'Imi Au Iā 'Oe

A scene of longing for a lost love, expressing the speaker's desire to return to the beloved and the heartache of losing her.

The text, accompanied by music notation, is a traditional Hawaiian song that tells a story of love and loss. It is known to be a favorite in Hawaii, often performed at weddings and other special occasions.

Also known as King's Serenade, this Charles E. King song tells about a young man searching for his beloved lost in the Puna district. It was featured in the opera 'Prince of Hawai', and was also the theme song of the movie 'Bird of Paradise' in 1932 and 1951. It provides yet another example of the overlapping of Hawaiian songs, as Lili'uokalani wrote a similar song entitled 'Ka 'Ilima A Ke Aloha', dated 1874, which Charles King published in 1916 as 'Imi Au Ke Aloha.'