

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 high voice and piano*

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

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

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

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.

*(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 dews,

(improvisation encouraged) **Bm11**      **F#aug7**      **Bm7**      **Dm9**

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

**Gm7**      **Gm6/Bb**      **Bm11**      **BmM9**      **G6**      **Gm7**      **Bb6**      **Bb7#11**      **Bbm6**

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bough,      The rob - in with its burn - ing breast,  
light      On fields in leagues of beau - ty spread,  
soon,      O ver that sea of fro - zen foam,  
stem,      Nere with their quiet to have stilled,

**Dm9#12**      **OmM7**      **Bbm9**      **Ebm7**

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. Asus/D Dm<sup>6</sup> G/B B<sup>b</sup>dim<sup>7</sup> 2. Asus/D

17 **REFRAIN**

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

D Em<sup>7</sup> F#m<sup>7</sup> Bm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>M7</sup>

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

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

1, 2. Bm<sup>7</sup> Gm Gm<sup>6</sup> Bm<sup>7</sup> Gm Gm<sup>6</sup> B<sup>M9</sup> (no 3)

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

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

### Choral Works:

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

### Vocal Chamber Music:

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