

THE BURT FAMILY CAROL SERIES

# In a Far Judean City

ABBIE BURT BETINIS



H. T. FITZSIMONS COMPANY

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## In a Far Judean City

In a far Judean city,  
when the night is bleak and wild,  
in a stable— ah, the pity!  
Mary sings to her child:

“Lullaby, my baby, lullaby.  
Mother’s nigh, her watch to keep,  
sleep my little one, sleep.  
Lullaby, my Jesu, lullaby.”

Heav’n on high with song is ringing,  
but within this cattle shed,  
sweeter far is Mary’s singing  
at her babe’s manger bed:

“Lullaby, my baby, lullaby...”

See the friendly kine draw near her,  
angels hush their notes above,  
while the baby smiles to hear her  
croon this sweet song of love:

“Lullaby, my baby, lullaby...”

Oh, what myst’ry! Oh, what wonder!  
God is born a babe today,  
and must needs be lulled to slumber  
by a maid’s tender lay:

“Lullaby, my baby, lullaby...”

— Bates G. Burt (Abbie’s great-grandfather), 1930

# IN A FAR JUDEAN CITY

for S.A.T.B. voices, a cappella

Lyrics by  
REV. BATES G. BURT

Music by  
ABBIE BURT BETINIS

**Gently, expressively**

1. In a far Ju - de - an cit - y, ———  
2. Heav'n on high with song is ring - ing, ———  
3. See the friend - ly kine draw near her, ———  
4. Oh, what mys - t'ry! Oh, what won - der! ———

1. In a far cit - y, when the  
2. Heav'n on high is ring - ing, but with -  
3. See the kine draw near her, an - gels  
4. Oh, what mys t'ry, won - der! God is

3

night is bleak and wild, ——— in a sta - ble ——— ah, the  
in this cat - tle shed, ——— sweet - er far is Mar - y's  
hush their notes a - bove, ——— while the ba - by smiles to  
born a babe to - day, ——— and must needs be lulled to

6

pit - y! Mar - y sings ——— to her child: ———  
sing - ing at her babe's ——— man - ger bed: ———  
hear her croon this sweet ——— song of love: ———  
slum - ber by a maid's ——— ten - der lay: ———

“Lull - a -

F2355

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9

SOPRANO

by, my ba - by, lull - a - by, ————— Moth-er's

ALTO

"Lull - a - by, ba - by, lull - a - by, — Moth-er's

TENOR

"Lull - a - by, my ba - by, lull - a - by, — Moth-er's

BASS

"Lull - a - by, ba - by, lull - a - by, — Moth-er's

13

nigh, her watch to keep, sleep my lit - tle one, — sleep. Lull - a -

nigh, her watch — to keep, my lit - tle one...

nigh, — her watch to — keep, my lit - tle one, — sleep.

nigh, her watch — to keep, lit - tle one, sleep. —

## THE BURT FAMILY CAROL TRADITION

In 1922, Reverend Bates G. Burt, a self-taught musician, began composing annual Christmas carols and sending them out as seasonal greeting cards to his friends, family, and parishioners. Twenty years later, with a growing Christmas card list, he passed the job of composing these annual 'card-carols' to his son, Alfred Burt, a jazz trumpeter who had just received his music degree from the University of Michigan.

Alfred Burt wrote a total of fifteen well-loved Christmas carols, including "Caroling, Caroling," "Some Children See Him," and "The Star Carol" before his early death at age 33. Like his father, he also sent carols as Christmas cards to an ever-widening circle of family friends who delighted in their close harmony and poignant lyrics. Over the years, these carols have been recorded by the Boston Pops, Julie Andrews, Nat King Cole, George Winston, Simon and Garfunkel, Kenny Loggins, James Taylor, and many others.

Now Abbie Burt Betinis, great-granddaughter of Rev. Bates G. Burt and grand-niece of Alfred Burt, is taking up her pen each year to offer a fresh take on this old family tradition. Like the generations before her, she captures in music the timeless holiday themes that the Burt family and so many others celebrate annually: family, love, wonder, faith... and with a good dose of merriment, too.

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### RECOMMENDED PROGRAMMING WITH "IN A FAR JUDEAN CITY"

*Nigh Bethlehem* by Alfred Burt (Shawnee Press, A 0451)

*Jesu Parvule* by Alfred Burt (Shawnee Press, A 0450)

*Prayer for Peace* by Abbie Burt Betinis (H.T. FitzSimons, F2358)

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An exciting new voice in contemporary composition, **Abbie Burt Betinis** (b. 1980) has been commissioned by more than 40 organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, Dale Warland Singers, Cornell University Chorus, Cantus, and the American Suzuki Foundation. Betinis holds degrees in music composition from St. Olaf College and the University of Minnesota, and has done post-graduate study at the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France. She has been a Composer-in-Residence for esteemed musical organizations including The Schubert Club, The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists and The Rose Ensemble.

For more information on this series, or for more programming ideas, please visit:  
[www.burtfamilycarols.fredbock.com](http://www.burtfamilycarols.fredbock.com)

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