

nā mele hawai‘i

Jordan Sramek, Series Editor



**Hīmeni Misionari**

*From Greenland's Icy Mountains*

MISSIONARY HYMN, Lowell Mason

arr. Jordan Sramek

**ROSE PUBLICATIONS**

From the archives of *The ROSE ENSEMBLE*

Daniel Mahraun & Jordan Sramek, General Editors

**Source:** *O ke kumu leomele, no na himeni a me na halelu e hoolea aku ai i ke Akua [Na himeni Hawaii]*. Oahu: Na na Misionari, 1834.

**About the source / general notes on genre:**

When the brig *Thaddeus* first arrived in Hawaiian waters in April 1820 carrying the Pioneer Company of the Sandwich Islands Mission, members of the company sang several psalms and hymns for the Hawaiian Royal party. Liholiho—King Kamehameha II (1797-1824)—was apparently pleased. By 1823 the Hawaiians had advanced well enough in hymn singing and in reading the Hawaiian language to warrant a printed hymnal. In that year, the mission press put out the first hymnbook in Hawaiian: *Na himeni Hawaii: he me ori ia Jehova, ke Akua Mau* (“*Hawaiian Hymns and Songs to Jehovah, the Eternal God*”). The publication of *Na himeni Hawaii* helped to widely promote the practice of hymn singing.

In 1834, hymn singing reached a new stage of sophistication when the great missionary Hiram Bingham (Binamu) published the first Hawaiian hymnal containing musical notation and even explicit instructions in both singing and reading music.

The hymn tunes used in the early Hawaiian hymnals were not composed in Hawai‘i, but mostly of British and American origin. These were well known and loved by the Calvinist missionaries, many of whom were well-educated in music and active in the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston.

The standard European-American hymn tune name is provided here; the Hawaiian title is a translation of it.

**Text:** Reginald Heber (1783–1826), Hawaiian trans. unknown, ed. Amy Ku‘uleialoha Stillman

**Music:** MISSIONARY HYMN, Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

**Editorial method / notes:**

The English translation adapted from one by Amy Ku‘uleialoha Stillman, appears above the staff.

In the edited text, the presence of the ‘*okina* consonant required rhythmic interpretation and subdivision in some places. These interpretations are based on The Rose Ensemble’s coaching with Dr. Stillman.

The Hawaiian text is a translation of Reginald Heber’s “From Greenland’s Icy Mountains,” the text usually paired with Mason’s tune in English-language hymnals. The original, the Hawaiian text, and a translation of the Hawaiian appear below for comparison.

**Performance suggestions:**

Verses 1 and/or 2 may be sung by a single soloist or a trio. Verse 3 should be sung by the full ensemble.

Dynamics and phrasing may be freely varied based on interpretation of the text.

**Duration:** 3m

The Rose Ensemble’s recording, *Nā Mele Hawai‘i: A Rediscovery of Hawaiian Vocal Music*, is available on most download and streaming platforms.

Heber's original text

From Greenland's icy mountains,  
From India's coral strand,  
Where Afric's sunny fountains  
Roll down their golden sand,  
From many an ancient river,  
From many a balmy plain,  
They call us to deliver  
Their land from error's chain.

What though the spicy breezes  
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle,  
Though every prospect pleases,  
And only man is vile:  
In vain with lavish kindness  
The gifts of God are strown,  
The heathen in his blindness  
Rows down to wood and stone!

Can we, whose souls are lighted  
With Wisdom from on high,  
Can we to men benighted  
The lamp of life deny?  
Salvation! oh, Salvation!  
The joyful sound proclaim.  
Till each remotest nation  
Has learn'd Messiah's name.

Waft, waft, ye winds, his story,  
And you, ye waters, roll,  
Till like a sea of glory  
It spreads from pole to pole!  
Till o'er our ransom'd nature.  
The Lamb for sinners slain.  
Redeemer, King, Creator,  
In bliss returns to reign!

Hawaiian translation

Aloha ko nā mauna,  
I pa'a mau i ka hau,  
A me kō Aitiopa,  
Kō Inia me Makao,  
Nā muliwai kahiko,  
Nā moku, nā pāpū;  
Ki'i mai kō laila pio,  
I ola na lākou.

Pehea lā ke hō'ole  
Kākou i a'o 'ia mai  
I kanaka pouli,  
Ia lama e ola'i?—  
KE OLA! O KE OLA!  
Ho'olaha a'e kākou,  
I lohe i ka Mesia  
A e huli kō ke ao.

E lawe e na makani,  
I kana 'ōlelo mau;  
I uhi kōna nani  
I ka honua āpau—  
E ho'i hou mai ka 'Ālana,  
I make no mākou,  
Ka Mō'i ola mana,  
Ke Li'i pōmaika'i mau.

