

ABBIE BETINIS

To Matthew Culloton, for his faith and dedication.

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

(arrangement for SATB a cappella chorus)

Text and tune by William Walker

Originally written as a shape note hymn in Southern Harmony

*Commissioned by The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists,
Matthew Culloton, conductor*

*Premiered December 4, 2004 at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, St. Paul, MN
Recorded by The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists on “Shout the Glad Tidings”*

Program note from the premiere performance:

Abbie Betinis, commissioned by The Singers to provide an arrangement for this inaugural concert, 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

Text

The following text for *The Babe of Bethlehem* is from William Walker's Southern Harmony, first printed in New Haven in 1835, and revised several times since. Two beautiful additional verses also exist but are, alas, not included in this arrangement.

- Abbie Betinis

1. 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!
Sing Hallelujah!

- 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.

WILLIAM WALKER
From Southern Harmony
(orig. written in shape notes)

ABBIE BETINIS (ARR.)

Stately, with energy $\text{♩} = 72-84$

Soprano *pp non legato*

Ye na - tions all, on you I call, Come heed this dec - la - ra - tion, And

6 *mp*

S don't re-fuse this glo - rious news of Je - sus and sal - va - tion; To roy - al Jews came

Tenor: *mp*

To roy - al Jews came

11 *pp*

S first the news Of Christ the great Mes - si - ah, As was fore - told by proph - ets old, I -

T first the news Of Christ the great Mes - si - ah, As was fore - told by proph - ets old, I -

16

S sa - iah Jer - e - mi - ah. Mes - si - ah...

A Mes - si - ah...

T 8 sa - iah Jer - e - mi - ah. To

B mp Of Christ the great Mes - si - ah,

mp *mp* *mf*

21

S (ah...) light

A (ah...) light

T 8 A - bra-ham the pro - mise came, And to his seed for - e - ver, A light to shine in

B

26 *sub mf*

S shine (nn...) Hail! Hail! Hail!

S2 shine (nn...) Hail! Hail!

A shine (nn...) Hail!

T I - saac's line, By scrip - ture we dis - co - ver;

B *mf*
Hail, -

30 *mp*

S Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

S2 *mp*
- Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

A *mp*
Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

T *mf*
Me - di - a - tor, God's

B
- prom-ised morn! The sav - iour is born, The glo - rious Me - di - a - tor,

34

S (oo...) *mf* Hal - le -

A (oo...) (oo...)

T 8 bless - ed Word___ made flesh and blood, As - sumed the hu - man

B *mp* (oo...) (oo...)

37

S lu - jah!_____ *f* His

A *mf* Hal - le - lu - jah,_____ *p* hal - le - lu - jah,_____ *molto* hal - le - lu - . . .

T 8 *mf* na - . . . - ture. Hal - le - lu - jah, *p* hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - . . . *molto*

B *p* Hal - le - lu - jah,_____ *molto* hal - le - lu - . . .

41

S *mp*
 pa-rents poor in earth - ly store, To en - ter-tain the strang - er

A *mf* *f*
 jah! Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu! They

T *mf*
 jah! Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu!

B *mf*
 jah! (ah...)

45

S *f* *f*
 no bed to lay his head, in a low - ly mang - er; No

A *mf* *f*
 found no bed to lay his head, but in low - ly mang - er; No

T *mp* *mf* *f*
 no bed to lay his head, in a low - ly mang - er; No

B *mp* *mf*
 oh... Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu -

The Music of Abbie Betinis

web: www.abbiebetinis.com ♦ phone: 612-590-3998 ♦ email: abbie@abbiebetinis.com

THIS PAGE

has been intentionally

LEFT BLANK

in the hopes that you might buy this score

Contact Abbie at the phone or email address above for current pricing information, or
order online at:

http://www.abbiebetinis.com/order_form.html

Joyfully!

57 *f*

S round him.

