



published by
The Barbershop Harmony Society
 110 - Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203 | www.harmonymarketplace.com | 800-876-SING

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

The musical score for 'Kentucky Babe' is presented in two systems. The first system covers measures 25 to 28, and the second system covers measures 29 to 32. The music is written for a male quartet, with four staves (two treble and two bass clefs) per system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. Measures 25 and 27 feature a vocal line with a '3' above it, indicating a triplet. Measures 26 and 28 have a vocal line with a '3' above it, indicating a triplet. The lyrics 'Close your eyes in sleep.' are written below the vocal lines in the second system. The word 'Hmm' is written below the vocal lines in the first system. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

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