

# HAWAIIAN WAR CHANT

Music by Johnny Noble & Leleiohaku



F  
Ta-hu-wa-i la-a ta-hu-wa-i wa-i la

E-hu he-ne la a pi-li ko-o lu-a la

B<sup>b</sup> F  
Pu-tu-tu-i lu a-i-te to-e la

C<sup>7</sup> F  
Ha-nu li-po i-ta pa-a-lai

B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F  
Au we ta hu-a la

B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F  
Au we ta hu-a la

“Hawaiian War Chant” was a popular American song whose original melody was written in 1860 by Prince Leleiohaku as *Kaua i ka Huahua'i* or "We Two in the Spray." English lyrics by Ralph Freed were added in 1936 and the melody was rearranged a bit at the same time by Johnny Noble. The song was later featured in the 1942 film *Ship Ahoy* starring Eleanor Powell, Red Skelton, and the Tommy Dorsey Band.

A huge success and a crowd favorite in Hawaiian resorts even today, singer Hilo Hattie used it extensively in her own shows, singing it at three different speeds with the claim that Leleiohaku wrote it about two palace lovers who met in secret. She also credited comedy bandleader Spike Jones for popularizing an uptempo comedic version of the song. In 1957, Bill Haley & the Comets recorded the comedic "Me Rock-a-Hula" which was based upon the "Hawaiian War Chant" melody." And, since 1963, the “Hawaiian War Chant” has served as the finale in the Enchanted Tiki Room attraction at Disneyland.

And, history will be made on August 12, 2011 when “Hawaiian War Chant” is the featured song, flash-mobbed, at Uke-a-Palooza at Oxbow Market in Napa.