of rifts in the ran-ges by o - pal lit, and

18

gold 'neath the riv - er's flow. And thirst and hun-ger were ban - ished words when they

mf

Dm N.C. Dm

20

spoke of that un-known West; No drought they dread-ed, no flood they feared, "Where the

C/D N.C.

Chorus 2

22

pel - i - can builds her nest! Her

cresc.

pel - i - can builds Where the pel - i - can builds her nest! Where the

C/E Dm C D⁵

cresc.

24

nest. Her nest. Where the

pel - i - can builds her nest! Where the pel - i - can builds, pel - i - can builds, where the

Gm⁶/D Dm⁷(omit5) Gm⁶/D

26 *f*

pel - i - can builds her nest! Where the pel - i - can builds her nest! Where the

pel - i - can builds her nest! Nest! Her

f

D⁵ B \flat C C/E D⁵

28

pel - i - can builds her nest! Where the pel - i - can builds, pel - i - can builds, where the

nest. Her nest, oh where the

Gm⁶/D Dm⁷(omit5) Gm⁶/D

30 *p*

pel - i - can builds her nest! The

pel - i - can builds her nest! The

p

D⁵ N.C.

5

33 V.3

creek at the ford was but fet - lock deep when we watched them cros - sing there; the

p

Dm/A Gm⁶/A