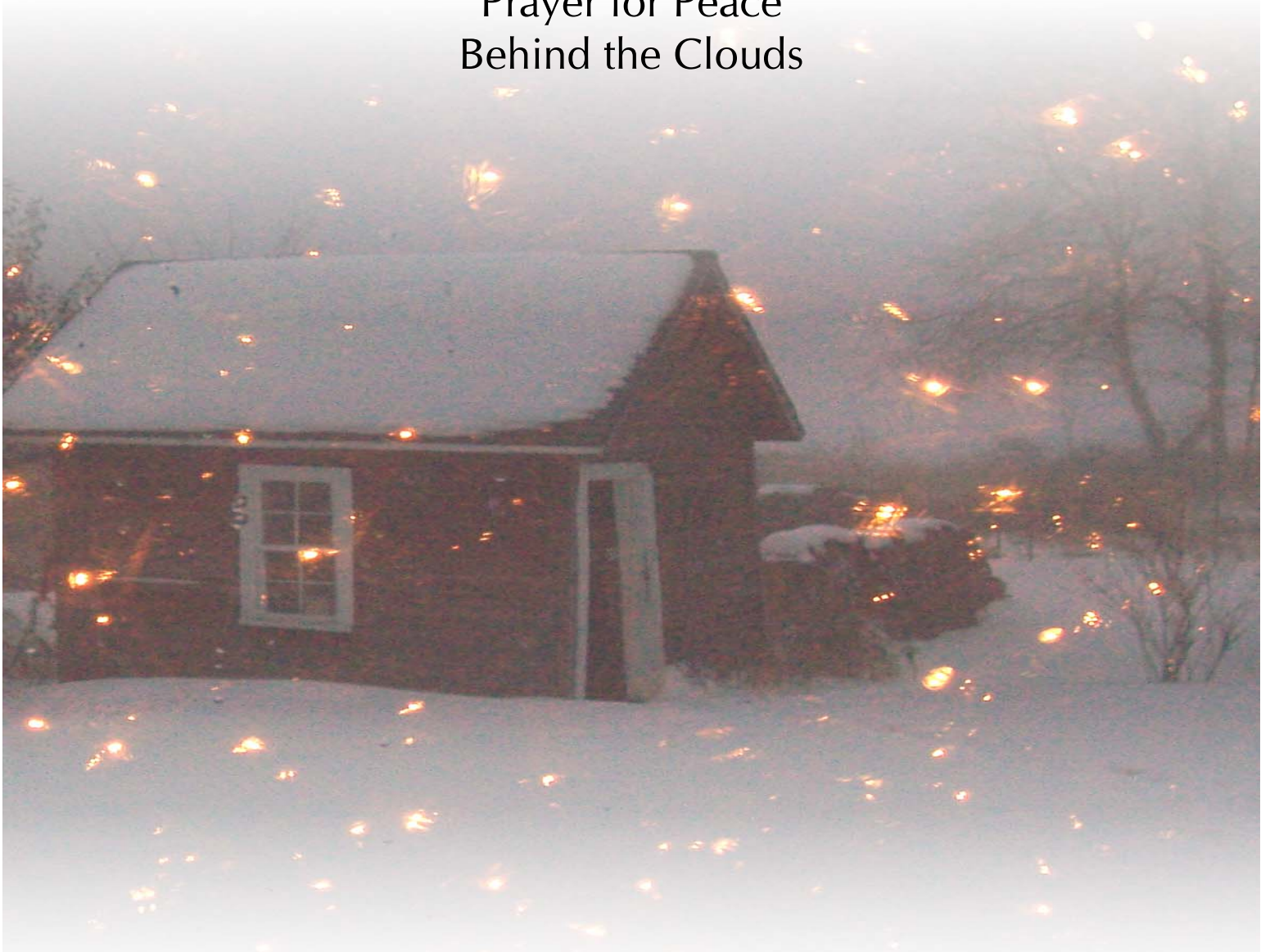


ABBIE BURT BETINIS

Three Carols

~ for high voice & keyboard (organ or piano) ~

Carol of the Snow
Prayer for Peace
Behind the Clouds



Abbie Betinis Music Co.

web: www.abbiebetinis.com ♦ phone: +1.612.590.3998 ♦ email: abbie@abbiebetinis.com

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THE BURT FAMILY CAROLS

In 1922, **Rev. Bates G. Burt**, a self-taught musician, began composing original Christmas carols and sending them as annual 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 and young composer fresh out of the University of Michigan. 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*," made famous originally by the Voices of Jimmy Joyce and now sung and recorded by artists all over the world.



