



KENTUCKY BABE

(1896)

Words by RICHARD HENRY BUCK

Music by ADAM GEIBEL

Arrangement by KIRK ROOSE, rev. 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!

Original melody simplified. Original dialect lyrics modified.

© 2009 by Kirk Roose

Free 'n' Easy Publications may be copied free of charge.

All other rights reserved including, but not limited to, sales, recordings, and performance license.

Kentucky Babe

2

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 14 Babe of old Ken - tuck - y, 15 close your eyes in

Chorus

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 -

22 fly a-way, 23 lay your sleep - y lit - tle head 24 on your moth - er's breast.

Kentucky Babe

Musical score for "Kentucky Babe" in G major, 2/4 time. The score is arranged for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system covers measures 25 to 28. The vocal line has notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with notes G2, F2, E2, D2 and a treble line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5. The second system covers measures 29 to 32. The vocal line has notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with notes G2, F2, E2, D2 and a treble line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5. The lyrics are: "Close your eyes in sleep." The score includes a "3" at the end of the first system, indicating a triplet. The word "Hmm" is written below the piano accompaniment in both systems.

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



Music Premiere Series

The very best published music
www.barbershop.org/premiere

For a complete list of all Society arrangements visit:
www.barbershop.org/library

Check out our songbooks and great collections:
www.harmonymarketplace.com/songbooks.html