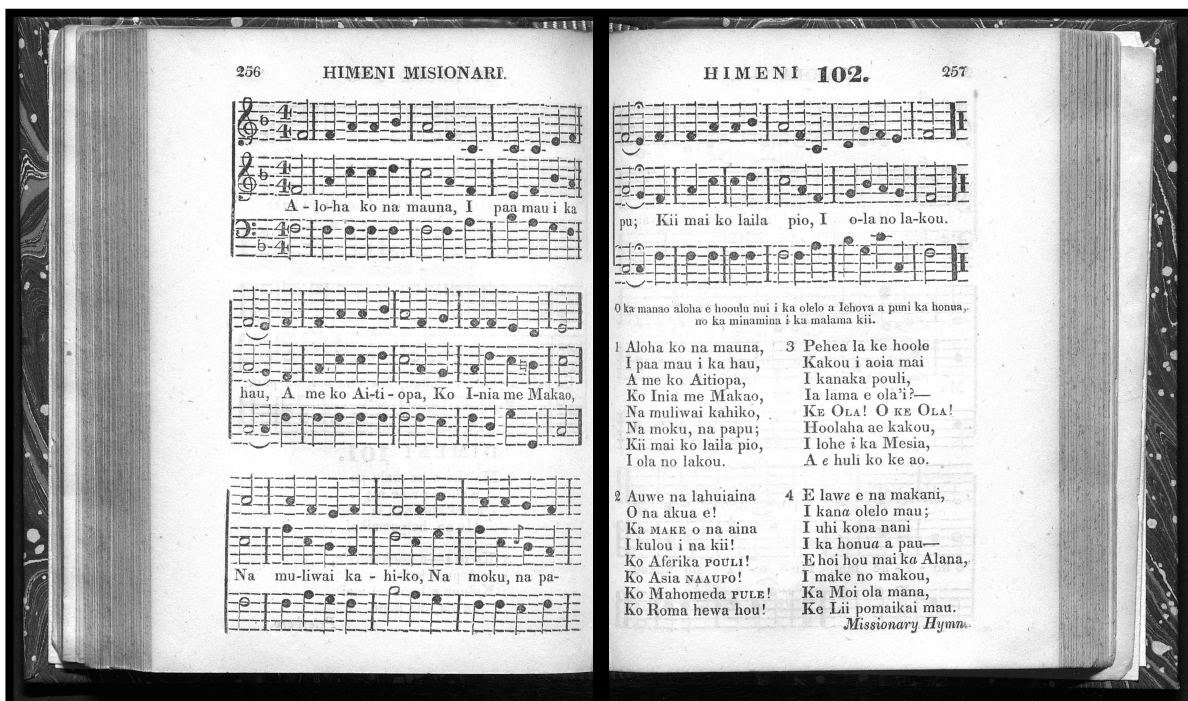
English translation of Hawaiian

Tidings to the mountains,  
Ever clothed in snow;  
Of Ethiopia,  
Of India and Macao,  
the ancient rivers,  
the forests, the plains;  
fetch the captives from there  
that they may live.

*The Hawaiian translation of this stanza is more polemical than poetic. It has, therefore, been omitted from this edition.*

How can we deny  
what we have been taught  
to men of darkness—  
this light of life?  
Salvation! Oh, salvation!  
Let us preach  
the gospel,  
and the world be converted.

O you winds, carry  
abroad his word,  
that his glory  
may cover the whole earth.  
May the Sacrifice  
who died for us return—  
the Sovereign Creator,  
the ever-blessed King.



# Hīmeni Misionari

From Greenland's Icy Mountains

SAB

Reginald Heber (1783–1826), Hawaiian trans. unknown  
ed. Amy Ku'uleialoha Stillman

MISSIONARY HYMN, Lowell Mason (1792–1872)  
arr. Jordan Sramek  
ed. Daniel Mahraun

**Stately** (♩ = 92-94)

*mf* *Tidings to the mountains,* *always covered with snow,*

Soprano  
1. A - lo - ha kō na mau - na, I pa - 'a mau ka hau, A

Alto  
1. A - lo - ha kō na mau - na, I pa - 'a mau ka hau, A

Bass  
1. A - lo - ha kō na mau na - 'a mau i ka hau, A

*with Ethiopia,* *with India and the sea,* *the ancient rivers,*

5  
me kō Ai - ti - o - pa, Kō 'Ī - nia me Ma - kao, Na mu - li - wai ka - hi - ko, Na  
me kō Ai - ti - o - pa, Kō 'Ī - nia me Ma - kao, Na mu - li - wai ka - hi - ko, Na  
me kō Ai - ti - o - pa, Kō 'Ī - nia me Ma - kao, Na mu - li - wai ka - hi - ko, Na

*the groves of the plains;* *fetch the captives there* *that they may live.*

11  
mo - ku, na pa - pū; Ki - 'i mai kō lai - la pi - o, I o - la no lā - kou.  
mo - ku, na pa - pū; Ki - 'i mai kō lai - la pi - o, I o - la no lā - kou.  
mo - ku, na pa - pū; Ki - 'i mai kō lai - la pi - o, I o - la no lā - kou.