Rev. Bates G. Burt
(1878-1948)



Alfred Burt
(1920-1954)



Abbie Burt Betinis
(b. 1980)

Rev. Burt's great-granddaughter, **Abbie Burt Betinis**, has been continuing the family tradition since 2001, when she emerged from Saint Olaf College with a degree in music theory and composition. She went on to study composition at the University of Minnesota, and is now composer-in-residence at The Schubert Club and adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Each of her new carols premieres on Minnesota Public Radio, then, just like her great-grandfather Bates and great uncle Al, she sends it as a greeting card to her friends and family.

Carol of the Snow (2010)

Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest fields forsaken,
Silent, and soft, and slow,
Descends the snow.

This is the poem of the air,
Slowly in silent syllables recorded;
This is the secret of despair,
Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,
Troubled, the sky reveals
The grief it feels.

Even as our burdens are released,
Lovingly laced in some divine expression,
Even as the troubled heart cries peace,
And in the white countenance makes confession,
A love so pure so true
Begins anew.

"Carol of the Snow" is inspired by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Snow-flakes." Abbie composed the music in 2010 (one of the snowiest winters on record in the United States) as she recovered from cancer for the third time. The carol premiered on Minnesota Public Radio the following year.

Prayer for Peace (2004)

Peace, the breath of peace is here,
it calms and cheers,
As we, with eyes of faith, look backward
through the years...
Peace, it was the Angels' song
when He was born,
Peace and Good-will to all, they sang,
on Christmas morn.

Refrain: Gloria! Et in terra pax!

Lovely, oh so lovely,
the reflected star,
The star of Hope in every eye
that sought so far...
Far, they sought to love him:
Beth'hem, Calvary...
That from their want and fear all people
shall be free.

(Refrain)

Softly, o'er the snow so softly
comes the sign,
A better peace descends to us
at Christmastime.
Softly, o'er the snow so softly,
then is gone –
So we wait in hope, and fear, to see
our century dawn.

Angels, o'er the broken, spread your silver wings,
And help us to keep sacred all the Love he brings.

- lyrics by the composer, after Rev. Bates G. Burt

"Prayer for Peace" is inspired by many of the Christmas sermons and public addresses Abbie's great-grandfather, Rev. Bates G. Burt, delivered during World War II. The eloquent minister's speeches were written so poetically that Abbie was able to extract whole phrases from them, around which she carefully constructed new lyrics.

"We must have a better peace after this war than we had after the last, or once more the common man will have to wait to see his century dawn."

- Rev. Bates G. Burt, to the Rotary Club c.1943

"With eyes of faith which look backward through the years we, too, see the angels and hear their heavenly song. ...In spite of all our fears, and all the dismal signs, and all the disheartening facts that confront us in a world at war – a world where force is the God of nations, and cruelty is a virtue – still the message rings down the ages telling us that these things need not be..."

- Rev. Bates G. Burt, sermon Christmas morning 1940

This carol premiered on Minnesota Public Radio, and was sent as Abbie's family's Christmas card in 2004.

Behind the Clouds (2008)

~ a carol for Advent ~

Behind the clouds that darken human life,
Forever shines the Light of God;
And whensoever those clouds may go,
Dispelling the shadows in which we so
blindly grope,
Then is it, indeed,
Hope.

With ears attuned to heaven's prophecies,
Our hearts await a Prince of Peace,
And whensoever that Prince appear,
And we in darkness, and we in fear
find release,
Then is it, indeed,
Peace.

Awake! Awake! Lift up your hearts downcast,
For sorrow shall transform at last,
And whensoever that Rose unfurl'd,
Invites Hosannas for all the world
to employ,
Then is it, indeed,
Joy.

O come, O come, come closer still tonight,
The pains of life remain, but Light...!
And whensoever that Light breaks through,
And we, in radiance, reflect a new
world above,
Then is it, indeed,
Love.

