

Mele Kalikimaka - by Alex Anderson (1949)

D

Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say

A7

on a bright Hawaiian Christmas day.

That's the island greeting that we send to you

D

From the land where palm trees sway.

D7

G

Here we know that Christmas will be green and bright

B7

E7

A7

the sun will shine by day and all the stars by night

D

D7

B7

Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaii's way

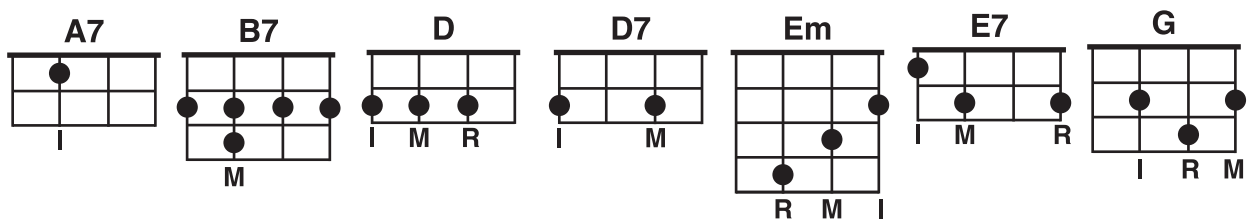
Em

A7

D

to say "Merry Christmas" to you.

REPEAT FROM THE TOP



Mele Kalikimaka means Merry Christmas, but not in actual Hawaiian. The Hawaiian language has no R or S, so it was a challenge for native speakers to say the phrase, much less spell it acceptably. Plus, in Hawai'ian, consonants don't come at the ends of syllables or in clusters. But there is some conceptual alignment here: One of the actual meanings of "mele" means "in one's honor." Kaliki = "the exulted" and Maka is a term of endearment to a favorite child or person.