

THE BURT FAMILY CAROLS



Abbie Burt Betinis



Alfred S. Burt



Rev. Bates G. Burt

ABBIE BETINIS

Carol of the Stranger SATB a cappella

Peace and grace be to this house
Where all are welcomed in;
Receive the guest, receive this heart:
Tell the Stranger, tell.

*Tell the Stranger what you cannot tell
Those who love you and desire your joy:
Tell.*

Make tall your walls, make long these beams,
Who once believed alone;
Make wide the circle, feed the fire:
Tell the Silence, tell.

*Tell the Silence what you cannot tell
Those who love you and desire your joy.
Tell.*

Blessings be upon this place,
Let every wound be healed,
Let every secret, every dream:
Tell the Angel, tell.

*Tell the Angel what you cannot tell
Those who love you and desire your joy.
Tell.*

Peace and grace be to this house,
All will be returned;
Let every soul be called your own,
Tell the Mystery, tell.

*Tell the Mystery what you long to tell
Those who love you and desire your joy.
Tell.*

- Michael Dennis Browne (2013)

ABOUT THE BURT FAMILY CAROLS:

In the 1920s, Rev. Bates G. Burt (Abbie's great-grandfather) began penning an original Christmas carol each year and sending it as a greeting card to friends and family. He eventually passed the tradition to his son, Alfred Burt (Abbie's great-uncle), a jazz trumpeter and composer, who wrote a total of fifteen beloved Christmas carols, including the popular *Caroling*, *Caroling* and *Some Children See Him*, now sung and recorded by artists all over the world. Abbie took up the family tradition in 2001.

Carol of the Stranger was written in collaboration with celebrated poet Michael Dennis Browne, professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota. The poem takes its first line from a wall plaque that hangs above the poet's doorway, and inspiration from Charlotte Joko Beck (Everyday Zen), who challenges each of us to create A Bigger Container, so that the house (of self) may widen, embracing more contraries and allowing spaciousness of spirit. The carol premiered on Minnesota Public Radio in 2013, before being sent as a Christmas card to family and friends. (Suggested pairing: Alfred Burt's *Christ in the Stranger's Guise*.)



Abbie Betinis is an award-winning composer whose commissions have led to performances in some of the finest concert halls in the United States and beyond. A two-time McKnight Composer Fellow, she lives in Minnesota, where she has been composer-in-residence for The Rose Ensemble, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, and The Schubert Club, as well as adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University-St. Paul.

CAROL OF THE STRANGER

words by
MICHAEL DENNIS BROWNE

music by
ABBIE BETINIS

VERSE 1 $\text{♩} = 54$ *folky, bright* (grace notes heavy, on the beat) *mf*

Melody
(sugg: Alto or Bass)

1. Peace and grace — be to this house Where all are wel - comed

4 in; Re-ceive the guest, — re - ceive this heart; Tell the Stran-ger, — tell. —

REFRAIN

9 *softer, legato* (go/skip to next verse)

S Tell — the { 1. Stran - ger } what you cannot — tell those who love you and de-sire — your joy: —
2. Si - lence }
3. An - gel }

A *softer, legato* (go/skip to next verse)

1. Oo...
2. Tell — the Si - lence } Oo...
3. Tell — the An - gel what you can - not tell those who love you — de - sire your joy: —

T *softer, legato* (go/skip to next verse)

8 1. Oo...
2. Tell — the Si - lence } Oo...
3. Tell — the An - gel what you can - not tell those who love you and de-sire your joy: —

B *softer, legato* (go/skip to next verse)

1. Oo...
2. Tell — the Si - lence } Oo... Oo... Oo...
3. Tell — the An - gel what you can - not tell those who love you — de - sire your joy: —

16 **VERSE 2** *tutti mf*

SA Tell. — 2. Make tall your walls, — make long these beams, Who once be-lieved — a - lone; Make

TB Tell. — 2. tall... long... Oh —

(back to
REFRAIN)

VERSE 3

22

SA wide the cir - cle, feed the fire: Tell the Si - lence, tell. (back to REFRAIN)

TB wide... feed... Tell... tell. Tell. —

28 *f nasale, "shape-note" style*

Mel. (8) (sugg: Alto/Bass) 3. Bless - ings be — up - on this place, Let ev - 'ry wound — be healed, Let

(sugg: Tenor) *f nasale, "shape-note" style*

Harmony 1 (any octave) (8) 3. Bless - ings be — up - on this place, Let ev - 'ry wound — be healed,

(sugg: Sop) *f nasale, "shape-note" style*

Harmony 2 (any octave) (8) 3. Bless - ings be up - on this place, Let ev - 'ry wound be healed,

32 (back to REFRAIN)

Mel. (8) ev - 'ry se - cret, ev - 'ry dream: Tell the An - gel, — tell. —

(back to REFRAIN)

Harmony 1 (any octave) (8) Ev - 'ry se - cret, ev - 'ry dream: Tell the An - gel, tell.

(back to REFRAIN)

Harmony 2 (any octave) (8) Ev - 'ry se - cret, ev - 'ry dream: Tell the An - gel, tell.

36 VERSE 4 *cresc. poco a poco* *tutti* Wel - come, wel - come! *f*

SA Tell. — Tell. — Wel-come, wel-come, Wel - come, wel - come!

cresc. poco a poco Tell. Tell, Tell, Tell, Wel - come, wel - come!

TB Tell. Tell, Wel - come! Wel - come, wel - come! *f*

40

Descant (opt'l)
(sugg: S1)

4. Oo _____ ah _____ Oh _____ ah _____

Mel.
(sugg: A2 + Basses) *f marcato*

4. Peace and grace _____ be to this house, All will be _____ re - turned; Let

Harmony 1 (any octave)
(sugg: A1+T1) *f marcato*

4. Peace and grace _____ be to this house, All will be _____ re - turned; Let

Harmony 2 (any octave)
(sugg: S2+T2) *f marcato*

4. Peace and grace be to this house, All will be re - turned; Let

44

Descant (opt'l)

Oo _____ ah _____ Oh _____ ah

Mel.
(8)

ev - 'ry soul _____ be called your own, Tell the Mys - t'ry, tell.

Harmony 1 (any octave)
(8)

ev - 'ry soul _____ be called your own, Tell the Mys - t'ry, tell.

Harmony 2 (any octave)
(8)

ev - 'ry soul _____ be called your own, Tell the Mys - t'ry, tell.

48 *mf legato, esp.*

SA

Tell _____ the Mys - t'ry what you long to tell those who

TB *mf*

_____ tell those who

52

SA

love _____ you _____ and de - sire _____ your joy: _____ Tell.

TB

(non rit) *subp unis.*

subp unis.