I remember days when we were younger.

We used to catch o'opu in the mountain stream.

'Round the Ko'olau hills we'd ride on horseback.

So long ago it seems it was a dream.

Last night I dreamt I was returning,

And my heart called out to you.

But I fear you won't be like I left you.

Me ke aloha, ku'u home 'o Kahalu'u.

I remember days when we were wiser.

When our world was small enough for dreams.

And you have lingered there my sister,

And I no longer can it seems.
KU’U HOME ‘O KAHALU’U
Words and Music by Jerry Santos

C                             G   (Hui)
Last night I dreamt I was returning,
C                             G
And my heart called out to you.
C                             G
But I fear I am not as I left.
D7                        G
Me ke aloha, ku'u home 'o Kahalu'u.
(Instrumental interlude)

D7                                                      G   (Bridge)
Change is a strange thing it cannot be denied.
D7                        G
It can help you find yourself,
G
Or make you lose your pride.
C                             G
Move with it slowly, as on the road we go.
C                             D7
Please do not hold onto me, we all must go alone.
G                      C                                       G   (Verse 3)
I remember days when we were smiling.
C                             G
When we laughed and sang the whole night long.
C                             G
And I will greet you as I find you,
C                             G                  G7
With the sharing of a brand new song.
KU’U HOME ‘O KAHALU’U
Words and Music by Jerry Santos

C                                                     G (Hui)
Last night I dreamt I was returning,
C                                                     G
And my heart called out to you.
C                           G
To please accept me as you’ll find me.
D7                        G
Me ke aloha, ku'u home 'o Kahalu'u.
D7                        G (Pau)
Me ke aloha, ku'u home 'o Kahalu'u.
D7                        G
Me ke aloha, ku'u home 'o Kahalu'u.

One of the great songs of the 1970s, Ku'u Home 'O Kahalu'u eloquently addresses the conflicting attitudes toward change and memory at the heart of traditional culture. Like many of the most successful pop songs, it is at once both candidly personal and strikingly universal. Jerry Santos wrote it and first recorded it with the late Robert Beaumont as the popular duo Olomana on their 1976 album LIKE A SEABIRD IN THE WIND (Seabird Sound). As reflected by the song, the group Olomana has always been involved in deep community issues, combining political, social and artistic ideals of the highest order. The Hawaiian word 'o'opu refers to Gobi fishes, Ko'olau refers to the Ko'olau Range on O'ahu; and the last phrase of each chorus (and the song title) "Me ke aloha ku'u home o Kahalu'u" means "Love for my home, Kahalu'u."