



# 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, sleep Ken-tuck-y

2

3

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

5

6

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

8

9

Babe, Ken-tuck-y Babe!

*Original melody simplified. Original dialect lyrics modified.*

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

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. fly a-way,

*Kentucky Babe* 3

25 26 27 28

8

Hmm

29 30 31 32

8

Close your eyes in sleep.

## 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