



KENTUCKY BABE

(1896)

Words by RICHARD HENRY BUCK

Music by ADAM GEIBEL

Arrangement by KIRK ROOSE 1995, rev'd 10/2/97, 11/2007

Verse

1 Skeet-ers are a - hum-min' on the hon-ey-suck-le vine, 2 sleep Ken-tuck - y 3

4 Babe! Sand-man is a - com-in' to this lit - tle child of mine, 5 Babe, Ken-tuck - y Babe! 6

7 sleep, Ken-tuck - y 8 Babe! Sil - v'ry moon is shin-in' in the 9

Babe, Ken-tuck - y Babe!

The musical score is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The Tenor Lead part is on a treble clef staff, and the Bari Bass part is on a bass clef staff. The score is divided into nine measures, with lyrics written below the Tenor Lead staff. Measure 1 includes a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 8 includes a key signature change to two flats (Bb and Eb). Measure 4 has a fermata over the first measure. Measure 8 has a fermata over the first measure. Measure 9 has a fermata over the first measure.

Original melody simplified. Original dialect lyrics modified.

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Kentucky Babe

10 heav-ens up a - bove. 11 Bob - o - link is pin - in' for his 12 lit - tle la - dy love,

13 You are might - y luck - y Babe of old Ken-tuck - y, close your eyes in 14 15

Chorus fly a - way, 16 sleep. 17 Fly a - way, 18 fly a - way,

19 fly a - way Ken - tuck - y Babe, 20 fly a - way to rest, 21 fly a -

fly a-way, way, fly a-way, lay your sleep - y lit - tle head on your moth - er's breast.

Measures 22, 23, and 24 of the musical score for 'Kentucky Babe'. The score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measure 22 begins with the lyrics 'fly a-way,'. Measure 23 continues with 'way, fly a-way,'. Measure 24 concludes with 'lay your sleep - y lit - tle head on your moth - er's breast.' The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

Hmm Hmm

Measures 25, 26, 27, and 28 of the musical score. Measures 25 and 26 are marked with 'Hmm' and feature a melodic line with a half note and a quarter note, followed by a rest. Measures 27 and 28 also feature a melodic line with a half note and a quarter note, followed by a rest. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Close your eyes in sleep.

Measures 29, 30, 31, and 32 of the musical score. Measure 29 begins with the lyrics 'Close your eyes in sleep.' The melody consists of quarter notes. Measure 30 continues with 'Close your eyes in sleep.' Measure 31 features a long note with a fermata. Measure 32 concludes with a long note with a fermata. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Performance Notes

Adam Geibel, composer, organist, conductor, teacher, publisher . . . was born near Frankfort-on-Main, Germany in 1855. He moved to the United States in 1862 and was educated at the Institute for the Blind in Pennsylvania. Some of his most famous songs are *Kentucky Babe*; *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*; *Some Day He'll Make it Plain and Sleep*. Richard Henry Buck, author . . . was born in Philadelphia in 1870. Other than *Kentucky Babe*, Henry also wrote the lyrics to the well-known barbershop classics, *Dear Old Girl* and *Where the Southern Roses Grow*.

Sigmund Spaeth, on page 91 of his book "Barbershop Ballads and How to Sing Them" (Prentice Hall 1940): "When properly sung, *Kentucky Babe* is probably the most practical male quartet (piece) ever written." Barbershopper Kirk Roose is a well-known quartet singer, director and arranger. The Society has published some of his arrangements including *Let the Rest of the World Go By* and *Railroad Rag*. Roose is a champion for easy-to-sing arrangements. He has modified the lyrics in *Kentucky Babe* to be more compatible with today's world, giving us a fresh arrangement of this old chestnut.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask before you sing