



ABBIE BETINIS

Prayer for Peace

*Carol for soprano or tenor solo/soli
with ATB a cappella chorus*



*As premiered on
Minnesota Public Radio,
December 2004*



In 1922, Rev. Bates G. Burt, a self-taught musician, began composing Christmas carols and sending them as seasonal 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 who had just received his music degree from the University of Michigan. The father-son team produced five carols together before Bates' death in 1948. 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 recorded by artists all over the world. Since 2001, Abbie Burt Betinis has been continuing this family tradition begun so long ago by Bates, her great-grandfather. Each new carol has used a text relating somehow to the Burt family tradition. "Prayer for Peace" was inspired by the Christmas sermons which Bates G. Burt delivered to his Michigan congregation during World War II. (Luckily her family never throws anything away.)

The Music of Abbie Betinis

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

Prayer for Peace

~ Carol for 2004 ~

A. B. (based on Christmas sermons by her
great-grandfather Bates G. Burt, c. 1940)

Abbie Burt Betinis

Freely, with energy and passion

mp

Solo

1. Peace, _____ the breath of peace is near, it calms _____
2. Love - - - ly, oh so love - ly, the re - flec -
3. Soft - - - ly, o'er the snow so soft - ly comes _____

A.
1. humming
2. oo
3. oo

T.
B.

(all accompanying voices staggered)

S.
- and cheers, As we, with eyes of faith, _____ look back - ward
ted star, The star of Hope in ev' - - - ry eye that
- the sign, A bet - ter peace de - scends _____ to us at

A.
T.
B.

poco rit. *a tempo*

S.
through the years... Peace, _____ it was the An - gels' song _____ when
sought so far... Far, _____ they sought to love him: Beth - l'hem,
Christ - mas - time. Soft - - - ly, o'er the snow so soft - - - ly,

poco rit. *a tempo*

A.
T.
B.

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in the hopes that you might buy this score

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