

KAHULI AKU

Traditional Hawaiian Folk Song

ARRANGED by AMANDA SUCKOW
For STRING ORCHESTRA and PERCUSSION

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass
1 Wind Chimes
1 Wood Block

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About the Arranger

Amanda Suckow (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist and educator based in Chicago, IL, whose interests include producing meditative soundscapes and storytelling through sound. As part of graduate studies at VanderCook College of Music, Amanda developed the string method resource *Jazz Articulations for Beginning String Musicians*. Amanda currently serves as Arts Education Professional Learning Specialist with the Department of Arts Education for Chicago Public Schools.

Program Notes

Hawaiian

Kahuli¹ aku
Kahuli mai
Kahuli lei 'ula
Lei akolea²
Kolea³, kolea
Ki'i ka wai
Wai akolea
Wai akolea

English

Turn little shell
Turn this way little shell
The tree shell is a red ornament in
The lei of the akolea fern
Little bird, little bird
Go down to the stream
Sip the sweet nectar
From the *akolea* fern

1 *Kahuli* are called “tree-shells,” which are snails that make noises like crickets.

2 *Akolea* is a type of long-growing fern.

3 *Kolea* is a red-breasted bird.

The *kahuli* (tree snails) or *pūpū kaniōe* (land shells) are the singing snails of legend. The snails chirp in the evening and ask the birds to bring them a drink of water. This song comes from a book from 1909 called *Unwritten Literature of Hawaii: The Sacred Songs of the Hula* by Nathaniel Bright Emerson.

This arrangement of the Hawaiian folk song *Kahuli Aku* will evoke the imagery and vibrancy of the “singing snails” depicted in the song lyrics. Young musicians and their audiences will sense a deep connection and respect for the earth and the creatures that inhabit it. Performing *Kahuli Aku* using woodblocks, wind chimes, *staccato*, *tenuto*, and engaging dynamics, students will imitate the Hawaiian *kahuli* in their music, as they hope to be brought a drink of water by the *kolea* bird from the *akolea* fern.

KAHULI AKU

Hawaiian Folk Song
arr. Amanda Suckow

Moderato ♩ = 90

5 A Tempo

Wind Chimes

Wood Blocks

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Detailed description: This block contains the first 12 measures of the score. The Wind Chimes part consists of whole rests. The Wood Blocks part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic and ending with a *p* dynamic. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts play a melody of quarter notes, starting with *mf* and ending with *p*. The Viola and Violoncello parts play a bass line of quarter notes, starting with *mf* and ending with *f*. The Double Bass part plays a bass line of quarter notes, starting with *mf* and ending with *mp*. There are fingerings (4, 2, -4) and breath marks (V) indicated throughout the score.

12

13

Detailed description: This block contains measures 13 through 20. The Wood Blocks part continues with eighth notes, ending with a *mf* dynamic. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts continue with quarter notes. The Viola and Violoncello parts continue with quarter notes. The Double Bass part continues with quarter notes, ending with a *mp* dynamic. There are fingerings (-4, -2, -4, -2) and breath marks (mf) indicated throughout the score.