ABBIE BETINIS



THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

~ SATB a cappella chorus ~

Text and tune by William Walker, 1835



PERFORMANCE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

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PROGRAM NOTE: (from the premiere performance, Dec 2004)

Abbie Betinis, commissioned to provide an arrangement for this inaugural concert of The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists, chose to arrange William Walker's shapenote tune, *The Babe of Bethlehem*. She beautifully reworked this simple melody into vintage Betinis: shifting chords, many meters, and colorful moods. Follow along with the text and see how Abbie crafted her exciting arrangement perfectly around the story.

Matthew Culloton, conductor The Singles—Minnesota Choral Artists

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TEXT

The following text and original shape-note hymn for *The Babe of Bethlehem* is from William Walker's <u>Southern Harmony</u>, first printed in New Haven, Connecticut in 1835, and revised several times since. Two additional verses (not included below, or in this arrangement) also exist.

 Ye nations all, on you I call, Come heed this declaration,
 And don't refuse this glorious news of Jesus and salvation;
 To royal Jews came first the news Of Christ the great Messiah,
 As was foretold by prophets old, Isaiah Jeremiah.

2. To Abraham the promise came,
And to his seed forever,
A light to shine in Isaac's line,
By scripture we discover;
Hail, promised morn! The saviour born,
The glorious Mediator,
God's blessed Word made flesh and blood,
Assumed the human nature.

3. His parents poor in earthly store,
To entertain the stranger
They found no bed to lay his head,
but in a lowly manger;
No royal things, as used by kings,
were seen by those that found him,
But in the hay the stranger lay,
with swaddling bands around him.

4. On this same night a glorious light to shepherds there appeared, Bright angels came in shining flame, they saw and greatly feared; The angels said, "Be not afraid, although we much alarm you, We do appear good news to bear, as now we will inform you."

5. "The city's name is Bethlehem, in which God hath appointed, This glorious morn a Saviour's born, for him God hath anointed; By this you'll know, if you will go, to see this little stranger, His lovely charms in Mary's arms, both lying in a manger."

6. When this was said, straightway was made a glorious sound from heaven! Each flaming tongue an anthem sung, "To you a Saviour's given!" In Jesus' name, the glorious theme, we elevate our voices, At Jesus' birth be peace on earth, meanwhile all heav'n rejoices!

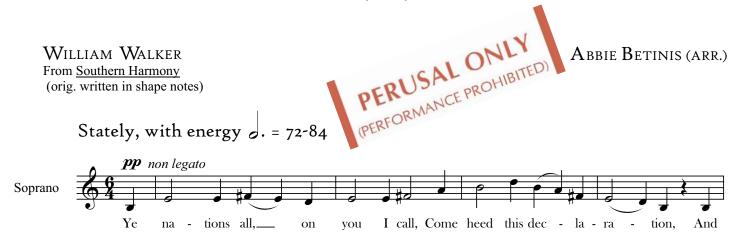
- William Walker (1809-1875)

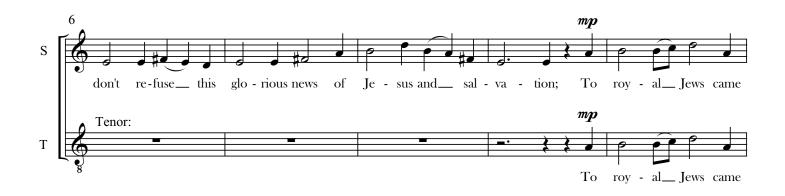
THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

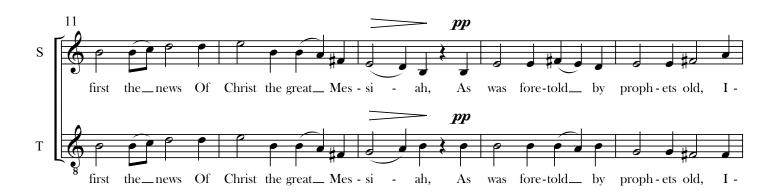
~ for SATB a cappella chorus ~

Premiered by The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, December 2004, and recorded on their CD "Shout the Glad Tidings"

