

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

COPYRIGHT © 1949 LOVELY HULA HANDS MUSIC LLC. COPYRIGHT RENEWED.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USED BY PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS ADMINISTERED BY LICHILLE MUSIC COMPANY.

PUBLISHED BY THE JAZZ LINES FOUNDATION INC.,
A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.



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

MELE KALIKIMAKA (1950)

Background:

One of America's most endearing entertainers, 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 1 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

Bing Crosby

RUDY HERMANN
47 DATE 8/2/50
ABRAHAM LINCOLN LIBRARY

MELE KALIKIMAKA 1169

ME-LE KA-LI-KI MA-KA IS THE THING TO SAY ON A
BRIGHT HA-WAI-IAN CHRIST-MAS DAY
THAT'S THE IS-LAND GREET-ING THAT WE SEND TO YOU FROM THE
LAND WHERE PALM TREES SWAY
HERE WE KNOW THAT CHAIST-MAS WILL BE GREEN AND BRIGHT THE
SUN TO SHINE BY DAY AND ALL THE STARS AT NIGHT
ME-LE KA-LI-K- MA-KA IS HA-WAI-I'S WAY TO

SAY MER-RY CHRIST-MAS TO YOU
ME-LE KA-LI-KI MA-KA IS THE THING TO SAY ON A
BRIGHT HA-WAI-IAN CHRIST-MAS DAY
THAT'S THE IS-LAND GREET-ING THAT WE SEND TO YOU FROM THE
LAND WHERE PALM TREES SWAY
HERE WE KNOW THAT CHRIST-MAS WILL BE GREEN AND BRIGHT THE
SUN TO SHINE BY DAY AND ALL THE STARS AT NIGHT
ME-LE KA-LI-K- MA-KA IS HA-WAI-I'S WAY TO
SAY MER-RY CHRIST-MAS TO YOU

VIC SCHOEN

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

"Mele Kalikimaka"

Crosby: Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say
On a bright Hawaiian Christmas Day.
That's the island greeting that we send to you
From the land where palm trees sway -
Here we know that Christmas will be green and bright
The sun to shine by day and all the stars at night
Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaii's way
To say Merry Christmas to you - (Bar 40 cut)

(Bar 10) Group: Mele Kalikimaka is the

~~thing to say~~
Is the - thing to say

Crosby: ~~On~~ On a bright Hawaiian Christmas Day -

Group: That's the island greeting that we send to you

~~From the land~~
From the land

~~where palm trees sway -~~
where palm trees sway -

Crosby: Here we know that Christmas will be green and bright -
will be green and bright -

(more)

"Mele Kalikimaka"

Group: The sun to shine by day
and all the stars at night -

All: Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaii's way
To say merry Christmas

Crosby: A very merry Christmas

All: A very, very, merry, merry
Christmas to you -

Above is a lyric sheet written by John Scott Trotter.

MELE KALIKIMAKA

RECORDED BY BING CROSBY AND THE ANDREWS SISTERS

SCORE

MUSIC AND WORDS BY R. ALEX ANDERSON
MUSIC ARRANGED BY JOHN SCOTT TROTTER
VOCAL TRIO ARRANGED BY VIC SCHOEN

PREPARED BY ROB DUBOFF, DYLAN CANTERBURY, AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

BRIGHT, IN 2 ♩ = 200

The score is arranged for a jazz ensemble. The vocal parts (Male Vocal, Soprano, Alto 1, Alto 2) are currently silent. The instrumental parts include:

- Woodwinds:** Four Clarinet/Alto Sax positions, one Bass Clarinet/Tenor Sax position. The woodwinds play a melodic line starting in measure 7, marked *mf*.
- Trumpets:** Four positions, all marked "Tight Cup Mute".
- Trombones:** Four positions, all marked "Tight Cup Mute".
- Violins (Opt.):** Play a string accompaniment starting in measure 7, marked *mf* and *solo div.*
- Steel Guitar:** Play a string accompaniment starting in measure 7, marked *mf* and *solo*.
- Guitar:** Play a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 7, marked *mf*.
- Piano:** Play a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 7, marked *mf*.
- Acoustic Bass:** Play a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 7, marked *mf*.
- Drum Set:** Play a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 7, marked *mf* and "Brushes".

The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as BRIGHT, IN 2 ♩ = 200. The score is divided into measures 1 through 8. The guitar and piano parts include chord diagrams and chord names: D⁶, D⁷/C, B⁷(^{#5}), E_m⁷, A⁷, D⁶, F^o⁷, E_m⁷, and A⁷.

9

M Vox
Me - le ka - li - ki - ma - ka is the thing to say _____ on a bright Haw - wai - ian Christ - mas day. _____

Vlns (Opt.)

Steel Gtr

Gtr
mp
D⁶ A⁷ D⁶ F^{°7} E_m⁷ A⁷

Pno
mp
D⁶ A⁷ D⁶ F^{°7} E_m⁷ A⁷

Bs
mp
D⁶ A⁷ D⁶ F^{°7} E_m⁷ A⁷

D. S.
mp
(4) (8)

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17

M Vox
That's the is - land greet - ing that I send to you _____ from the land where palm trees sway. _____

Vlns (Opt.)

Steel Gtr

Gtr
E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ D⁶

Pno
E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ D⁶

Bs
E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ E_m⁷ A⁷ D⁶

D. S.
(4) (8)

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24