

Mele Kalikimaka

Music and lyrics by Robert Alex Anderson in 1949



E

Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say,

E

B⁷

On a bright Hawaiian Christmas Day.

B⁷

That's the island greeting that we send to you,

B⁷

E

From the land where palm trees sway.

E⁷

A

Here we know that Christmas will be green and bright;

C^{#7}

F^{#7}

B⁷

The sun to shine by day and all the stars at night.

E

C^{#7}

F^{#m}

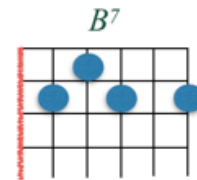
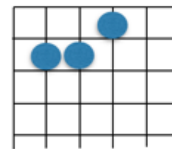
E

Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaii's way to say,

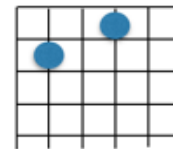
B⁷

E

Merry Christmas to you.



E⁷



E⁷

A

Here we know that Christmas will be green and bright,

C^{#7}

F^{#7}

B⁷

The sun to shine by day and all the stars at night.

E

C^{#7}

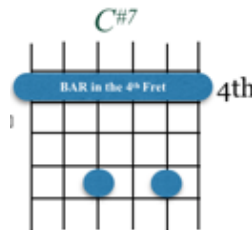
F^{#m}

Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaii's way to say,

B⁷

E

Merry Christmas to you.



F^{#m}



REPEAT THE 2nd VERSE & END WITH:

F^{#m}

B⁷

E

A very merry Christmas to you!

Christmas as you go

History

"**Mele Kalikimaka**" was written in 1949 by Robert Alex Anderson. The title is "Merry Christmas" in Hawaiian.



Robert Alex Anderson
Image from [For Kauai](#)

Hawaiian has a different phonological system that does not include the /r/ or /s/ of English and its phonotactic constraints do not permit consonants at the end of syllables or consonant clusters—"Merry Christmas" becomes "Mele Kalikimaka". One of the earliest recordings of this song was by Bing Crosby & The Andrews Sisters in 1950 on Decca 27228 (78 rpm) / 9-27228 (45 rpm) and it has been covered by many artists. The song is notably featured in the films *L.A. Confidential* and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

The Beach Boys recorded a song of the same name for their album *Ultimate Christmas*, but it contains lyrics and music completely different from the song written by Robert Alex Anderson.

Wikipedia

Christmas as you go