

THE BURT FAMILY CAROLS



Abbie Burt Betinis



Alfred S. Burt



Rev. Bates G. Burt

ABBIE BETINIS

PERUSAL ONLY
(PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)

Peace with Me Now

for low voice and piano

Clouded with snow
The cold winds blow,
And shrill on leafless bough
The robin with its burning breast
Alone sings now.

Thick draws the dark,
And spark by spark,
The frost-fires kindle, and soon
Over that sea of frozen foam
Floats the white moon.

The rayless sun,
Day's journey done,
Sheds its last ebbing light
On fields in leagues of beauty spread
Unearthly white.

All the night's dews,
All the world's leaves,
All winter's snow it would seem
Here with their quiet to have stilled...
Stilled in life's dream.

*Peace in thy hands,
Peace in thine eyes,
Peace on thy brow;
Flower of a moment
in the eternal hour,
Peace with me now.*

*(Refrain)
(Refrain)*

*- adapted by the composer from
poems by Walter de la Mare (1912)*

ABOUT THE BURT FAMILY CAROLS:

This three-generation family tradition began in 1922, when Rev. Bates G. Burt (Abbie's great-grandfather) began writing an original Christmas carol each year and sending it as a greeting card to his friends, family, and parishioners. He eventually passed the tradition to his son, Alfred Burt (Abbie's great-uncle), a jazz trumpeter and composer. Alfred Burt wrote a total of fifteen beloved Christmas carols, including the popular *Caroling, Caroling* and *This is Christmas*, now sung and recorded by artists all over the world. Abbie took up the family tradition in 2001.

Peace with Me Now, Abbie's fourteenth annual carol, combines two poems, *Winter* and *The Ghost*, both from Georgian-era poet Walter de la Mare's book *The Listeners and Other Poems* (1912). *Peace with Me Now* premiered on Minnesota Public Radio in December 2014 before being sent – as always – as a holiday card to family and friends. For the cover of the card, Abbie's mom, Emily Burt Betinis, painted a watercolor of tall, bare birch trees casting long blue shadows on a blanket of snow.



Peace with Me Now

lyrics adapted from poems by
WALTER DE LA MARE

music by
ABBIE BETINIS

Slow walk, easy swing ad lib. espress, throughout

Voice

1. Cloud - ed with snow
2. The ray - less sun,
3. Thick draws the dark,
4. All the night's dew,

(improvisation encouraged) F#m7 AM9

Piano

smoothly

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The cold winds blow, And shrill on leaf - less
Day's jour - ney done, Sheds its last ebb - ing
And spark by spark, The frost-fires kindle, and
All the world's leaves, All win - ter's snow it would

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bough, The robin with its burn - ing breast,
light On roads in leagues of beau - ty spread,
soon, Over that sea of fro - zen foam,
seem, here with their quiet to have stilled,

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Composer's Note: I consider this a leadsheet, ready and open to your interpretation, dynamics, and nuance. Piano is notated as one of many options, please experiment.

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Lyrics adapted by Abbie Betinis from Walter de la Mare's "Winter" and "The Ghost" and may be reprinted in relation to this piece without permission, but with attribution.

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1. A-lone sings now. 2. Un-earth-ly
3. Floats the white moon. 4. Stilled in life'

1. Esus/A Am⁶ D/F# Fdim⁷ 2. Esus/A

17 **REFRAIN**

Peace in thy hands, Peace in thine eyes, Peace, peace on thy

A Bm⁷ C#m⁷ F#m⁷ D^{M7}

Piano score removed for perusal.

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brow; Flow'r of a mo-ment in the e-ter-nal hour,

Piano score removed for perusal.

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1, 2. 3. 1st: D.S. (8) 2nd: To Refrain

Peace with me now. Peace with me now. Peace with me now.

1, 2. 3. 1st: D.S. (8) 2nd: To Refrain

F#m⁷ Dm Dm⁶ F#m⁷ Dm Dm⁶ F#M⁹ (no 3)

rit. rit.

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Selected vocal scores by Abbie Betinis...

The Burt Family Carols Series:

Abbie is the grand-niece of composer Alfred Burt, and carries on the tradition of writing a new carol every year.

Behind the Clouds	SATB a cappella	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-059-C08
Carol of the Stranger	SATB a cappella	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-080-C13
Prayer for Peace	SATB a cappella	Fred Bock Music F2358
Touch Hands: a table grace	canon/partner song	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-106-C17

Choral Works:

A Blessing of Cranes Text: Michael Dennis Browne	SSAA, piano	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-091-01
Be Like the Bird Text: Victor Hugo	5 part canon	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-062-C9
Cedit, Hyems (Be gone, winter!) Text: Prudentius (in Latin)	SATB div. (or SSAA div.), flute	G. Schirmer Cat. No. 50486492
Long Time Trav'ling Text: traditional American shape-note texts	SATB div., tenor duet	Santa Barbara Music Pub. SBMP-702
Love is Love is Love is Love Text: traditional, protest movement	3-4 part canon, audience mantra	Justice Choir Songbook AB-102-00
Yhinx: An Ancient Greek Love Charm Text: Theocritus & ancient Greek stone (in Greek)	TTBB a cappella, t. t. b. solos	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-018-02

Vocal Chamber Music:

Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight Text: Vachel Lindsay	tenor, piano, opt'l snare drum	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-061-10
Jerusalem Luminosa Text: Thomas a Kempis (in Latin)	SA or TB duet, a cappella	Kjos Music Cat. No. 6323
Nattsanger (Nightsongs): song cycle Text: Rolf Jacobsen (in Norwegian)	high voice, clarinet, piano	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-055-02
The Clan of the Lichens: song cycle Text: Opal Whiteley	soprano, piano	Graphite Publishing GP - B005
The Waking Text: Theodore Roethke	low voice, piano	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-068-10

Composer Abbie Betinis creates “inventive” (*The New York Times*), “joyful... incandescent” (*Boston Globe*) music that “expands into ethereal realms” (*Cambridge University Press*). With performances from Carnegie Hall to Disney Hall, state prisons to capitol buildings, international cathedrals to intimate summer campfires, her music transports performers and audiences alike through storytelling, relevance, and craft. Her vast catalog, grown from her love for the human voice, includes commissions for the American Choral Directors Association, Cantus, Conspirare, Dale Warland Singers, James Sewell Ballet, LyricFest, Minnesota Music Educators Association, MUSE Cincinnati Women’s Choir, St Olaf Choir, and Young New Yorkers’ Chorus.

A two-time McKnight Artist Fellow, and recognized by *Musical America* for her “ability to use her talents to effect social change,” Abbie is co-editor of the Justice Choir Songbook – a resource for community transformation and mobile advocacy through singing – now used in schools, streets, prisons, faith communities, and protest movements nationwide.

A frequent guest clinician, she has held residencies with the New York State School Music Association, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, and The Schubert Club, and has been adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University-St Paul for over a decade. Each year, she pens a new holiday carol, which she sends as a greeting card to family and friends in the spirit of her great-uncle, the renowned Christmas carol composer Alfred Burt.



Abbie studied composition at St. Olaf College (B.A.), the University of Minnesota (M.A.), and the EAMA Nadia Boulanger Institute in Paris, France. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.