- lyrics by the composer, after Rev. Bates G. Burt

Abbie created the text for "Behind the Clouds" out of a prose poem Rev. Bates G. Burt penned for the family Christmas card in 1942, as World War II raged on and many US troops spent their first Christmas away from home.

Carol of the Snow

AFTER H.W. LONGFELLOW*

ABBIE BETINIS (b. 1980)

Meditatively

Piano

G5 G9(no 3rd) G5 Gm7 Gm7 sus2

pp *poco rit.*

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand starts with a G5 chord, followed by a G9(no 3rd) chord, then a G5 chord, a Gm7 chord, and finally a Gm7 sus2 chord. The left hand plays a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. Dynamics include *pp* and *poco rit.*

Gracefully

5

p

1. Out of the bos - om of the air, Out of the
2. This is the po - em of the air, Slow - ly in
3. Even as our bur - dens are re - leased, Lov - ing - ly

C5 Bb6 add 2 Ab maj7 G4 C5 add 2

G: 2-3 time only

The first system includes a vocal line starting at measure 5 and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three verses. The piano accompaniment features chords: C5, Bb6 add 2, Ab maj7, G4, and C5 add 2. A red watermark 'PERUSAL ONLY (PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)' is overlaid on the page.

10

cloud - folds of her gar - ments shak - en, O - ver the wood - lands
si - lent syl - la - bles re - cord - ed; This is the se - cret
laced in some di - vine ex - pres - sion, E - ven as the trou - bled

Bb6 add 2 Ab maj7 #11 G5 add 4 Cm add 2 Bb6 add 2

The second system continues the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three verses. The piano accompaniment features chords: Bb6 add 2, Ab maj7 #11, G5 add 4, Cm add 2, and Bb6 add 2.

* Lyrics adapted by the composer after H. W. Longfellow's "Snow-flakes" (pub. 1858, and in the public domain)

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29

D.S. al Coda
rit.

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is in B-flat major and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes chords: Bm^{add 4}, B^{sus}, B, C^{#m}¹¹, B^b/D^{dim7}, and D^b13^{#11}. The piano part has a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The tempo is marked *rit.* and *f rit.* with a decrescendo hairpin.

⊕ CODA

33

rit.

Musical score for measures 33-38. The score is in B-flat major and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes chords: A^bmaj7^{#11}, G4, Cm/A^b6, E^b2/Gm, D^bmaj7, and G^bmaj⁹. The tempo is marked *rit.* with a decrescendo hairpin.

— makes — con - fes - sion, A love so pure so true — Be -

Meditatively

39

poco rit.

Musical score for measures 39-42. The score is in B-flat major and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes chords: G5, G9 (no 3rd), G5, Gm7, C/Gm, and G5. The tempo is marked *pp* and *poco rit.* with a decrescendo hairpin.

gins a - new.

8^{vb}

Prayer for Peace

~ carol for high voice ~

A.B.B.
after Rev. Bates G. Burt

ABBIE BETINIS (b. 1980)

Freely, with energy and passion *poco rit.*-----

Piano or Organ

mp *legato* *p*

5 *a tempo*
mp

1. Peace, _____ the breath of peace is near, it calms _____ and cheers, As
2. Love - - - ly, oh so love - ly, the re - flec - ted star, The

a tempo
mp

8 *poco rit.* *a tempo*
sub mf

we, with eyes of faith, _____ look back-ward through the years... Peace, _____ it was the
star of Hope in ev' - ry eye that sought so far... Far, _____ they sought to

poco rit. *a tempo*
sub mf

sub mp *sub mf*

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Abbie Betinis – Prayer for Peace (high voice)

