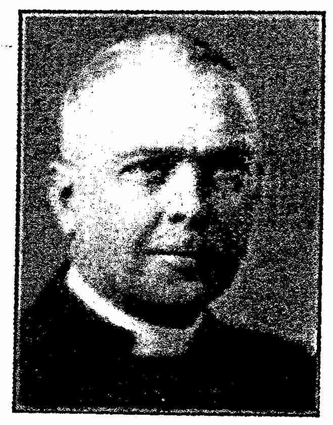
THE BURT FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS



ABBIE BETINIS

Prayer for Peace

Carol for TTBB a cappella chorus

Premiered by the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix
Robb Butler, artistic director; December 2007

In 1922, Rev. Bates G. Burt, a self-taught musician, began composing Christmas carols and sending them as greeting cards to his friends, family, and parishioners. In 1942, he passed the job of composing the music to his son, Alfred Burt, a jazz trumpeter. The father-son team produced five carols together before Bates's death, and Alfred Burt went on to write a total of fifteen Christmas carols, including the popular "*Caroling, Caroling*," and "*Some Children See Him.*" Since 2001, Abbie Burt Betinis has been continuing this family tradition begun so long ago by Bates, her great-grandfather. In fact, "*Prayer for Peace*" was inspired by the Christmas sermons and lectures Bates delivered during World War II. (Luckily her family never throws anything away.)

Abbie Betinis (b. 1980), grand-niece of composer Alfred Burt, has received more than sixty commissions for new music, leading to premieres by Cantus, Chorus pro Musica, the Dale Warland Singers, and The Rose Ensemble, among others. A 2009 & 2015 McKnight Artist Fellow, she has received numerous grants and awards and is currently composer-in-residence at The Schubert Club in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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Your purchase supports my art & livelihood, and makes this music possible. Thank you. -Abbie Betinis

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Prayer for Peace

for T.T.B.B. voices, a cappella

Premiered by the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix; Robb Butler, artistic director; December 2007

A.B.B.
Based on sermons by Bates G. Burt (ca. 1940)

Abbie Burt Betinis

Freely, with energy and passion

SOLO (or soli baritones)

1. Peace, the breath of peace is near, it calms
2. Love - - - ly, oh so love - ly, the re - flect - - -
3. Soft - - - - ly, o'er the snow so soft - ly comes

TENOR

Mm or *Oo*

BASS

3

poco rit.

— and cheers, As we, with eyes of faith, look back-ward through the years...
ed star, The star of Hope in ev - 'ry eye that sought so far...
the sign, A bet - ter peace descends to us at Christ - mas - time.

poco rit.

poco rit.

6

a tempo

Peace, it was the an - gels' song when he was born, Peace
Far, they sought to love him: Beth - l'hem, Cal - va - ry, That
Soft - - ly, o'er the snow so soft - - ly, then is gone... So we

a tempo

a tempo

* (all accompanying voices staggered)

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9

cresc.

and good - will to all, they sang, on Christ-mas morn.

from their want and fear all peo - ple shall be free.

wait in hope and fear to see our centur - y dawn.

Glo -

mf

Glo - ri - a!

mf

Glo - ri - a!

12

ria et in ter - - - ra pax...

1, 2.

3.

ter - - - ra

mf

Glo - ri - a!

in ter - ra pax...

in ter - ra

mf

Glo - ri - a!

in ter - ra pax...

in ter - ra

16

pax...

(end solo)

pax...

pp

An - gels, o'er the brok - en, spread your sil - ver

pax...

pp

An - gels, o'er the brok - en, spread your sil - ver

19

T1

p

rit.

mp

p

wings, And help us to keep sa - - cred all the Love he brings.

T2

p

rit.

mp

p

wings, And help us to keep sa - cred all the Love he brings.

B1

p

rit.

mp

p

wings, And help us to keep sa - cred all the Love he brings.

B2

p

rit.

mp

p

wings, And help us to keep sa - cred all the Love he brings.

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