JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

MELE KALIKIMAKA

RECORDED BY BING CROSBY WITH THE ANDREWS SISTERS

MUSIC ARRANGED BY JOHN SCOTT TROTTER

VOCAL TRIO ARRANGED BY VIC SCHOEN

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-9044

MUSIC AND WORDS BY R. ALEX ANDERSON

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A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.



THE SAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.
PO BOX 1236
SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866 USA

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MELE KALIKIMAKA (1950)

Background:

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One of America's most endearing entertainters, Bing Crosby was one of the first people to attain massive crossover success as a popular figure, having equally successful careers in music and film. Born in Tacoma, Washington in 1903, Crosby became the first vocalist to achieve star billing with a big band after joining the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in 1926. More success came as the featured star of The Rhythm Boys after leaving Whiteman.

The 1930s continued to see not only a continued string of musical successes, but also Crosby's break into film. Starring in several short comedies during this time, often pairing up with comedian Bob Hope. His career as an actor reached its peak in 1944, when he won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Going My Way*.

Crosby would branch out in several different directions in the 1950s. He became a regular sight on television, as well as becoming actively involved in the world of sports, owning several thoroughbred race horses as well as being partial owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. He passed away in 1977.

The Music:

Written in 1949, Mele Kalikimaka has been covered by a wide variety of artists over the years. Despite this, the version recorded by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters in 1950 seems to be the one that has withstood the test of time the best, making a number of notable appearances in pop culture over the years, perhaps most notably in the 1989 film National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

To the Conductor:

John Scott Trotter's arrangement is ultimately fairly simple in construction, consisting mostly of the melody being repeated four different times in total. The first time, at measure 9, features Crosby singing the melody by himself. The Andrews Sisters take over at measure 41, with the third time at measure 73 being split between the full ensemble for the first half of the melody followed by Crosby and the female trio for the second half.

A four measure ensemble interlude at measure 105 sets up the melody's final rendition. From measure 109 to 117, Crosby and one female voice sing the melody in duet. The second half of the melody is largely performed as a call and response between Crosby and the sisters, with the ending briefly tagged before one final ensemble figure brings things to a clean and crisp close.

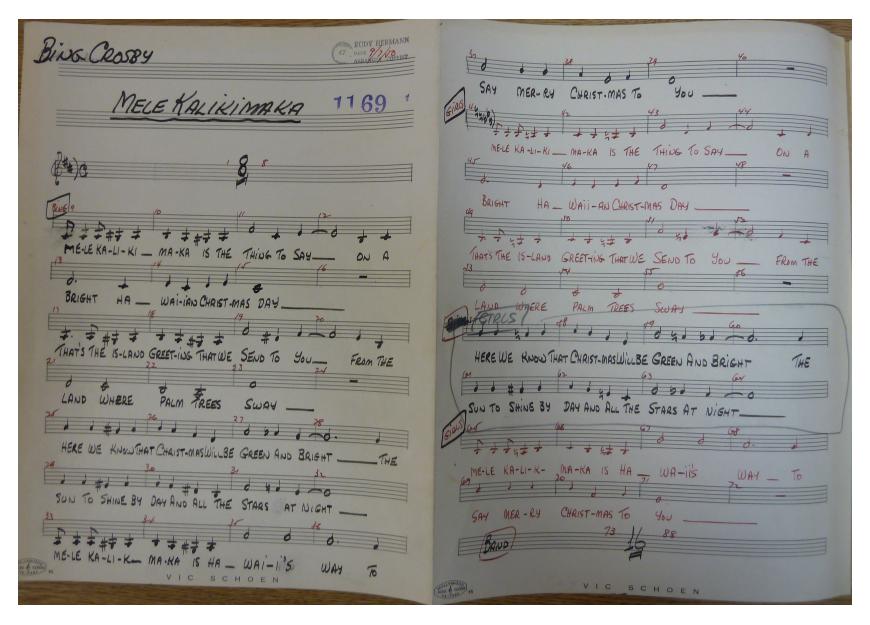
This arrangement is for jazz big band with male vocal and female vocal trio. All woodwinds double on clarinet or bass clarinet; however, alternate parts are included for woodwinds 2-5 that avoid doubles (woodwind I maintains the clarinet double). In addition, the arrangement was written to include both a slide guitar and regular guitarist. The slide guitar part may be played on regular guitar. But, also included is a divisi violin part so that these fills may be played on violins instead. This violin part was created by Trotter and was found in Bing Crosby's library. It assumed that this part was created so that Crosby would be able to perform this arrangement live without the need of a slide guitar player. Also note that the original arrangement was written for 3 trumpets and 2 trombones - optional trumpet 4 and trombones 3 and 4 parts are included.

This publication was based on the original parts used for the recording session - this is not a transcription.

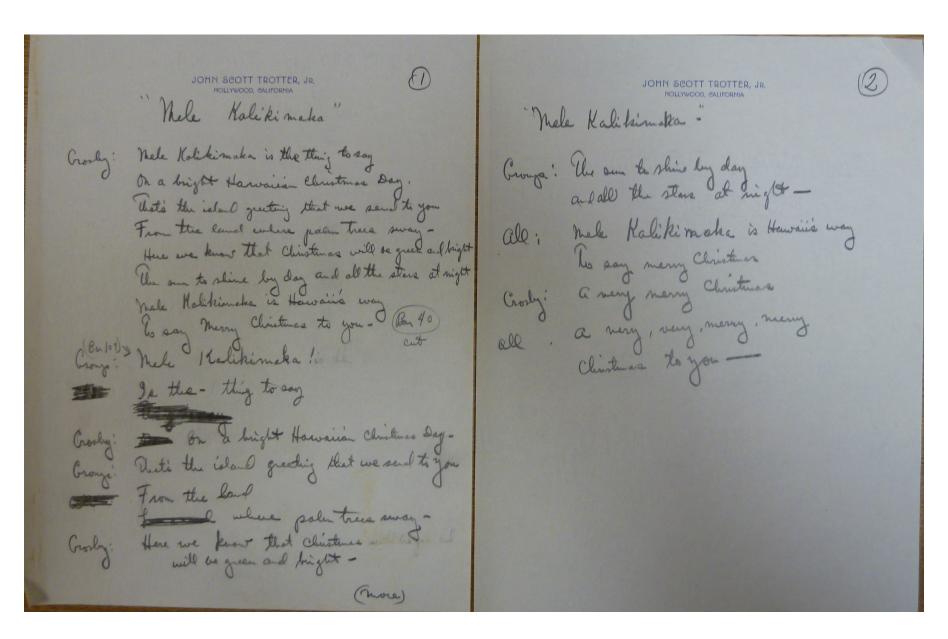
Doug DuBoff and Rob DuBoff

- July 2022





Above is Bing Crosby's original part as used for the 1950 recording.



Above is a lyric sheet written by John Scott Trotter.

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