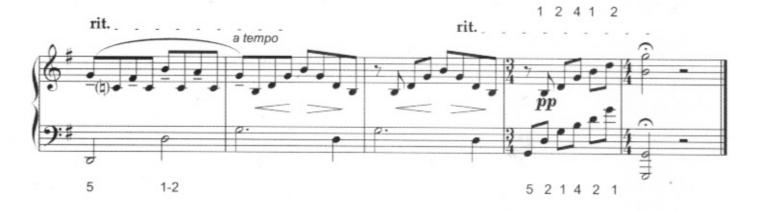
Aura Lee II

Slowly and Expressively



KeyboardCosmos.net ~ P.M.Bissell (1)



Aura Lee II



"Aura Lea" (often spelled "Aura Lee") is an American Civil War song about a maiden. It was written by W.W. Fosdick (lyrics) and George R. Poulton and published in 1861. It became popular as a minstrel song and was later adopted by soldiers on both sides and often sung around campfires. The melody was used in the 1956 Elvis Presley #1 hit "Love Me Tender" with new lyrics by Ken Darby.

The lyrics of Verse 1 as written by Fosdick:

When the blackbird in the Spring,
Neath the willow tree,
Sat and rocked', I heard him sing,
Sing of Aura Lea.
Aura Lea, Aura Lea,
Maid of golden hair;
Sunshine came along with thee,
And swallows in the air.
Chorus:
Aura Lea, Aura Lea,
Maid of golden hair;
Sunshine came along with thee,
And swallows in the air.

This mostly quarter note and lower range melody is combined with continuous eighth notes that provide a contrasting rhythmic flow. An accompaniment of mostly chord roots in half notes with a repeated rhythm pattern of half and dotted quarter and eighth notes provides contrast and clarity to the melody.