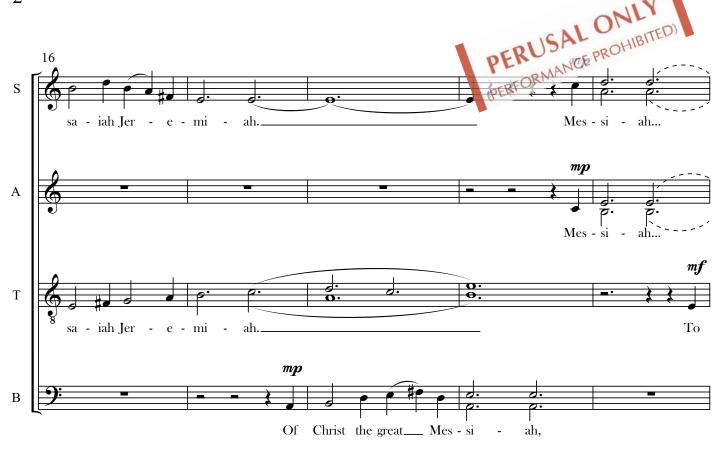
To Matthew Culloton, for his faith and dedication.

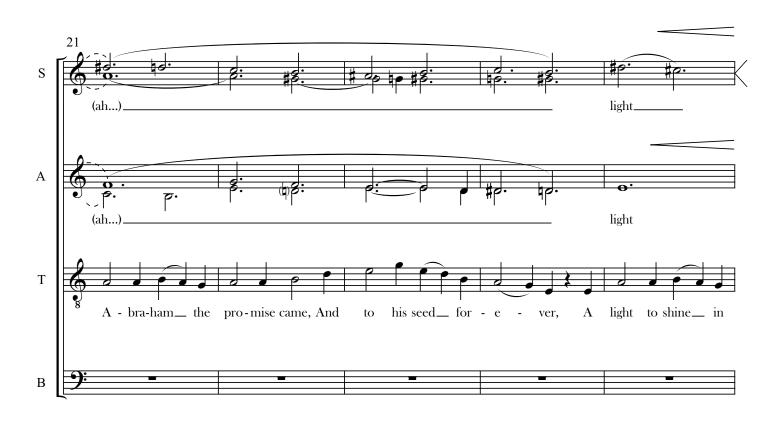






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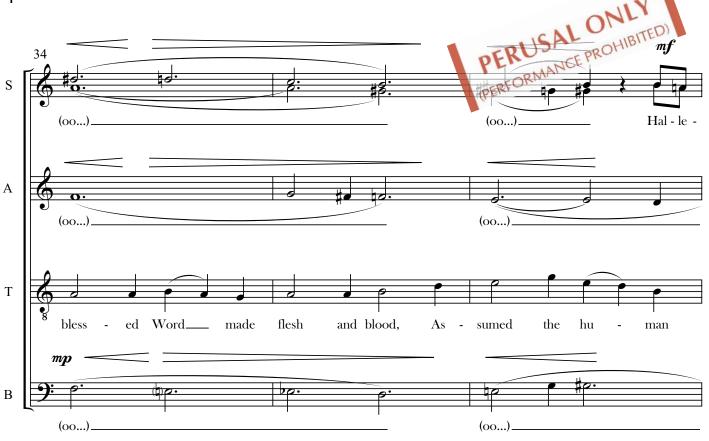
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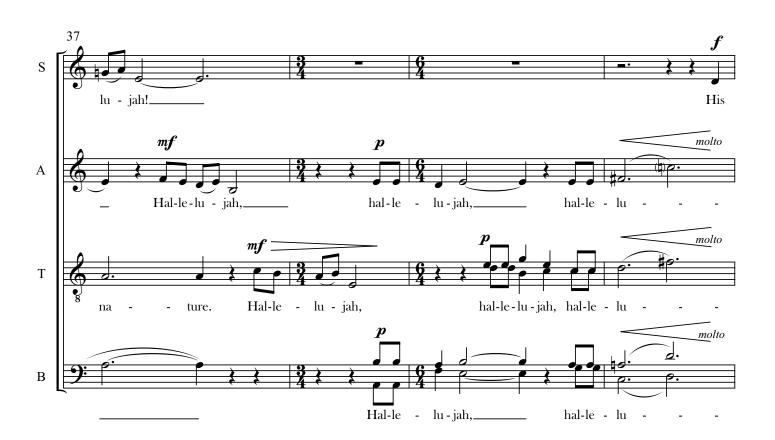