1. How can we deny  
2. O you winds, carry

what we have been taught  
abroad his word,

to men of darkness—  
that his glory

*f* (2nd time: *mp cresc. poco a poco*)



2. Pe - hea lā ke hō - 'o - le Kā - kou i a - 'o 'ia mai I ka - na - ka po -  
3. E la - we\_e na mā - ka - ni, I ka-na 'ō - le - lo mau; I u - hi kō - na

*f* (2nd time: *mp cresc. poco a poco*)



2. Pe - hea lā ke hō - 'o - le Kā - kou i a - 'o 'ia I ka - na - ka po -  
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3. E la - we\_e na mā - ka - ni, I ka-na 'ō - le - lo mau; I u - hi kō - na

this light of life?  
may cover the whole earth.

salvation! Oh, salvation!  
Praise the Sacrifice



u - li, la la - ma e o - la - 'i? - E ho - 'i hou mai ka 'Ā - la - na, I  
na - ni I ka ho - nu - a\_ā - pū - E ho - 'i hou mai ka 'Ā - la - na, I



u - li, la la - ma e o - la - 'i? - Ke o - la! O ke o - la! Ho - 'o -  
na - ni I ka ho - nu - a\_ā - pū - E ho - 'i hou mai ka 'Ā - la - na, I



u - li, la la - ma e o - la - 'i? - Ke o - la! O ke o - la! Ho - 'o -  
na - ni I ka ho - nu - a\_ā - pū - E ho - 'i hou mai ka 'Ā - la - na, I

Let us preach the gospel,  
who died for us return to the Sovereign Creator,

and the world be converted.  
the ever-blessed King.

2nd time: *rit.*



la - ha\_a - 'e kā - kou, I lo - he i ka Me - si - a A e hu - li kō ke\_ ao.  
ma - ke no mā - kou, Ka Mō - 'ī o - la ma - na, Ke\_ Li - 'i pō - mai - ka - 'i mau.



la - ha\_a - 'e kā - kou, I lo - he i ka Me - si - a A e hu - li kō ke\_ ao.  
ma - ke no mā - kou, Ka Mō - 'ī o - la ma - na, Ke\_ Li - 'i pō - mai - ka - 'i mau.



la - ha\_a - 'e kā - kou, I lo - he i ka Me - si - a A e hu - li kō ke\_ ao.  
ma - ke no mā - kou, Ka Mō - 'ī o - la ma - na, Ke\_ Li - 'i pō - mai - ka - 'i mau.

## BRIEF HAWAIIAN DICTION GUIDE

Vowels:			
Hawaiian Letter	IPA	English example	
a	[ʌ]	“sun”	Notes: The macron ( ¯ ), called ka ʻōkō or mekōna, over a vowel denotes both length and syllabic stress. Only with the letters “a” and “e” does it also alter the pronunciation. The pronunciation of the macron-less “e” is less predictable. A Hawaiian speaker should be consulted when possible.
ā	[ɑ]	“father”	
e	[ɛ] or [e]	“dead” or “day” (no diphthong)	
ē	[e]	“day” (no diphthong)	
i / ī	[i]	“eat”	
o / ō	[o]	first syllable of “obey” (no diphthong)	
u / ū	[u]	“soon”	

### Diphthongs and Vowel Combinations:

Since the Hawaiian language contains no successive consonants, vowels predominate. Hawaiian diphthongs—ai, ae, ao, au, ei, eu, oi, and ou—place the stress and length on the first vowel sound. All other vowel combinations place the length on the second. Regardless, great care should be taken to fully pronounce each vowel. In such vowel combinations, “i” and “u” may occasionally be treated as glides [j] and [w], respectively. Examples include the borrowed names “Iesu” [jɛsu] and “Iehova” [jɛhova].

Consonants:			
Hawaiian Letter	IPA	English equivalent	
h	[h]	“h”	Notes: The pronunciation of the letter “w” is often unpredictable; a speaker of Hawaiian should be consulted when possible. The ‘okina, “ ʻ ”, is considered a consonant and denotes a glottal stop. Because texts printed before the 1970s generally do not include this letter, Dr. Amy Kuʻuleiahola Stillman has edited the language in our editions. The letters “t” [t] and “s” [s] sometimes occur in borrowed words, such as “Mesia” [mesia].
k	[k]	“k”	
l	[l]	“l”	
m	[m]	“m”	
n	[n]	“n”	
p	[p]	“p”	
w – after i or u	[v]	“v”	
w – after o or u	[w]	“w”	
w – after a or initial	[v]	* choice consistent through piece	
ʻ	[ʻ]	hyphen in “uh-oh”	

Failing consultation with a speaker of Hawaiian, we recommend the following resources:

- The Rose Ensemble’s recording, *Nā Mele Hawai‘i: A Rediscovery of Hawaiian Vocal Music*, available on most streaming platforms.
- the Hawaiian dictionaries available electronically at <https://wehewehe.org>.
- Duane Richard Karna, ed. *The Use of the International Phonetic Alphabet in the Choral Rehearsal*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2012.