



R. Alex Anderson

The Composer who Charmed Hawai'i and the World

Very few Hawaiian composers can claim as many "popular stan-
 translated into as many different languages as R. Alex Anderson. I
 hear a familiar Hawaiian tune with English words chances are got
 Robert Alexander Anderson is the composer. In fact, during the Chr
 holiday just past, you were probably among the thousands arou
 world who sang "Mele Kalikimaka" at least once.

R. Alex Anderson was born in Honolulu in 1894, and from high sci
 to his passing in 1995, composed nearly 200 songs. "Andy", as h
 called by close friends wrote songs based on traditional Hawaiia
 telling of flowers, scenes, islands, seas, people, events and custo
 prominent businessman by vocation, and a WWI veteran, he had no
 music training and spoke no Hawaiian, yet his compositions still gi
 to dreams of Hawai'i as "paradise" for people all over the world.

Among the most familiar of his compositions are "Lovely Hula
 and "Lei of Stars". "White Ginger Blossoms" was written at the sug
 of film star Mary Pickford, and "I Will Remember You", while a s
 at Cornell University, homesick for his Island home.

His most famous song, "Mele Kalikimaka", Hawai'i's Christmas son
 around the world on the back of Bing Crosby's recording of "White Chu
 Crosby, Andy Anderson's frequent visitor and golf partner, liked the
 much when Andy played it for him that he surprised Anderson with the re

R. Alex Anderson was inducted into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame

Mele Kalikimaka



F
 Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say
C7
 On a bright Hawaiian Christmas day
F7
 That's the island greeting that we send to you
Bb
 From the land where palm trees sway
F7 **Bb**
 Here we know that Christmas will be green and bri
D7 **G7** **C7**
 The sun will shine by day and all the stars that nigh
F **F7** **D7**
 Mele Kalikimaka is the Hawaiian's way
Gm **C** **F** (turnaround with C7)
 To say Merry Christmas to you