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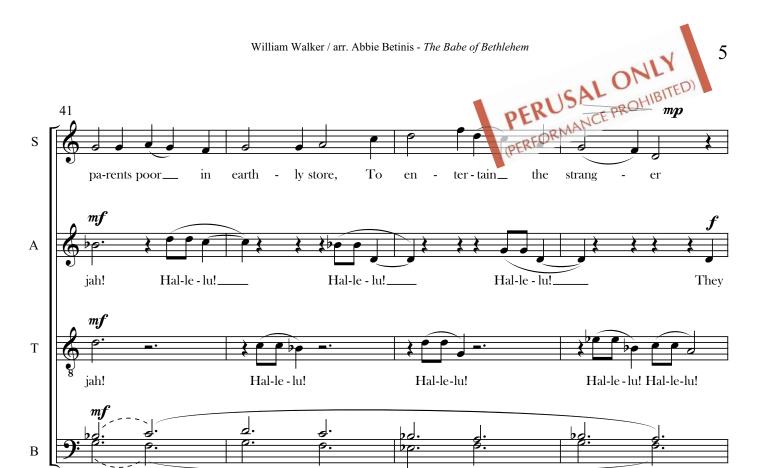
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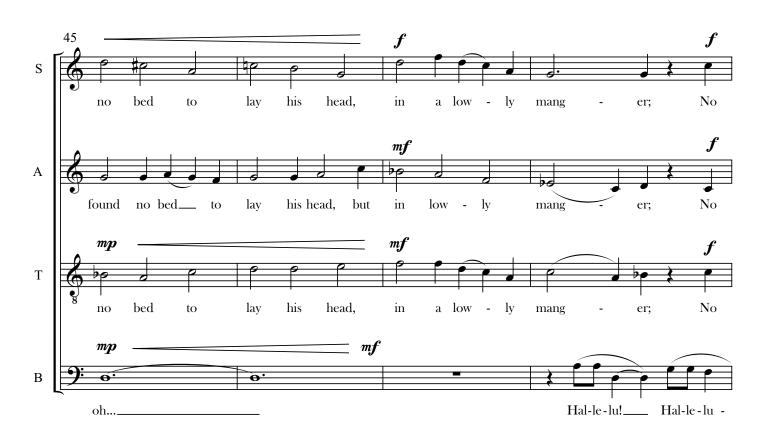






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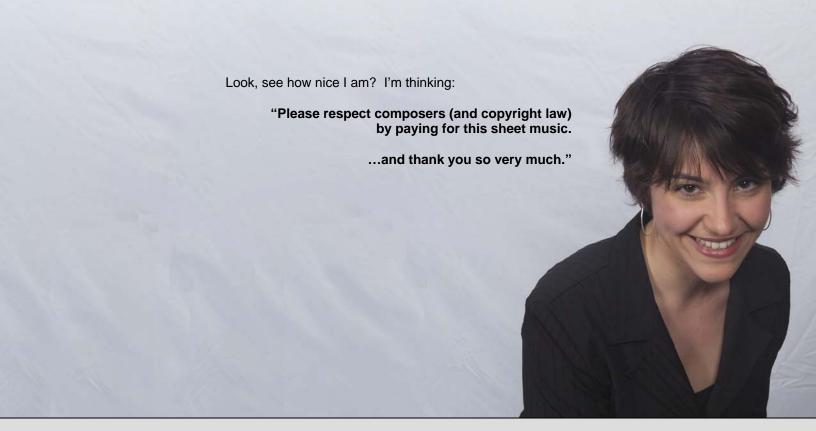


