Israel "Iz" Kaʻanoʻi Kamakawiwoʻole (Hawaiian pronunciation: [kəˌmɐkəˌvivoˈʔole]) translation: "The Fearless Eyed"; May 20, 1959 – June 26, 1997), also called Bruddah Iz (Brother Iz), was a Hawaiian musician, entertainer and Hawaiian sovereignty activist. His voice became famous outside Hawaii when his album Facing Future was released in 1993. His medley of "Somewhere over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World" was subsequently featured in several films, television programs, and television commercials. Along with his ukulele playing and incorporation of other genres, such as jazz and reggae, Kamakawiwoʻole remains influential on Hawaiian music.

In 1990, Kamakawiwoʻole released his first solo album [*Ka ʻAnoʻi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ka_%CA%BBAno%CA%BBi), which won awards for Contemporary Album of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year from the Hawaiʻi Academy of Recording Arts (HARA). [*Facing Future*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facing_Future) was released in 1993 by [The Mountain Apple Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mountain_Apple_Company). It featured his most popular song, the medley "[Somewhere over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somewhere_over_the_Rainbow/What_a_Wonderful_World)", along with "Hawaiʻi 78", "White Sandy Beach of Hawaiʻi", "Maui Hawaiian Sup'pa Man", and "Kaulana Kawaihae". The decision to include a cover of Somewhere Over the Rainbow was said to be a last-minute decision by his producer [Jon de Mello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_de_Mello) and him.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Kamakawiwo%CA%BBole#cite_note-Chasing_Rainbows-6) *Facing Future* debuted at #25 on [*Billboard* magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Magazine)'s Top Pop Catalogue chart. On October 26, 2005, *Facing Future* became Hawaii's first certified platinum album, selling more than a million CDs in the United States, according to figures furnished by the [Recording Industry Association of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Kamakawiwo%CA%BBole#cite_note-7) On July 21, 2006, [BBC Radio 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Radio_1) announced that "[Somewhere Over the Rainbow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somewhere_Over_the_Rainbow)/[What a Wonderful World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What_a_Wonderful_World) (True Dreams)" would be released as a single in America.

"Wouldn't It Be Nice" is a song written by Brian Wilson, Tony Asher, and Mike Love for American rock band the Beach Boys, released as the opening track on their 1966 album Pet Sounds. The song was also released as a single two months after the album's release with "God Only Knows" as its B-side.[3] In other countries, the sides were flipped, with "Wouldn't It Be Nice" as the single's B-side. Its lyrics describe a couple in love lamenting about being too young to run off to get married, fantasizing about how nice it would be if they were adults. Like other tracks for Pet Sounds, Wilson constructed the song's symphonic Wall of Sound arrangement using a variety of instruments not normally associated with popular music of its time, including accordions and a detuned twelve-string guitar. The music contains classical music devices that are unusual for a rock song, such as bitonality and ritardando. After recording the instrumental track, the Beach Boys overdubbed their voices to Wilson's exact specifications. Love was not originally listed as co-writer, and only received his credit after a 1990s court case.In 2006, Pitchfork Media placed "Wouldn't It Be Nice" at number 7 on its list of "The 200 Greatest Songs of the 1960s".[5]