



ABBIE BURT BETINIS

Hail, Christmas Day!

Carol for SSAA a cappella chorus

(also available for SATB)



*Premiered by Pike Kor, Christmas at Luther 2007
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; Sandra Peter, conductor*



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's 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 uses a text relating somehow to the Burt family tradition. "Hail, Christmas Day!" uses a joyful poem of John Harris Burt, Bates Burt's son (and Abbie's grandfather), written in 1953 and sent that year as the family's Christmas card.



Composer Abbie Betinis (b. 1980) has received more than 40 commissions for new music, leading to premieres by Cantus, The Dale Warland Singers, The Rose Ensemble, and The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists, among others. She has received grants and awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP, McKnight Foundation, Minnesota Music Educators Association, and the University of Minnesota, where she recently completed her masters degree in composition. She is currently a composer-in-residence at The Schubert Club in St. Paul, MN.

The Music of Abbie Betinis

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ORDER ONLINE: www.abbiebetinis.com/order_form.html

Hail, Christmas Day!

for S.S.A.A. divisi voices, a cappella

Words by
Rev. John H. Burt, 1953

Music by
Abbie Burt Betinis, 2003

Joyfully! ♩ = ca. 144-160

Choir unison

mf

1. Hail, Christ - mas Day that brings the sto - ry echo - ed forth from
o - ver Beth - l'hem hills a - sing - ing, down through cen - t'ries

4

East to West, Un - to us God comes, he comes in glo - ry, Ho - di - e, Ie - su
to our day: Peace, good will, and love he's bring - ing, Glo - ri - a ti - bi,

8

na - tus est! Ho - - - di - e, Ie - - su na - tus est! 2. All -

S2 soli (or solo):

S

Do - mi - ne! Glo - - - ri - a ti - bi, Do - mi - ne! 3. What -

A

Do - mi - ne! Glo - - - ri - a ti - bi, Do - mi - ne!

11 *p*

S Oo _____ Oo _____

S2 does this birth to us be - to - ken? Can he save from

A *p* Oo _____ Oo _____

14 *mp*

S Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____

S2 fear and doom? This have saints and pro - ph - ets sp - ken:

A *f*

17 *mp*

S Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____

S2 "Chris-tus re - demp - tor om - ni - um! Chris - - - - tus re - demp - tor

A *mp* "Chris-tus re - demp - tor om - ni - um! Chris - - - - tus re - demp - tor

20

S om - ni - um! Chris - - - - tus re - demp - tor om - ni - um!"

A om - ni - um! Chris - - - - tus re - demp - tor om - ni - um!"



Three-part Round*

(A) *mf*

So, all good peop - le, let's be giv - ing

praise and of - fer - - - ings pro - fuse

(B)

un - to Christ, the Lord, the Lord of Liv - ing. A -

des - te fi - de - - lis, gau - de - a - mus!

(C)

A - - des - te fi - de - - lis, glo - ri - a! A -

des - te fi - de - - lis, gau - de - a - mus!

⊕ Group 3 to Coda, last time through

⊕ CODA: Tutti (Groups 1, 2, 3)

f *poco rit.* *ff*

S
A - - des - te fi - de - - lis, gau - de - a - mus!

f *poco rit.* *ff*

A
A - - - des - te fi - de - - lis, gau - de - a - mus!

* Recommendation:

Group 1: sopranos

Group 2: altos

Group 3: some sopranos and some altos