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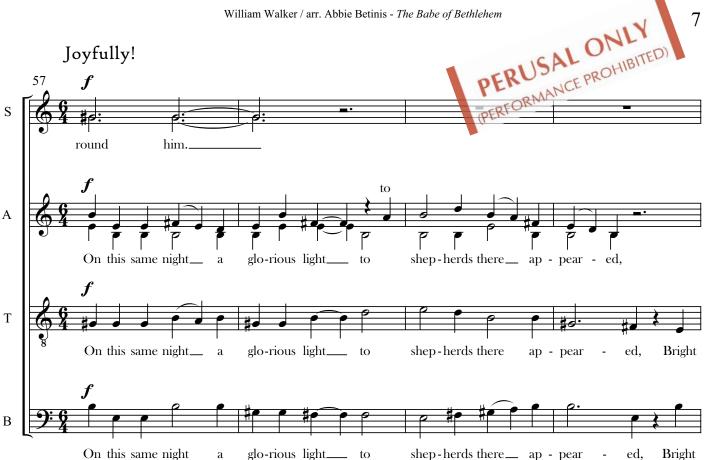
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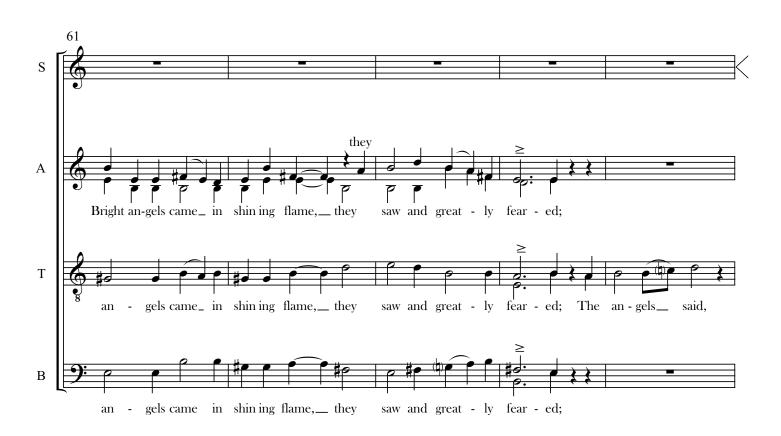
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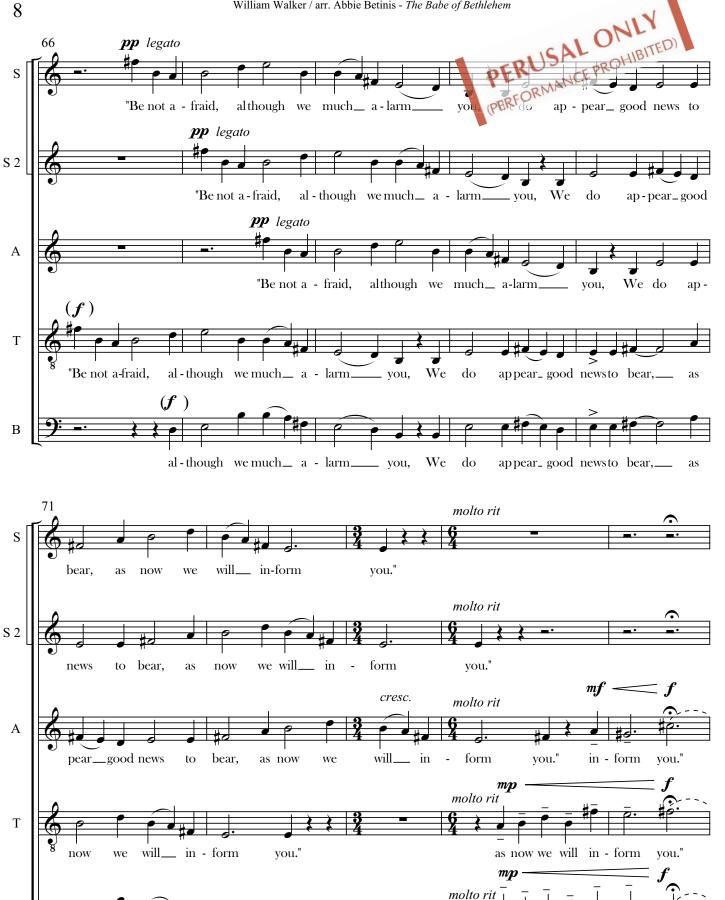
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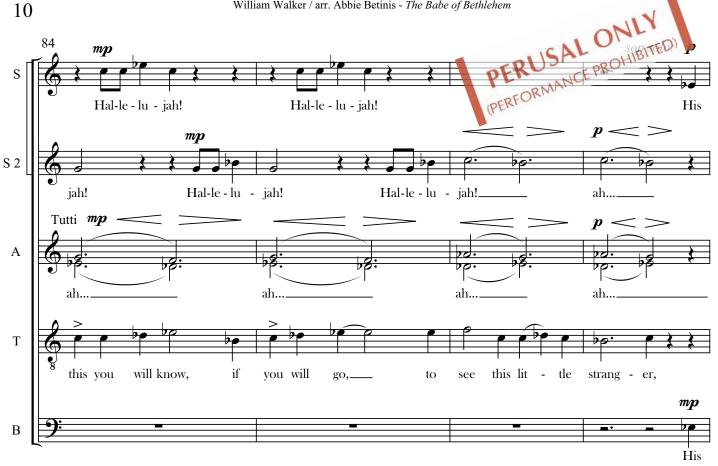
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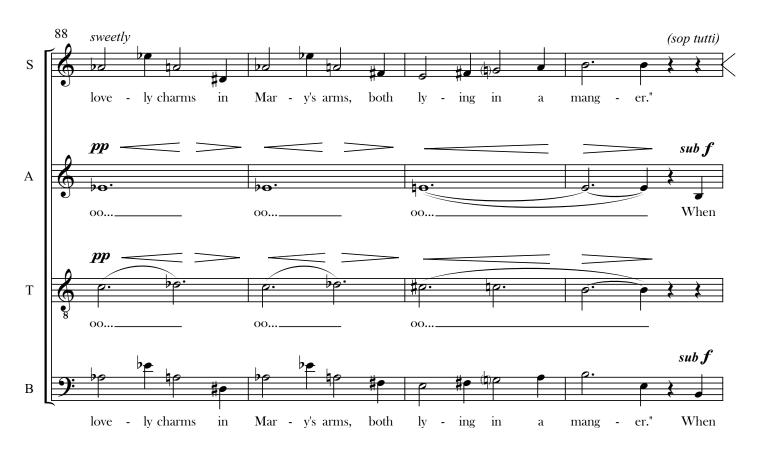