36 *f* *mp*

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

40 *rit.* *Slower* *pp*

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

44 *p* *rit.* *warmly* *mf*

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

Behind the Clouds

a carol for Advent

A.B.B.
after Rev. Bates G. Burt

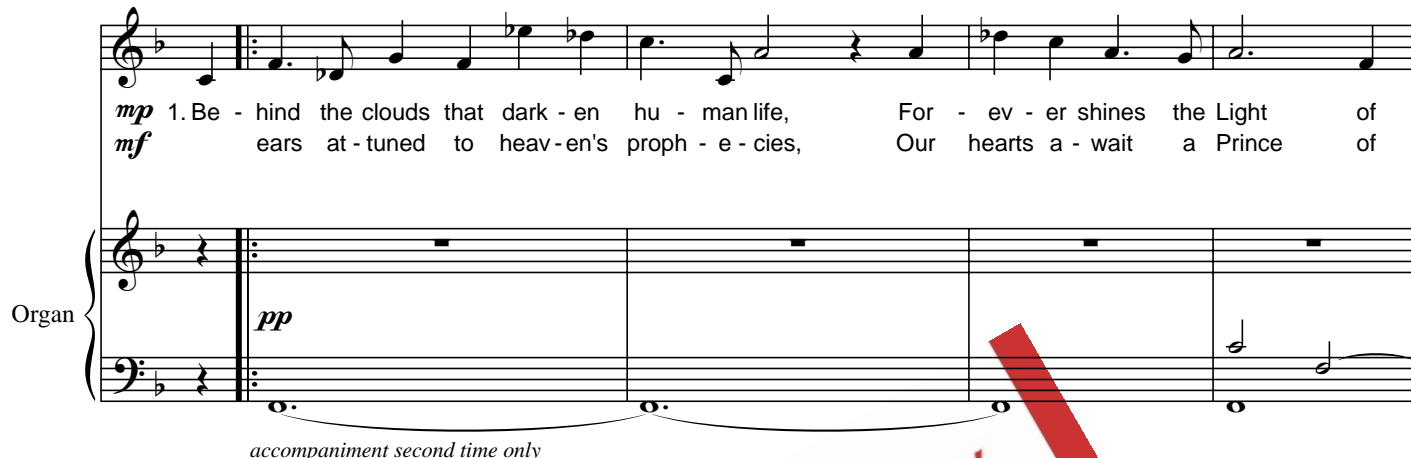
ABBIE BETINIS (b. 1980)

Slowly, with rubato

mp 1. Be - hind the clouds that dark - en hu - man life, For - ev - er shines the Light of
mf ears at - tuned to heav - en's proph - e - cies, Our hearts a - wait a Prince of

Organ *pp*

accompaniment second time only



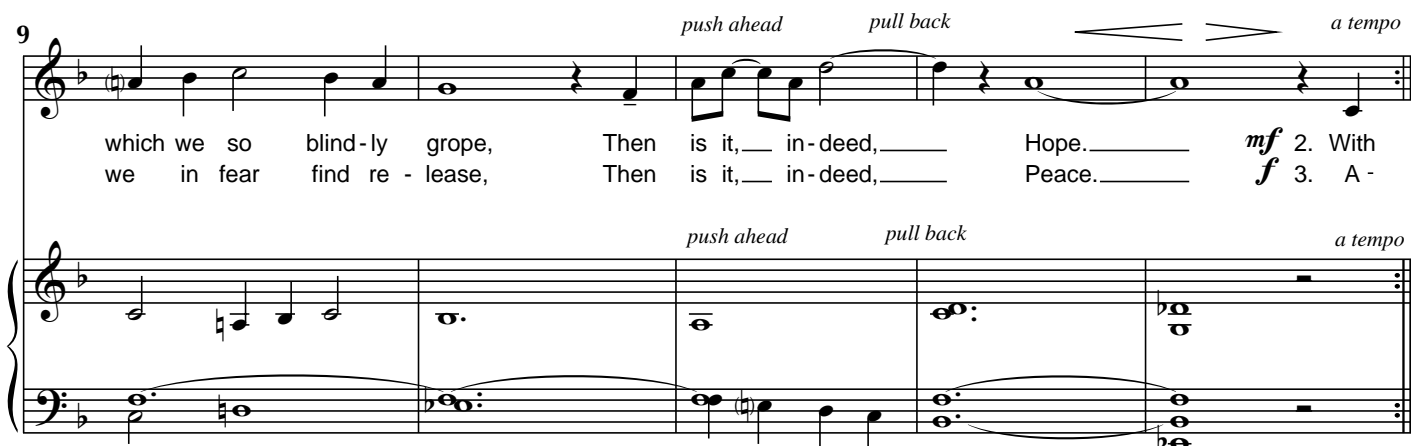
5
God; And when - so - ev - er those clouds may go, Dis - pel - ling the shad - ows in
Peace, And when - so - ev - er that Prince ap - pear, And we in dark - ness, and



9
which we so blind - ly grope, Then is it, in - deed, Hope. *mf* 2. With
we in fear find re - lease, Then is it, in - deed, Peace. *f* 3. A -

push ahead pull back a tempo

push ahead pull back a tempo



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27 *expressively, intimately*

come, O come, come clos - er still to-night, The pains of life re - main, but

legato, intimately

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 27 through 30. The vocal line is in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "come, O come, come clos - er still to-night, The pains of life re - main, but". The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat. It features a flowing, legato accompaniment with various articulations and dynamics. A large red watermark is partially visible over the piano part.

