Maori Brown Eyes

Words and Music By: Claude Malani & John Noble

Source: Copyright 1942, 70 EMI Miller Catalog Inc - The composer spent time in New Zealand (Aotearoa) and was inspired to write this song for his wife. He thought her eyes were like those of the Polynesian people of New Zealand

Sample Song List:
- Brothers Cazimero, Some Call It Aloha...Don't Tell, 2004
- Sonny Chillingworth, Sonny Solo, 1994
- Troy Fernandez, Hawaiian Style Ukulele, 2005
- Ron Loo, Kahalu`u Slack, 1998
- Peter Moon Band, The Best of Peter Moon, 1981
- Bla Pahinui, Mana, 1997
- Palolo, Palolo, 1995
- Various Artists (Na Leo O Nu`uanu), Waimea Music Festival, 1995, 1974
Maori Brown Eyes

Key of G Major (#)    3/4 Time

Song Structure:
**Verse** – 16 bars
\[ \text{I} | | | | \text{V7} | | | | \\
\[ | | | | \text{V7} | | | | \\

**Hui** – 20 bars
\[ | \text{IV} | | | | | \text{IV} | | | | \\
\[ | | \text{ii7} | | | | | | | \\
\[ | | | | \text{V7} | | | | \\

Kika Ki Ho’alu Basic Chords (Maori Brown Eyes (MBE) Tuning – DGDEGD – a G6th Mauna Loa tuning)

**I6 = G6**

**ii7 = A6**

**IV6 = C6**

**V7 = D7**

Ukulele Basic Chords (C Tuning – GCEA)

**I6 = G6**

**ii7 = A7**

**IV6 = C6**

**V7 = D7**

Performance Notes: This song was originally written as a waltz. It was changed by some (notably Leonard Kwan) to 4/4 time. A nice bass pattern can be played on the open strings (5-4-3, G-D-E) in a ¾ eighth note pattern 5-4-3-4-3-4. This adds a 6th(E) to the alternating bass and a nahenahe sound. The highest two strings then can play the melody in a Mauna Loa tuning style. Sonny Chillingworth played in this tuning (MBE) -- on his Sonny Solo Album -- but used the same measures in 4/4 time and with a 5-4-3-4-3---4---bass pattern (an old cowboy, walking horse beat).
Maori Brown Eyes

Intro

Verse:
G6
| Beau-ti-ful. |
| D7 | G6 |
| Oh beautiful | Maori | eyes |
| G6 |
| Beau-ti-ful. |
| D7 | G6 |
| Maori brown | eyes ona-ona |

Hui:
C6                               G6
| Huli aku | wau, a | loa- |'a |
| Turn to accrue to me |
C6                              G6 D7
| Kui aku | wau, e | lei |
| I string a lei |
G6                               A7
| Ku-|'u-|i-|po, |
| My sweetheart, |
D7                               G6
| Maori brown | eyes ona-ona |
| Beautiful Maori brown eyes |
D7                               G6
| Maori brown | eyes ona-ona |
| Beautiful Maori brown eyes |

Instrumental Bridge of Verse and turnaround or Pa’ani

~~ Repeat ~~

PAU

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Additional Verses:

On an island in the Pacific
Lives a lovely Maori belle
She has eyes that shine like the starlight
And to all the world I’ll gladly say

Beautiful, oh what beautiful Maori eyes
Beautiful, eyes that I love to idolize
Soon I’ll be returning
To a dream come true
Oh my sweetheart
Maori brown eyes I love you

Two bright stars ku`u beautiful Maori eyes
Two bright stars ku`u maka aloha `ia
Huli aku wau a loa`a
Ki ino wau a ako
Ku`u ipo Maori brown eyes ona ona