you."

as now we will in - form





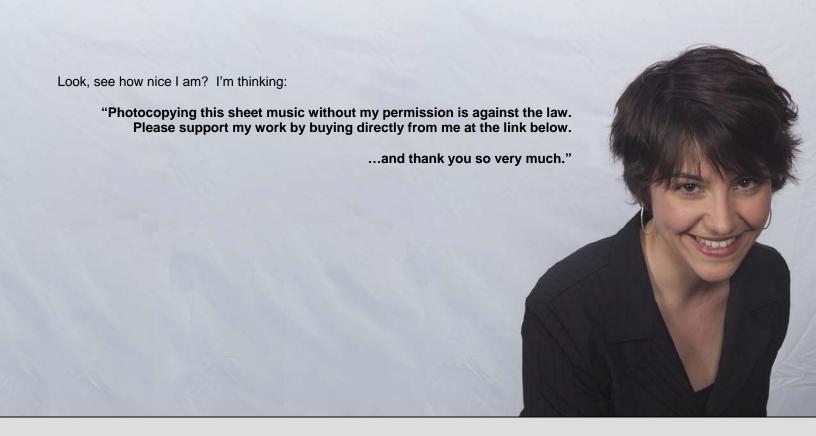


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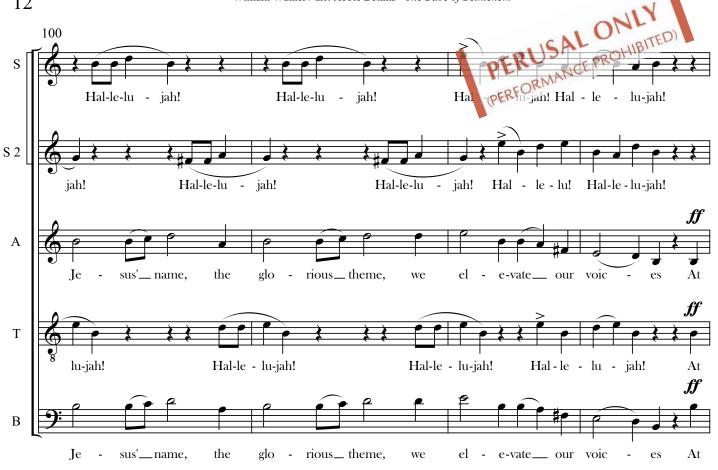
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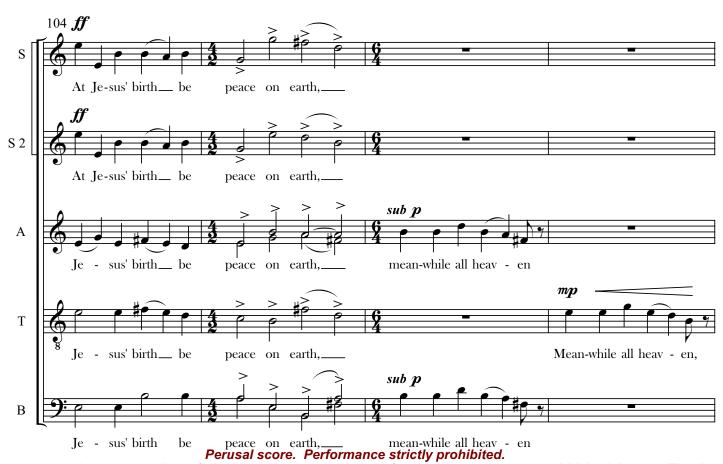
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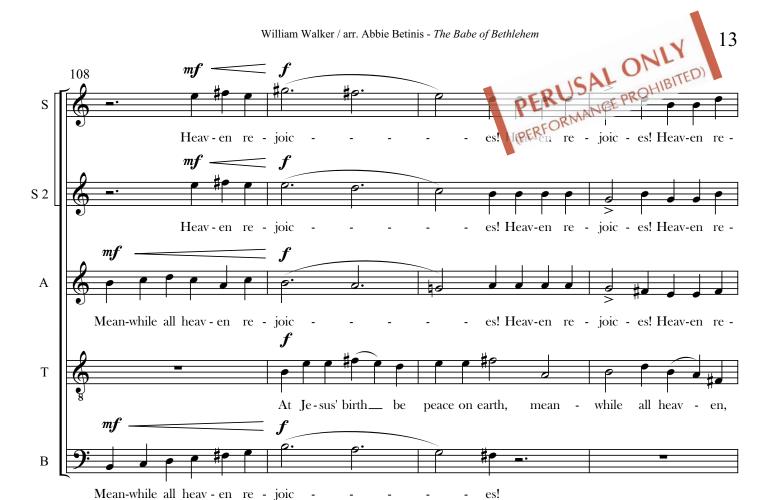


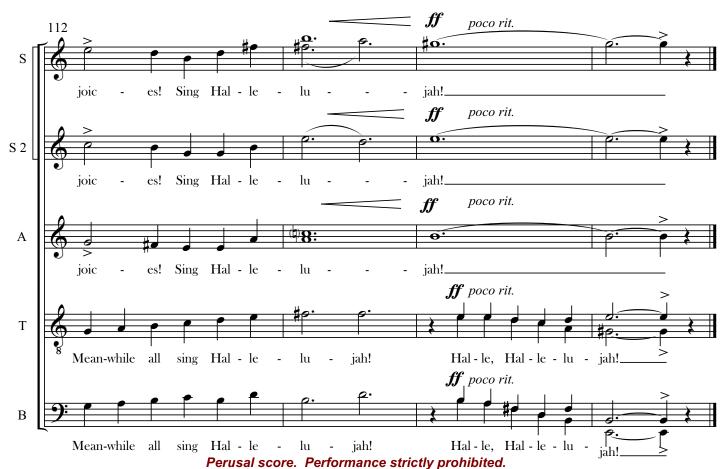
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Text and tune: William Walker in Southern Harmony

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Reviewed as "audacious... edgy and thrilling," the music of Abbie Betinis is being performed increasingly in the United States and abroad. Born in 1980, Abbie has been commissioned by more than 40 music organizations including the Dale Warland Singers, Cantus, The Rose Ensemble, and The Schubert Club. A 2009 McKnight Fellow, she has also won a Jerome Commissioning Grant, the Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize, and awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP, Minnesota Music Educators Association and the Sorel Organization. Ms. Betinis studied composition at St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota, and the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France, where faculty from Juilliard and the Paris Conservatory teach harmony and counterpoint in the tradition of Nadia Boulanger. Abbie's music is primarily self-published (Abbie Betinis Music Co) and is distributed internationally, with additional scores published by Fred Bock Music, Graphite Publishing, Kjos, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and, most recently, in G. Schirmer's Dale Warland Series.

Since 2005, Abbie has been Composer-in-Residence for The Schubert Club. She has also held residencies with The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists and The Rose Ensemble. A three time cancer survivor, she lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.