In Manoa’s Lands

Composed by Derek Fujio (2008)

Dedicated to the Mid-Pacific Institute Wind Ensemble,
Allen Nii and Derrick Yamane, directors.

About the Composer:

Derek T. Fujio (b. 1986) is an alumnus of Mid-Pacific Institute, class of 2004. While at MPI, he was a member of the band program under Allen Nii. At that time, he was also an oboist with the Hawaii Youth Symphony under Henry Miyamura, Michael Nakasone, and Derrick Yamane. Derek is now attending Yale University, majoring in music, studying theory and composition under Daniel Harrison, Seth Monahan, and David Clampitt, as well as remaining an active orchestral, chamber, and band musician. He will graduate in Spring 2008 with a Bachelor of Music degree and a Connecticut State Certification in Secondary Music Education.

About the Work:

Written for the centennial year of the Mid-Pacific Institute in Manoa, Mid-Pacific Institute was formed in 1908 with the merging of the Kawaiaha’o Seminary School (1864) and the Mill Institute (1892). “In Manoa’s Lands” celebrates this momentous event through the musical themes associated with the school.

In Keeping with the school’s Christian missionary lineage, the school hymn is the Christian hymn “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” by H. Ernest Nichol (1896). While this hymn is basically sacred in nature, the first stanza has an overarching secular theme of salvation and peace through righteous education, keeping in harmony with the principles of the Mid-Pacific Institute.

We’ve a story to tell to the nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.
Refrain:
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on Earth,
The kingdom of love and light.

We’ve a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow has trod,
That all of the world’s great people
Might come to the truth of God,
Might come to the truth of God.

All schools have their storied Alma Mater, and Mid-Pacific Institute is no exception. The melody for the Mid-Pacific Alma Mater is based on the melody “Annie Lisle”, a ballad written by Boston songwriter Henry S. Thompson (1857) about the death of a young lass. The melody has been adapted countless times for the spirit songs of high schools and colleges across the country, beginning with Cornell University in 1870. The lyrics to our own Alma Mater were penned by Dr. John Lloyd Hopwood, former president of the school. From these lines that describe the beauty of the school’s campus comes the title of this celebratory work.

High above thee Mid-Pacific
Mountains greet the sun,
And Leahi watches o’er the
When the day is done.
Cradled ‘round by sea and mountain
In Manoa’s lands,
So within our hearts safe cherished,
Mid-Pacific stands.

Refrain:
Mid-Pacific, Alma Mater
We thy banners raise,
Mid-Pacific, Alma Mater
Loud we sing thy praise.

Sons and daughters of all nations
Meet within thy halls,
Bound by ties of deep affection
   For thy vine-clad walls.
Out among the world’s great peoples
   May thy children go,
Bearing forth thy kindly spirit
   Brotherhood to show.

In addition to the school hymn and Alma Mater, Mid-Pacific Institute bears the distinction of having a school song, “Kawaihā‘o”. Written in 1905 by Robert Plunkett and translated to Hawaiian in 1912, this song speaks of the beauty and feelings of home inspired by Kawaihā‘o. The original melody for this text was lost to time, but MPI Kumu Hula Michael Lanakila Casupang wrote a new setting for these lyrics in 1989, which remains today one of the capstones of the MPSA hula program - performed once annually on May Day by the wahine of the senior hula class and once at the austere Baccalaureate ceremonies that precede Commencement.