31 *mf* *expressively*

Light...! And when - so - ev - er that Light breaks through, And we, in rad-iance, re -

mp *expressively*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 31 through 34. The vocal line starts with a fermata over the first measure. The lyrics are: "Light...! And when - so - ev - er that Light breaks through, And we, in rad-iance, re -". The piano accompaniment includes a fermata in the first measure and a triplet in the second measure. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A large red watermark is prominently displayed across the entire section.

35 *p*

flect a new world a - bove, Then is it, in - deed, Love.

p

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 35 through 38. The vocal line begins with a fermata. The lyrics are: "flect a new world a - bove, Then is it, in - deed, Love.". The piano accompaniment features a *p* dynamic marking and a fermata in the final measure. A large red watermark is visible at the top of the page.

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More Vocal Chamber Music by Abbie Betinis . . .

Aililiú, ó Íosa (Alleluia, O Jesu) Text: traditional (in Gaelic and Latin)	soprano, SATB chorus, Gaelic harp, viola	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-036-00
Carol of the Snow Text: after H.W. Longfellow	high voice, piano	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-063-10
Jerusalem Luminosa Text: Thomas a Kempis (in Latin)	high & medium voice (duet)	Kjos Music Cat. No. 6323
Moonlight Text: Suzanne Asher	high voice, cello	<i>manuscript</i>
My Heart is Longing to Praise My Savior Text: Princess Eugenie of Sweden (in English)	high voice, cello, piano	Graphite Publishing GP- B006
Nattsanger (Nightsongs) Text: Rolf Jacobsen (in Norwegian) I. Aftenroden (<i>Red sunset</i>) II. Når de sover (<i>When they sleep</i>) III. Mose, rust, og møll (<i>Moss, rust, and moths</i>) IV. Lavmaelt (<i>Whispered</i>) V. Lyktestolpen (<i>Streetlamp</i>) VI. Nattmusikk (<i>Night Music</i>) VII. Sjøfugl (<i>Seabirds</i>)	high voice, clarinet, piano	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-055-03
Ophelie (Ophelia) Text: Arthur Rimbaud (in French)	high voice, cello, piano	<i>manuscript</i>
Prayer for Peace Text: Abbie Betinis, after Bates G. Burt	low voice, string orchestra (or piano)	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-033-C4C
Prologue Text: Yevgeny Yevtushenko (in English)	medium voice, bassoon	<i>manuscript</i>
The Clan of the Lichens Text: Opal Whiteley (in English) I. All Things Live II. Night and the Little Failures III. The Prayer Wind IV. The Comet: a tale for children (and taller ones) V. The Clan of the Lichens	soprano, piano	Graphite Publishing GP - B005
The Waking Text: Theodore Roethke (in English)	baritone, piano	Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-068-10



Reviewed as “audacious... edgy and thrilling,” the music of Abbie Betinis (b. 1980) is being performed increasingly in the United States and abroad, and has won awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP, the Jerome Foundation, and the Minnesota Music Educators Association, among others. A 2009 McKnight Artist Fellow, Abbie has fulfilled more than 40 commissions for new music from organizations including the Dale Warland Singers, Cantus, The Rose Ensemble, and The Schubert Club. Abbie studied composition at St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota, and the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France. Her music is published by Graphite Publishing, Kjos, Fred Bock Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and in G. Schirmer’s *Dale Warland Series*, but she primarily publishes through her own venture, Abbie Betinis Music Co.

Since 2005, Abbie has been Composer-in-Residence for The Schubert Club, the first arts organization in Minnesota. She has also held residencies with The Rose Ensemble and The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists, and teaches composition at Concordia University-St. Paul. A three-time cancer survivor, she lives in St. Paul, MN.

Abbie Betinis Music Co.

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