

# Aura Lee

W.W. Fosdick

George R. Poulton  
arr. Wieland

As the black-bird in the spring, 'neath the wil-low tree  
sat and piped I heard him sing, sing-ing, "Au-ra Lee."  
Au-ra Lee, Au-ra Lee, maid with gold-en hair,  
Sun-shine came a-long with thee, and swal-lows in the air.

“Aura Lee” consists of four 4-bar phrases, a very pleasant and stable form.

Phrase 1 gently undulates with quarter notes and the lowest pitches of the tune. Phrase 2 is a comforting repetition of the opening. Only the words change. Phrase 3 is a strong contrast. The structure is 1 + 1 + 2 bars. A single pitch (the highest yet) and a dotted rhythm are followed by mm. 3 & 4, but up a third. Phrase 4 reaches the highest pitch of the melody and finishes with a slight variation of the last 3 bars of the first phrase—a satisfying bookend.

Elvis Presley's “Love Me Tender” uses the same melody.