

Where The Pelican Builds

SAB 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

$\text{♩} = 120$ (SA unison) *mf* **V.1**

The hor-ses were rea-dy, the rails were down, but the
mf

The hor-ses were rea-dy, the rails were down, but the
Dm

N.C.
mf

3
ri-ders lin-gered still; One had a part-ing word to say, and one had his pipe to fill. Then they

ri-ders lin-gered still; One had a part-ing word to say, and one had his pipe to fill. Then they

C/D Gm⁶/D Dm Am

6

mount - ed, one with a grant - ed prayer, and one with a grief un-guessed, "We are

mount - ed, one with a grant - ed prayer, and one with a grief un-guessed, "We are

Dm C/D

8

go - ing" they said, as they rode a - way-"Where the pel - i - can builds_ her

go - ing" they said, as they rode a - way-"Where the pel - i - can builds... Where the

Gm⁶/D B^b C Dm C N.C. C/E

Chorus 1

10 *cresc.*

nest!" Her nest. Her

cresc.

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

D⁵ Gm⁶/D

cresc.

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12 *dim.* *mf*

nest. Where the pel-i-can builds her nest! They had

dim. *mf*

pel-i-can builds, pel-i-can builds, where the pel-i-can builds her nest! They had

Dm7(omit5) Gm6/D D5 N.C.

mf *mf*

dim. *mf*

15 **V.2**

told us of pas - tures wide and green, to be sought past the sun - set's glow; of

told us of pas - tures wide and green, to be sought past the sun - set's glow; of

Dm C/D

17

riffs in the ran-ges by o - pal lit, and gold 'neath the riv - er's flow. And

riffs in the ran-ges by o - pal lit, and gold 'neath the riv - er's flow. And

Gm6/D Dm N.C.

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4 19

thirst and hun-ger were ban - ished words when they spoke of that un - known West; No

thirst and hun-ger were ban - ished words when they spoke of that un - known West; No

Dm C/D

21

drought they dread ed, no flood they feared,"Where the pel - i - can builds_ her

drought they dread ed, no flood they feared,"Where the pel - i - can builds Where the

N.C. C/E Dm C

23 **Chorus 2**

nest! Her nest. Her

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

D⁵ Gm⁶/D

cresc.

25

nest. Where the pel - i - can builds her nest! Where the *f*

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

Dm7(omit5) *Gm6/D* *D5* *Bb C C/E*

27 *f* Nest! Her nest, Her

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

f Some Bs preferred on top

Nest! Her nest. Her

D5 *Gm6/D*

29 nest, oh where the pel - i - can builds her nest!

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

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

Dm7(omit5) *Gm6/D* *D5*