A *f* On this same night a glo-rious light to shep-herds there ap-pear-ed,

T *f* On this same night a glo-rious light to shep-herds there ap-pear-ed, Bright

B *f* On this same night a glo-rious light to shep-herds there ap-pear-ed, Bright

61

S

A *f* Bright an-gels came in shin-ing flame, they saw and great-ly fear-ed;

T *f* an-gels came in shin-ing flame, they saw and great-ly fear-ed; The an-gels said,

B *f* an-gels came in shin-ing flame, they saw and great-ly fear-ed;

66 *pp* *legato*

S "Be not a - fraid, al-though we much_ a - larm_ you, We do ap - pear_ good news to

S2 *pp* *legato*

"Be not a - fraid, al - though we much_ a - larm_ you, We do ap - pear_ good

A *pp* *legato*

"Be not a - fraid, al-though we much_ a - larm_ you, We do ap -

T (*f*)

"Be not a-fraid, al - though we much_ a - larm_ you, We do ap-pear_ good news to bear, as

B (*f*)

al - though we much_ a - larm_ you, We do ap-pear_ good news to bear, as

71 *molto rit*

S bear, as now we will_ in-form you."

S2 *molto rit*

news to bear, as now we will_ in - form you."

A *cresc.* *molto rit* *mf* \longleftarrow *f*

pear_ good news to bear, as now we will_ in - form you." in - form you."

T *mp* \longleftarrow *f* *molto rit*

now we will_ in - form you." as now we will in - form you."

B *mp* \longleftarrow *f* *molto rit*

now we will_ in - form you." as now we will in - form you."

Maestoso $\text{♩} = 56-60$

76 Solo: *f*

S "The cit-y's name is Beth-le-hem, _____ in which God hath _____ ap - point - ed,

S 2 _____

A *sub mp*
(oo...)

T *sub mp*
8 (oo...)

B *sub mp*
(oo...)

80 Tutti *mp*

S oh... _____ *f* Hal-le - lu-jah!
f Hal-le - lu -

A Solo: *f*
This glo-rious morn a Sav-iour's born, _____ for him God hath _____ a - noint - ed;

T *mp* oh... _____ *f* By

B *mp* oh... _____

84 *mp* *sop solo: p*

S Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! His

S2 jah! *mp* Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! *p* ah... *p*

A *Tutti mp* ah... ah... ah... ah... *p*

T ⁸ this you will know, if you will go, to see this lit - tle strang - er,

B *mp* His

88 *sweetly* *(sop tutti)*

S love - ly charms in Mar - y's arms, both ly - ing in a mang - er."

A *pp* oo... oo... oo... *sub f* When

T *pp* oo... oo... oo...

B *sub f* love - ly charms in Mar - y's arms, both ly - ing in a mang - er." When

The Music of Abbie Betinis

web: www.abbiebetinis.com ♦ phone: 612-590-3998 ♦ email: abbie@abbiebetinis.com

THIS PAGE

has been intentionally

LEFT BLANK

in the hopes that you might buy this score

Contact Abbie at the phone or email address above for current pricing information, or
order online at:

http://www.abbiebetinis.com/order_form.html

100

S Hal-le-lu - jah! Hal-le-lu - jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Hal - le - lu-jah!

S2 jah! Hal-le-lu - jah! Hal-le-lu - jah! Hal - le - lu! Hal-le - lu-jah!

A Je - sus'__ name, the glo - rious__ theme, we el - e-vate__ our voic - es At *ff*

T lu-jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! At *ff*

B Je - sus'__ name, the glo - rious__ theme, we el - e-vate__ our voic - es At *ff*

104 *ff*

S At Je-sus' birth__ be peace on earth,__

S2 At Je-sus' birth__ be peace on earth,__

A Je - sus' birth__ be peace on earth,__ mean-while all heav - en *sub p*

T Je - sus' birth__ be peace on earth,__ Mean-while all heav - en, *mp*

B Je - sus' birth be peace on earth,__ mean-while all heav - en *sub p*

108

mf \longleftarrow *f*

S Heav - en re - joic - - - - - es! Heav-en re - joic - es! Heav-en re -

mf \longleftarrow *f*

S 2 Heav - en re - joic - - - - - es! Heav-en re - joic - es! Heav-en re -

mf \longleftarrow *f*

A Mean-while all heav - en re - joic - - - - - es! Heav-en re - joic - es! Heav-en re -

f

T At Je - sus' birth_ be peace on earth, mean - while all heav - en,

mf \longleftarrow *f*

B Mean-while all heav - en re - joic - - - - - es!

112

ff *poco rit.*

S joic - es! Sing Hal - le - lu - - - - jah! _____

ff *poco rit.*

S 2 joic - es! Sing Hal - le - lu - - - - jah! _____

ff *poco rit.*

A joic - es! Sing Hal - le - lu - - - - jah! _____

ff *poco rit.*

T Mean-while all sing Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - jah! _____

ff *poco rit.*

B Mean-while all sing Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - jah! _____

